

STATE POLICY SYMPOSIUM

SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 2016
WASHINGTON D.C.

2016 SYMPOSIUM SESSIONS

1:30 pm & 2:40

Concurrent Deep Dives on the Role and Contribution of the Arts in State Education Policy

Deep Dive 1: Bringing Together State Agencies for the Common Good

While the arts are just one special interest within the broader education, we all share a desire to achieve similar outcomes for our students. How can the arts partner with various other state education agencies to move all of our work forward? This deep dive will explore configurations of collaborations that are impacting state policy.

SPEAKERS

Ayanna N. Hudson

Arts Education Director

National Endowment for the Arts



Ayanna N. Hudson is the director of Arts Education for the National Endowment for the Arts, where she presides over the grant portfolio devoted to arts education, works with national service organizations on policy initiatives, and serves as the spokesperson for arts education at the federal level. Hudson was the director of arts education with the Los Angeles County Arts Commission for more than ten years. She developed and led the implementation of the Arts for All collaborative, ensuring equitable access to arts education for 1.6 million students in the county's 81 school districts, the largest educational system in the country. Arts for All was cited in 2008 by the RAND Corporation as among the top three collaborations nationwide in its study *Revitalizing Arts Education through Community-wide Coordination*.

In 2011, Arts for All received the Arts Education Award from the national service organization Americans for the Arts. Hudson is a sought-after expert in arts education having testified before the U.S. House of Representative's Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee and the Aspen Institute's Blue Ribbon Committee on the impact of No Child Left Behind. Prior to her work in Los Angeles, Hudson managed the School Arts Program at the Fulton County Department of Arts and Culture in Atlanta, Georgia. She has a BA in psychology from Spelman College and a specialized master's degree in education in risk and prevention from Harvard University.



Amber Sharples

Executive Director
Oklahoma Arts Council



Amber Sharples is an advocate of the arts for the entire state of Oklahoma. She served in several positions at Oklahoma Arts Council before accepting her current position as executive director. Sharples has multiple educational degrees from George Washington University and the University of Oklahoma. She is a member of many groups, including Creative Oklahoma, Friends of the Capitol, Friends of the Mansion, Mid-America Arts Alliance, Native American Cultural & Educational Authority, Oklahoma Art in Public Places and many more. She counts

among her most significant creative contributions to the community the inaugural exhibition of the Oklahoma State Art Collection in the Betty Price Gallery at the state Capitol. “Part of the state’s centennial celebration, my first project at the Oklahoma Arts Council was the design, curatorial vision and exhibition of the 4,400-square-foot museum-quality gallery in the Capitol, which permanently houses the Oklahoma State Art Collection. This was the first time the majority of the collection had been exhibited publically, and the gallery continues to showcase the collection with rotating exhibitions, which are visited by thousands of schoolchildren and visitors each year,” said Sharples.

Betty Plumb

Executive Director
South Carolina Arts Alliance



Betty Plumb is Executive Director of the South Carolina Arts Alliance (SCAA), the state’s primary arts policy, advocacy and service organization. Under her leadership, the Arts Alliance has developed an extensive grassroots advocacy network in support of the arts and arts education, completing many successful advocacy campaigns. Ms. Plumb and the Arts Alliance have been the recipient of such awards as the Alene Valkanas State Arts Advocacy Award from Americans for the Arts, which honors an individual that has “dramatically affected the political landscape through their arts advocacy efforts at the state level”, the Elizabeth O’Neill Verner Award – the Governor’s Award for the Arts, the S.C. Art Education Association, S.C. Dance Association, S.C. Theatre Association, S.C. Association of Non-Profit Organizations, and Winthrop University’s Medal of Honor in the Arts. Ms. Plumb has twice been named the top advocate in the “Top 25 Most Powerful & Influential Leaders in the Nonprofit Arts” by Barry’s Blog, a national arts

blog out of California. Ms. Plumb brokered the merger of the State Arts Advocacy League of America (SAALA) and the National Community Arts Network (NCAN) into what is now the State Arts Action Network (SAAN) – a programmatic council of Americans for the Arts.

Christine Fisher

Project Director, Arts in Basic Curriculum
Winthrop University



Christine Fisher is the Director of the Arts in Basic Curriculum (ABC) Project. Prior to joining the ABC Project, Fisher was a music teacher for 26 years. As director of the ABC Project, she has developed a series of professional institutes for arts teachers. Under her leadership the ABC Project has developed arts integration tools and curriculum guides for the 2003 SC Visual and Performing Arts Standards. She created and manages the SC Council of Arts Education Presidents (CAEP) which meets to work on initiatives as recruitment and retention of arts teachers, arts education advocacy strategies and the creation of a unified position paper on arts education entitled, "Where We Stand on Arts Education." She also established the SC Peer to Peer Principals Network which brings together administrators four times a year to address important issues dealing with the arts and arts integration at their schools. She was

selected twice as a School and District Teacher of the Year, and twice selected as one of the five Honor Roll teachers in the state. Selected as the South Carolina Teacher of the Year in 1998, she is the only music teacher to hold the honor in the program's 50-year history. Ms. Fisher was awarded the Elizabeth O'Neil Verner Award in 2006, SC's highest arts award, the SC Art Education Association's Arts Advocate of the Year Award in 2004, the President's Award from the SC Dance Association in 2005, the Life Time Achievement Award from the SC Theatre Association in 2008. She was inducted into the SC Music Educators Association Hall of Fame in 2009 and was awarded the Winthrop University Medal of Honor in the Arts in 2012. She is currently the Immediate Past President of the Southern Division of the National Association for Music Education.