



# ARTS MATTER

"The Official Newsletter of the Alliance for Arts Education in Manitoba"

Fall 2009

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## Chair's Report *by Francine Morin, Ph. D.*

On behalf of the Board of Directors, it is a pleasure to present our fall newsletter to an audience of educators who care so passionately about school arts programs for all students in Manitoba. There is certainly exciting and important news in this issue of Arts Matter. The last few years have seen a growing resolve among teachers of the arts as new arts education curriculum documents are being realized in our province. Indeed these documents will guide systematic renewal by strengthening arts education as an integral part of the K-12 school curriculum. In addition, the new documents aim to ensure that all students meet challenging arts learning outcomes.

The arts are critical to a comprehensive education that aims to prepare all students for life-long learning and success in society. The new arts curriculum documents address and develop ways of thinking, questioning, expression and learning that complement learning in other curriculum areas, but in unique ways. The arts are at the heart of achieving creativity, cultural literacy, understanding diversity, and aesthetic valuing in our community. The AAEM aims to support professional development opportunities for educators implementing the new arts curricula.

Advocacy is a critical component of maintaining and sustaining the arts in our schools, especially during times of reduced resources. We all need to adopt a proactive approach to continuing to build value and support for the arts among all stakeholders. The AAEM Board is comprised of talented and imaginative individuals who are doing their part to implement a number of innovative outreach projects this year. Our newly produced DVD and study guide will soon be ready for infusion widely into the arts education community. With the generous support of the Manitoba Centennial Corporation, plans for a spring arts education conference to be held at the Centennial Concert Hall are underway and will include a gala concert, sessions and workshops for youth, artists, educators, and leaders (see announcement last page).

Currently, I am serving on the provincial steering committee for a new, national initiative in the arts called Cultural Days which is set to make its debut across Canada in September 2010. More specifically, I am working on how schools can connect with cross-county arts events that aim to increase Canadian awareness of the arts. This month I travelled to Toronto to participate in the National Arts and Learning Symposium at the new Royal Conservatory of Music. The symposium brought together leaders in arts education from across the country who focused on arts education research, best practices, challenges confronting arts and learning; and charting a national,

regional, and global course of action for advancing arts and learning over the next decade. My presentation at this national forum offered a model for navigating the challenging terrain of transformative leadership in Canadian arts education.

As we “take flight” into a new year, I encourage all members to provide innovative arts educational experiences that address the needs of all students. Let us all work towards showcasing the impact of our arts education programs and their potential to transform the lives of Manitoba students.

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## ANNOUNCING OUR NEW DVD

The AAEM is exhilarated to announce the completion of a new DVD entitled ***Between Hearts and Minds: The Arts in Education*** which focuses on the importance and values of arts education. Some of the material for the new DVD came from our original video ***Learning for Life: Why the Arts Matter*** but the majority of the footage is newly filmed at Manitoba Theatre for Young People School, Constable Edward Finney School, and Argyle Alternative High School. Our director at the helm of this project was again Mr. Jeremy Williamson of Red Sky Films and he collaborated with writer and arts educator Pauline Broderick. Ms. Broderick has also created a study guide which is a support document that accompanies the new DVD and aims to encourage dialogue. We are planning to launch the DVD early in the New Year so please watch for the notice.

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## Arts Education Curriculum: Metamorphosis Update

Manitoba Education is excited with the positive response from educators, administrators, and other partner stakeholders for ongoing Arts Education curriculum development. Currently, all four K-8 Arts Education curriculum frameworks in Dance, Drama, Music, and Visual Arts are online. School divisions and educators are invited to study, explore, and plan for mandatory implementation beginning in September 2010-2011.

Manitoba Education is currently developing multi-media curricular supports to be posted online as part of an innovative implementation website currently under development. These include implementation exemplars that bring the Arts curriculum framework of outcomes to life through snapshots of authentic Manitoba classroom teaching and learning. Exemplars explore rich learning experiences that deeply engage all students as they develop into young artists.

Resources for Kindergarten to Grade 4 have been identified and are available through the Manitoba Textbook Bureau and linked from the Manitoba Arts Education website at: <http://www.gov.mb.ca/index.html>. A learning resource review for Grades 5-8 is in the planning stages.

