

Manitoba Alliance for Arts Education

AUGUST 2002

Coralie Bryant, Chair
Jey Thibedeau-Silver, Vice-Chair
Virginia Price, Treasurer
Lynne Stefanchuk, Secretary
Gary Jackson, Jill Mino,
Carolyn O'Neill, Deborah Schnitzer,
and Joan Walters.

Speaking out for the value of arts in education

As a society we must recognize the strengthened role of literature, music, art, dance and drama in our schools as crucial to maintaining a vibrant and healthy culture, as well as to assuring creative solutions for our world's future.

Educational reforms over the past decade or more have focused primarily on math, science and technology, making it difficult to sustain arts programs as well as the integration of the arts through all curricular areas.

The contribution of the arts to the development of creativity, expression, cognition, confidence and hope in a time of great global uncertainty must be fully acknowledged. Schools and arts organizations are struggling to do the best they can to provide a high quality of instruction in the arts disciplines, but resources are limited. We must address what can be done — with increased resources and imagination — to ensure that all of our young people have access to a rich experience of learning through the arts.

"Life without industry is guilt, industry without art is brutality."

John Ruskin
Lectures on Art



Our compact disc, For the Love of the Arts, features Dr. Elliot Eisner of Stanford University and Dr. Philip Hall of the University of Manitoba, and is available for purchase. See reverse for details.

Letter from the Chair

Greetings from the Interim Board of the Manitoba Alliance for Arts Education. You may be aware that our founding meeting took place on May 6th at the Colin Jackson Theatre at Prairie Theatre Exchange, at which time the members of the Interim Board of Directors were elected.

We've met twice since then, working to organize finances, communications, memberships, our mandate, initial projects, and potential sources of funding. We hired

Alanna Keefe to assist us through August with the transition to a fully functioning organization. We will continue to require some administrative assistance and are working on some ideas for possible sources of funding. If you have any suggestions, please let us know.

We are considering a couple of projects for the fall. The possibility of making a video about the importance of a strong arts education, using footage of Manitoba students

creating art, music, dance, theatre was suggested at the founding meeting. Another suggestion was a forum in late fall to follow discussions begun at the *For the Love of the Arts 2002* conference at the Fort Garry Hotel in February. We will keep you informed about any projects and plans and invite you to make suggestions regarding the direction and work we're undertaking.

Coralie Bryant, Chair
cbeyant@merlin.mb.ca

Rationale for the Founding of the Alliance for Arts Education

Response has been strong to the idea of a coalition of educators, arts organizations and community members to affect the public will with regard to the importance of arts education. There are signs of a growing conviction among Manitobans about the need for a populace that is inventive, appreciative of the cultural life of its community, and able to imagine a future with hope. Aside from speaking directly to the value of arts in education, the Alliance has the capacity to bring together the various and disparate arts organizations with educators and policy makers at all levels in Manitoba. We believe the time is right to engage in this work — together.



For the Love of the Arts – the CD

Featuring Dr. Elliot Eisner of Stanford University and Dr. Philip Hall of the University of Manitoba, this high-quality CD would be valuable for school resource centres, school boards, parent councils, professional arts organizations – anyone with an interest in widening their knowledge of the value of arts in education. Eisner's keynote address is presented in its entirety, as is Hall's thought-provoking presentation *Through our Thoughts We Make the World*.

The cost is only \$10. Supply is limited – order yours today!

What will the Alliance do?

MAAE has the capacity to educate the general population and political will as to the value of the arts in education and in the community.

MAAE has the capacity to facilitate collaboration amongst the various groups concerned about the state of arts education in this province – professional arts organizations, school divisions, arts education organizations, provincial and municipal bodies – around ideas, projects, events. This function can also serve to give these groups and members collective support.

MAAE can encourage opportunities for education in the arts for all ages.

How will the Alliance accomplish its goals?

The founding meeting of members on May 6, 2002 generated much discussion around the nature and future direction of MAAE activities. Projects under consideration include the following:

- ① The creation of a video on the importance of arts education, with footage of students 'doing' the arts, for distribution to parents, schools and communities.
- ② A follow-up forum to the February 2002 conference to continue discussions on why and how programs in arts education can be improved in the schools and community.
- ③ Research what is going on in arts education in Manitoba.
- ④ Min-conferences, workshops, and presentations for parents, parent councils, SAG, and for other groups and events.
- ⑤ The development of a website as a clearing house for what's going on in arts education, to include a 'What's Happening' directory.

Alliance for Arts Education — become a member!

The MAAE is over a hundred members strong, and offers both individual and organizational memberships. Current membership includes students, parents, professional artists, educators, arts educators, arts organizations, educational facilities and schools. Membership is open and MAAE will expand even further in both rural and urban communities. The accessible membership fee goes directly to benefiting our membership through our activities and support. Please make use of the membership form below. If you're already a member pass the form along. We appreciate your valuable word of mouth!

- individual member organizational member

Name _____

Organization _____

Title / position (if applicable) _____

Home phone _____ Work phone _____

Fax _____ E-mail _____

Address _____

City / Province _____ Postal code _____

Please select from the following descriptors:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> arts organization | <input type="checkbox"/> arts patron |
| <input type="checkbox"/> arts professional | <input type="checkbox"/> business / corporate professional |
| <input type="checkbox"/> government representative | <input type="checkbox"/> leadership volunteer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> parent council / parent | <input type="checkbox"/> principal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> superintendent | <input type="checkbox"/> teacher |
| <input type="checkbox"/> trustee | <input type="checkbox"/> university personnel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other _____ | |

Enclose cheque or money order payable to *Manitoba Alliance for Arts in Education*.

- membership fee of \$15.00 (gst included)
 student membership fee of \$5.00 (gst included)
 \$10.00 (gst included) for CD of conference addresses by Dr Elliot Eisner & Dr Philip Hall

Mail to: The Manitoba Alliance for Arts Education
c/o 525-93 Lombard Avenue, Winnipeg MB R3B 3B1

We are particularly interested in what you have to say — your contributions are welcome. Please send us your comments and any recommendations to the attention of the Board or for printing in the newsletter (please designate).

Coralie Bryant, Chair
cbryant@merlin.mb.ca

Jey Thibedeau-Silver, Vice-Chair
educationdir@escape.ca