

IN THIS ISSUE: *Explore Placemaking in Denver and Arizona* | Come to Atlanta for the NAMP Conference
Journey through Southwest Virginia on the Crooked Road | *Climb Aboard Amtrak's Artist Residency Program*



arts LINK



Americans for the Arts

SUMMER 2014

THE SOURCE FOR ARTS PROFESSIONALS IN THE KNOW

Member Article

Nancy Shapiro & The Recording Academy

THE RECORDING ACADEMY'S Senior Vice President Nancy Shapiro has been a highly respected executive in the music community for more than two decades. Recently, she spearheaded the Music Educator Award presented at the 2014 GRAMMY Awards.

Quality music education in our schools goes beyond any individual making a living, or a community's economic impact; it goes to the greater good of the value of music to enrich and inspire us. Music Makes Us™ programs have been three years in the making and are an effort I co-chaired with Nashville Mayor Karl Dean. At Pearl Cohn High School, an entertainment magnet school, The Recording Academy® Producers & Engineers Wing® installed a state of the art recording studio and the Country Music Association donated funds to purchase instruments for all students in need of them. Music Makes Us has become a model for music education, showcasing how a public/private partnership between a mayor, a local district, and a business community could shape the future of contemporary and legacy music programs.

After attending a high school performance, a young man told me that he had not wanted to come to school until Music Makes Us introduced a Rock Band class. I went to a middle school performance where Music Makes Us had introduced a Mariachi class. A young lady came up to me to say her family didn't speak English when they arrived in this country a couple of months before. The Mariachi class meant so much to her family as they were transitioning to learn their second language. It is stories like these that make me truly believe in the value of music education for all children.

In addition, The Recording Academy® and The GRAMMY Foundation® bring programs such as GRAMMY Camp® — Basic Training, GRAMMY® Signature Schools, and GRAMMY U® to local communities. This year The Recording Academy and the GRAMMY Foundation launched the Music Educator Award™. It was inspiring to watch inaugural winner, Kent Knappenberger, a music teacher from Westfield Academy in New York, accept his much-deserved award. His commitment and passion in the classroom reflect what all parents wish for in their child's education.

Americans for the Arts featured Music Makes Us and Pearl Cohn during our arts education preconference. Visit convention.artsusa.org to see highlights from our Annual Convention!



What We Do

New Staff Members at Americans for the Arts

AT AMERICANS FOR THE ARTS, we are always striving to find the best and brightest employees to serve you. Find out more about your new best friend at Americans for the Arts!

Patricia Walsh, Public Art Programs Manager

I love the public field because it is one of the most accessible art genres and it creates a platform for civic dialogue that is missing in today's culture. I look forward to talking to you.

Amanda Bell, Membership Coordinator

I'm delighted to be your new go-to for all questions and suggestions about Americans for the Arts membership. Being surrounded by passionate, creative people who devote themselves to bringing art into others' lives makes me excited to go to work every day.

Abe Flores, Field Education and Leadership Programs Manager

Please talk to me about your professional development needs and ideas as well as exciting organizations, programs, and leaders. I'm a rabid music fan, student of government, and father of a six-year old. Ask me how theater class taught me English (or you can read about it: www.artsforla.org/blogs/learning-english-through-arts).

Jeff Poulin, Arts Education Program Coordinator

Want to know how to better advocate for arts education in your community? I'm your guy. Have a question about the latest trends and research in arts education? Just give me a call...I'm here as a resource!