Manitoba Education has been providing professional development in support of implementation throughout various regions in Manitoba. Professional learning opportunities have been offered in a variety of formats for administrators, principals, and educators. The Arts Education website will soon be updated with upcoming professional development sessions and ongoing future developments in Arts Education curriculum.

Manitoba Education is currently developing a plan for the completion of the Grades 9-12 Arts Education Curriculum Frameworks in Dance, Drama, Music, and Visual Arts.

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## Meet the Board of Directors

### Chair

**Dr. Francine Morin** is Professor (Music and Arts Education) and Head of the Department of Curriculum, Teaching and Learning at the University of Manitoba. She is active teaching, conducting research, publishing, presenting at conferences, and serving the professional community in a variety of ways. She recently completed a study of arts education in Manitoba schools funded by Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth. Some of her current work involves serving on the K-12 Arts Education Steering Committee for the province and continuing a research project designed to support teachers in their use of multiple languages

in a variety of teaching and learning contexts.

### Vice-Chair

**Joe Halas** is the Art Consultant of the Winnipeg School Division and a member of the Manitoba Association for Art Education. He recently served as the Arts Education Consultant for the School Programs Division of Manitoba Education Citizenship and Youth.

### Treasurer

**Jey Thibedeau-Silver** is one of the founding board members of the AAEM. She has held the position of Co-Chair, Vice-Chair, Chair, Member, and is now serving as Treasurer of the board. Jey is a Drama Teacher at St. Mary's Academy. She is also currently attending the University of Winnipeg to complete the Education After Degree Program.

### Secretary

**Liz Coffman** is an Instructor of the Faculty of Education at the University of Manitoba and a member of the Manitoba Arts Council. She enjoys working with young children and has been involved with arts education for most of her working life. Prior to joining the University, she was the art educator at the Winnipeg Art Gallery.

### Coordinator

**Sylvie Cottee** is the part time Coordinator for the Alliance for Arts Education in Manitoba for her fifth year. She has worked in various schools in Winnipeg as a Coordinator, Administrative Assistant, Library Technician and Educational Assistant. She strongly supports Arts Education and is proud to be part of this passionate and dedicated group.

### Members

**Barbara Warrack** is the Music Divisional Team Teacher Leader in Seven Oaks School Division and is the Elementary Music Teacher at Forest Park School. Barb was the Co-chair of Arts in the Park (May 2009) a bi-annual celebration of the arts by students in Seven Oaks at Kildonan Park.

**Alana Chernecki** is the Nursery/Kindergarten

Teacher and Information and Communication Technology Mentor at Strathcona School. She is currently completing her M.Ed. in Arts Education at the University of Manitoba. She conducts workshops locally and nationally on Arts and ICT infusion. She lives her passion by pursuing book arts and dance in her own spare time.

**Columpa Bobb** has been an active arts practitioner for almost twenty years. She has been Manitoba Theatre for Young People's (MTYP) Program Director for the Aboriginal Arts Training & Mentorship Program for the last five years. She is also one of the primary instructors. She is a member of the Canadian Actors Equity Association. Some of her theatre credits include MTYP's Canadian premiere production of *The Hobbit* and *The Rememberer*, the Fire Hall Arts Centre's award winning production of *The Ecstasy of Rita Joe* for which she won the Jesse Richardson Theatre Award for her portrayal as Rita Joe, and the Native Earth Performing Arts Inc. production of *Sixty Below*, which she was nominated for a Dora Mavor Moore Award in the category of Best Performance in a Lead Role. She has written 10 more plays which have been produced across the country and overseas.

**Odette Heyn-Penner** has co-directed the Professional Program of The School of Contemporary Dancers for many years. In this capacity, she has been among the prime trainers of most of Winnipeg's modern dance community and of many artists now dancing with choreographers and companies across the country. Odette has performed and choreographed for Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers and continues to perform as an independent. She has also choreographed work for various performances including the Festival of Canadian Modern Dance. She has served as a juror and panellist for the Manitoba Arts Council, the Canada Council for the Arts and the Winnipeg Arts Council, and has been an invited panellist/presenter for several national roundtables.

**Tanya Derksen** is the Director of Education and Outreach with the Winnipeg Symphony

Orchestra. She is also active as a piano teacher and adjudicator with the Associated Manitoba Arts Festivals (AMAF). She has a Bachelor of Music degree from Brandon University and is currently an MBA student at the Asper School of Business, University of Manitoba. She is passionate about music and arts education as part of every child's experience.

