



Sharon Brooks, Director of Education at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, shares her creativity with three of the ultimate beneficiaries of the Arts Integration Conference – kids!

Fourth Arts Integration Conference Promises More for Everyone

BY LEON M. RUBIN

If the organizers of the Fourth Annual Broward County Arts Integration Conference were asked to distill their programming philosophy for the upcoming event into a single word, it might well be “more.” As in *more* locations, *more* workshop topics, *more* distinguished instructors and *more* participants than in any of the preceding years.

Yet despite the promise of a bigger-and-better-than-ever event on August 15, the cost is the same as always: free!

“I don’t think there’s anything like this anywhere,” says Steven M. Glassman, arts education and community development program manager for the Broward Cultural Division. “It’s an amazing opportunity for artists and teachers to attend a workshop of the highest caliber.”

The Cultural Division is organizing the program – entitled “Expanding

Literacy Connections Through the Arts: A Closer Look” – in collaboration with the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, Dillard Center for the Arts and the School Board of Broward County, FL. The full-day, hands-on workshop is designed to provide teachers and teaching artists with information as well as inspiration to help them use the arts in teaching.

Learning Made Fun

Conference participants have the option of enrolling in one full-day workshop or two half-day sessions led by world-class instructors. They include seven artists affiliated with the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts’ educational outreach program in addition to well-known local artists and others from around the nation.

The Kennedy Center Artists include Karen Erickson, Science; Rosalind

Flynn, Language Arts; Hobey Ford and Sean Layne, Drama; Susan Griss, Dance; Eric Johnson, Exceptional Student Education (ESE); and Lenore Blank Kelner, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). Topics of the 17 workshops range from “Telling Folktales with Shadow Puppetry” and “Motivating the ESOL Learner Through Drama” to “Connecting the Arts to Science Through Big Ideas.” This is the first time that ESE and ESOL teachers have been invited to participate.

Dillard Center for the Arts, which has hosted the conference since its inception, will serve as the location of the workshops for language arts, social studies, science, ESE, ESOL, dance and drama teachers this year. Classes for Visual Arts and Music teachers will take place at the Broward Center – the first time that it will host Arts Integration Conference sessions on-site. At least 700 teachers, principals, artists, community arts providers and



Photos from the 2006 Arts Integration Conference (on the cover and these pages) by Mindy Duncan

others who work with children and teens are expected to attend.

One of the instructors at the Broward Center will be Brazilian-born pop artist Romero Britto, whose colorful work appears on the Rental Car Center buses at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport. "Britto will conduct a day-long workshop with teachers in preparation for a workshop he will do for students in September wrapped around Brazil Day," says Sharon Brooks, the Broward Center's director of education. "This will help to make this a year-long event as Britto inspires these teachers as they teach in the classroom."

Making a Difference

While the Arts Integration Conference focuses on training and technique, it's also about much more. "The impact on students taught by teachers trained at the Arts Integration Conference is profound," observes Bruce F. Brown, artistic director for Dillard Center for the Arts. "Aside from just the renewed enthusiasm for teaching, the teachers return to their classes with creative new techniques for incorporating interactive and engaging activities into their daily lessons."

Kennedy Center Artist Lenore Blank Kelner, director of InterAct Story Theatre in Silver Spring, Md., has been working with teachers and students for more than a quarter of a century to integrate drama into ongoing classroom instruction. She explains that her goals include

helping teachers to feel confident in delivering arts to children and to see how drama can help children demonstrate reading comprehension.

"Students who aren't able to demonstrate comprehension through writing or a test often show much deeper comprehension by taking on a role," Kelner points out. "When a story is delivered and then dramatized, we're often able to see how deep and intelligent a child really is. This sometimes astounds the teachers. They get very excited about finally seeing a way to reach these children." In addition to her workshops, Kelner will also present a keynote address during the breakfast at Dillard.

Leading the Way

Based on his experience with previous conferences and his knowledge of this year's plans, Bruce Brown believes that Broward County is "ahead of the curve" in arts integration compared to other school districts in Florida. And, not surprisingly, there's more to it than that.

"This conference is only one piece of a very extensive arts education program, which is a collaborative effort between the Broward Cultural Division and the School Board of Broward County, FL. My goal with this conference is to broaden the awareness and support for arts integration in all Broward County classrooms."

What *more* could you ask? ★

Literacy Connection Through the Arts: A Closer Look

Wednesday, August 15
7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.

Registration still open:

**Dillard Center
for the Arts**

2501 NW 11 Street,
Fort Lauderdale

Workshops for language arts, social studies, science, ESE, ESOL, dance and drama teachers

For conference details and online registration, please visit

www.broward.org/arts

and click on "Workshops" –

or contact

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