

STATE POLICY SYMPOSIUM

SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 2016
WASHINGTON D.C.

2016 SYMPOSIUM SESSIONS

11:15 am

Local Funding Responses to State Accountability

States are accountable for both student performance and how well their schools and districts are implementing state policy. Data from the state level is showing us that many students don't even have access to arts education, despite the research showing how effective arts education is in promoting student engagement and achievement. Explore how three case studies are using local funding to address both the opportunity and achievement gaps in the context of their state's education reform efforts.

SPEAKERS

Sandra Ruppert
Consultant



Sandra Ruppert is the former Director of the Arts Education Partnership (AEP), a nonprofit and nonpartisan membership organization representing the top leaders of state education agencies. During her 8 year tenure, Sandra led AEP's national network of 100+ organizations dedicated to ensuring every young person in America receives a complete and competitive education that includes the arts. She is responsible for the design and development of AEP's *ArtsEdSearch.org*, the nation's first digital research and policy clearinghouse of educational outcomes associated with learning in and through the arts. Sandra is also the author of numerous AEP publications, including *A Snapshot of State Policies for Arts Education* (2014), *What School Leaders Can Do to Increase Arts Education* (2011) and *Critical Evidence: How the Arts Benefit Student Achievement* (2006). Prior to her appointment as AEP Director in June 2008, she was a Program Director with the Education Commission of the States, a Denver-based national nonprofit organization that advises state policymakers on education issues. While at ECS, she directed the Arts in Education Initiative of ECS Chairman, Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee. Sandra holds a Master of Arts degree in Anthropology from the University of Arizona.



EDUCATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATES



Steve Venz

Visual and Performing Arts Coordinator
Orange County Department of Education



Steve Venz leads the Visual and Performing Arts Unit at the Orange County Department of Education, which supports teachers, schools, and districts in their efforts to provide outstanding arts education opportunities to every student. Previously, Mr. Venz was the principal of Quincy Jones Elementary School, a Los Angeles Unified School District school that emphasizes academic excellence through music and the arts. It is the first public, urban elementary school of its kind that focuses the instruction around jazz music. For seven years, Mr. Venz was the music administrator for the Los Angeles School District, coordinating, supervising and supporting the elementary, middle and high school music students and teachers. He is currently the Advocacy/Legislation Representative for the California Association for Music Education. He serves on the California team for Americans for the Arts' State Policy Pilot Program. Mr. Venz holds a M.A. in Educational Administration from California State University, Northridge and a B.M. In Music Education from the University of Georgia.

AmySue Mertens

Director of Policy and Communications
Ingenuity



AmySue Mertens is Director of Policy and Communications at Ingenuity-Chicago's single hub of arts education information, advocacy, strategy, and partnerships-where she drives marketing, outreach, policy and advocacy for both the sector and within Chicago Public Schools at the national, state, and local levels. Prior to Ingenuity, Mertens worked for CPS' Office of Family and Community Engagement where she was focused on the district's strategic initiatives including the Full School Day which added hours of instruction to K-12 schedules; CPS' historic labor negotiations; and school actions which encompassed the closing of 49 schools. She has spoken at several national and local conferences, and has served on numerous education and community boards of directors and committees. Mertens

currently serves as President of the Chicago Area Public Affairs Group. She earned her BS and MS from The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Doug Israel

Director of Research & Policy
Center for Arts Education



Doug Israel oversees CAE's political strategies and government affairs work to ensure that all of New York City's 1.1 million public school students receive a quality arts education. Doug focuses on educating policymakers and the public about the need for arts education as an essential part of a well-rounded education and spearheads policy efforts to ensure greater equity in educational opportunities for city students. Doug oversaw CAE's work in the 2013 New York City elections and his work building coalitions and engaging candidates made access to quality arts education a visible issue during the campaign season, resulting in Mayor de Blasio's inclusion of a new four-year \$92 million funding line in the city budget for arts education. As the former Director of Public

Policy and Advocacy for Citizens Union, a century-old good-government organization in New York City, Doug worked with local elected officials, civic organizations and relevant stakeholders to implement good-government reforms of local and state government. Doug also has a background in environmental politics and policy having directed international marine conservation campaigns for the Sea Turtle Restoration Project based in San Francisco and local environmental initiatives for The Center for Environmental Citizenship in Seattle. He is a product of the New York public school system and holds a Master's Degree in Public Policy from Western Washington University in Washington State and undergraduate degrees in Political Science and Biology from the State University of New York at Albany.