**Velvet Cadre** is a middle years and dance educator at Meadows West School in the Winnipeg School Division. Over the last 21 years she has taught integrated creative movement and dance workshops to children, parents and educators. Velvet has always used the arts to facilitate learning and personal growth in all her students. She is proud to be part of the Alliance for Arts Education in Manitoba's collective voice.

**Brian O'Leary** is the Superintendent of the Seven Oaks School Division.

**Sandy Bissoon** is the Alternative Classroom Educator (Grades 4 to 6) at Luxton School.

## New Arts and Creative Industries Economic Impact Study

**Ticket to the Future, Phase 1:  
New Economic Impact Report Shows Arts  
and Creative Industries  
Contribute Significantly to Winnipeg's  
Economy**

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and Creative Industries Contribute  
Significantly to Winnipeg's Economy**

Winnipeg, Manitoba—December 8, 2009: **Art = Commerce**. At least that is what a new study commissioned by the Winnipeg Arts Council shows. The arts and creative industries account for \$1 billion in economic activity in Winnipeg and employ about 25,000 people; that's 6.3% of the city's labour force or nearly enough people to fill Canad Inns Stadium.

The study, known as *Ticket to the Future*, was conducted by PRA Inc. (Prairie Research Associates). PRA Inc. surveyed 115 non-profit arts organizations and found that in addition to all the revenue generated by patrons to cultural events and institutions, the organizations contribute directly to the economy themselves by spending a total of \$66 million annually, the vast majority of it in Winnipeg. These organizations plan and implement 6,300 events in the city each year, offering a wide range of programming to encourage young and culturally diverse audiences to participate in the arts.

The study also looked at attendance statistics, which show that local non-profit arts and cultural organizations attract more than 3 million visitors to Winnipeg's museums, concert halls, and art galleries, including 500,000 visitors from outside the city. In fact, 1.9 million seats are filled each year by 12 professional local arts and cultural organizations - more than *double* last year's combined attendance for the city's professional sports franchises.

Other study findings include:

- Each year, **city residents volunteer** almost *1.6 million hours* of their time to local non-profit arts organizations, equivalent to nearly 800 full-time positions.
- Cultural activities are the third most popular activity for tourists visiting Winnipeg, ahead of both sightseeing and outdoor sports and activities. The report estimates that **tourists spent about \$85 million in 2007** while enjoying arts and culture in the city.
- **Every dollar** of municipal funding **attracts another \$18.23** in support to local non-profit arts and cultural organizations by the private sector and other levels of government.
- Municipal arts funding per resident has declined from \$6.34 in 2007 to \$5.98 in 2009.
- According to local business leaders interviewed for the study, Winnipeg's arts and creative industries significantly enhance the quality of life for the city's residents, and serve to attract skilled workers and keep them here.

"*Ticket to the Future* confirms the strategic importance of arts and culture to the social, economic, and commercial fabric of Winnipeg," said Carol Phillips, Executive Director of the Winnipeg Arts Council. "However, without a new plan for arts investment in Winnipeg, the future may be a repeat of previous decades, when funding plateaued and arts in Winnipeg suffered increasingly diminished support."

2010 will be a landmark year for arts and culture in the City of Winnipeg, marking the designation of Winnipeg as Canada's Cultural Capital.

#### Download full study:

***Ticket to the Future* Phase 1  
THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE ARTS AND  
CREATIVE INDUSTRIES IN WINNIPEG** here:  
[www.winnipegarts.ca/index.php?/wac/article/1781/](http://www.winnipegarts.ca/index.php?/wac/article/1781/)

"*We really need to be in tune with our strengths right now. I see the arts community as one of our key strengths.*"

**Helen Halliday**  
*General Manager, Delta Hotels*

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## The Manitoba Education Research Network (MERN) ANNOUNCEMENT

**THE MERN MONOGRAPH SERIES: ISSUE #3  
Spring 2010**

***Study of Arts Education in Manitoba  
Schools***

by  
**Francine Morin, Ph. D.**  
Faculty of Education, University of  
Manitoba

This monograph reports on a participatory action research study that was designed to provide a provincial profile of arts education in Manitoba schools and conducted in the spring of 2007. Data collected from 430 of the province's approximately 800 schools, and from 29 school divisions provides a unique and comprehensive account of arts education in Manitoba. The design of the research offers an exemplary model for other investigators contemplating such studies at the provincial or territorial level.

YOU CAN TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS MONOGRAPH, OR PURCHASE A COPY WHEN IT IS RELEASED, BY CONTACTING EITHER THE AUTHOR OR THE EDITOR

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#### The Manitoba Education Research Network (MERN) Monograph Series

The Manitoba Education Research Association in partnership with The Manitoba Council for Leadership in Education (MCLE) and Manitoba's Faculties of Education established the MERN Monograph Series in 2008. The series publishes two monographs a year of high quality research that is relevant to Manitoba education, comes from work in Manitoba schools, and is of interest to Manitoba educators. Its purpose is to contribute to: public education in the province; the professional knowledge base of educators in the province; and, national and international awareness of Manitoba educational research.

The monographs are between 60 and 80 pages in length, written in a way that is widely accessible and engaging, and they are published in English and French. Editorial control resides with an editorial board made up of representatives of each of Manitoba's Faculties of Education, along with a MCLE member and a member from Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth.

Copies of each monograph are distributed free of charge to each school division in Manitoba and to each of the province's education partners. Copies can be downloaded free of charge from the MERN and MCLE websites or purchased at a cost of \$20 for one copy and \$15 for additional copies mailed at the same time.

## The Canadian Network for Arts and Learning Declaration

Toronto, December 4, 2009

Assembly of the Canadian Network for Arts and Learning at the Canadian Symposium on Arts and Learning

**Whereas** research offers mounting evidence of the value of arts and learning, both as an intrinsic component of human culture that deserves formal recognition in the school curriculum and as an instrument for achieving a wide range of essential learning goals, both in formal and informal settings, as a vital component of life-long learning.

### Recalling

- the right to education and the right to participate freely in the cultural life of the community (as stated in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Articles 26-27, and the 1990 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Articles 28 and 31)
- the right of everyone to education that shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and the right of everyone to take part in cultural life (as stated in the 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Articles 13 and 15)

### Noting

- that the UNESCO Road Map for Arts Education" seeks to promote a common understanding among all stakeholders of the importance of arts education
- that education in Canada is a provincial and territorial responsibility

**Recognizing** that this is a matter of urgent concern within Canada and internationally.

**Conscious of** the need for supporters of arts and learning to:

- Develop resources, both tangible and creative, to strengthen arts and learning in the context of life-long learning
- Strengthen bridges between all who share a commitment to arts and learning
- Promote recognition of the importance of arts and learning in public policies
- Encourage quality learning programs for artists, educators and community arts organizers
- Advocate appropriate investment and the effective implementation of exemplary programs led by qualified artists and educators throughout education systems, community-based projects and outreach initiatives of arts organizations
- Encourage shared activities and partnerships among stakeholders in arts and learning
- Foster and disseminate Canadian research in arts and learning
- Support and promote diversity and be a catalyst for healthy dialogue about arts and learning among Canadian communities, respecting linguistic, age based, gender-based, social, cultural and religious diversity.

**The Canadian Network for Arts and Learning declares its support for the work of UNESCO, the World Alliance for Arts Education and other national, provincial, territorial, regional and international organizations both governmental and non-governmental in promoting the introduction and enhancement of high quality arts education in schools and a wide range of community programs and arts outreach initiatives throughout Canada and around the world.**

### MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Individual Membership \$15.00  
Organizational Membership \$25.00  
Student Membership \$5.00

(These are one-time membership fees.)  
Charitable donations accepted.  
Tax receipts issued.

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THE ALLIANCE FOR ARTS EDUCATION IN MANITOBA PRESENTS

## The Creative Stage

A gala concert and conference  
in support of quality arts  
education for all Manitoba  
students


For teachers, youth, and leaders in the  
arts and education

Manitoba Centennial Concert Hall

Concert: 7:30 p.m., May 17, 2010

Conference: 9 a.m - 4 p.m., May 18,  
2010

Registration and further information:  
coming soon at [allartsedmanitoba.org](http://allartsedmanitoba.org)



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**pencil it in today!**

