The Center for Arts Engagement

Fairmont State University
Community Arts Engagement

at Fairmont State University and Pierpont Community & Technical College connects community and campus-based arts experiences and resources in North Central West Virginia to engage students, teachers, artists and patrons in the exploration, appreciation and production of the arts.

The capacity of arts engagement to enrich life and learning is readily acknowledged in 21st century West Virginia, making increased opportunities for constituents to explore, perform, create and relate to the arts an increasingly important goal for communities. Arts engagement is a cornerstone in a foundation that supports the development of creative industries and participation in the new creative economy and global ecology.

Collaboration is both a critical skill that young people must learn to be productive citizens, and it is also the process in which communities must engage to address the realities of limited resources to promote arts engagement.

Community Arts Engagement at FSU and Pierpont moves beyond traditional arts outreach activities to foster collaboration among community and campus stakeholders to expand the potential of existing resources and develop new resources in support of broader opportunities.

Fairmont State University is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action institution.
The School of Fine Arts includes instruction and co-curricular activities in Art, Music, Communication and Theatre. All students are encouraged to participate. Because of our size, our students have more opportunities to participate in our activities, and upon graduation, they have a resume full of achievements to present to potential employers or the graduate school they wish to attend. Our endowment supports scholarships for students who major within the school as well as provides for subsidized travel to the world’s centers of culture. Our academic programs include Art, Graphics/Fine Arts, Music, Oral Communication, Communication and Theatre. For more information, visit www.fairmontstate.edu.
Collaboration

At the heart of the initiative is a collaborative process involving a diverse group of community and campus stakeholders representing the perspectives and resources of education and arts organizations, community service providers, and arts patrons. This group, called the Community Collaborative for Arts Engagement, participates in an ongoing community arts engagement planning process; establishing a common agenda around arts engagement opportunities and identifying and securing essential resources to support that agenda.

The Community Collaborative for Arts Engagement includes:

- Representatives from each of the six school systems engaged in a school-university partnership with FSU to improve teacher preparation and renew teaching and learning.
- Representatives from the North Central West Virginia business community.
- Representatives from arts organizations and agencies in North Central West Virginia.
- Representatives from community service organizations serving constituents of all ages.
- Representatives from across the FSU and Pierpont campus.
Members

Dr. Peter Ang
Dr. J. Robert Baker
Mr. Gary Bennett
Mr. Stephen Brooks
Ms Valerie Carlsen
Dr. Van Dempsey
Ms Sandy DeVaultt
Ms Amie Fazalare
Dr. Fred Fidura
Dr. Marian Hollinger
Dr. Valarie Huffman
Mr. James Kettering
Dr. Fran Kirk
Mr. Peter Lach
Ms Julia Lee
Marcel Malfregot
Mr. Richard Martin
Ms Melissa May
Ms JoAnne Nuzum
Mr. Jeff Pierson
Mr. Roman Preziosio
Ms Jacqueline Proctor
Dr. Maria Rose
Ms Melanie Skeen-Gregory
Mr. John Stallings
Dr. Wes Steele
Ms Susanna Villers
Dr. Jaci Webb-Dempsey
Opportunities for Engagement

The Virtual Gallery
A unique “place” for exploring and relating to the visual arts is the Virtual Gallery hosted by the School of Fine Arts at FSU. The Virtual Gallery makes exhibits that previously required a visit to campus accessible to anyone in the community with Internet access. The Virtual Gallery includes a virtual docent program – featuring guided exploration tours, lesson plans designed to support the state arts curriculum standards and gallery talks by the exhibiting artists.

Fine Arts Conservatory
The Fine Arts Conservatory offers opportunities for community members of all ages – children and adults – to learn to perform and create in the areas of music, visual art and theatre. The Conservatory operates on the FSU campus and at a variety of community venues. The work of Conservatory participants is featured throughout the community in performances and exhibits; including recitals in public places, traveling exhibits and summer outdoor productions at historic Prickett’s Fort State Park.

Fine Arts Outreach
Fine Arts Outreach programming brings touring exhibits and performances into the life of the community. Working together, community and campus stakeholders support a diverse menu of arts experiences offered by artists who represent the best of West Virginia, in addition to artists who bring a global point of view to our state.

FSU-PDS Partnership
FSU recently established an educational partnership with 42 public schools in six school districts in North Central West Virginia to support the improvement of teaching, learning and the preparation of new teachers and the development of a network of Professional Development Schools. By strengthening the preparation of future music, art and theatre teachers, supporting the professional development of practicing PDS and university art educators, the FSU School-University Partnership is also enhancing arts education and opportunities to engage in the arts for PK-12 students.
Building Future Opportunities

Renovation of Fine Arts Facilities
Planning and fund-raising is under way for the renovation of existing Fine Arts facilities at FSU and construction of a new building to be called the Center for the Arts.

Virtual Performance Space
An online performance space is also being planned to create a venue for musical and theatrical performances. Following the model of the Virtual Gallery, the Virtual Performance Space will feature streaming video of performances with guided exploration experiences, lesson plans designed to support the state arts curriculum standards and theatre talks by performers.
Engaging

Benefits

- Building a vital arts community supports economic development by helping to develop a creative economy.

- Arts engagement is a critical factor in students’ educational success.

- Representatives from arts organizations and agencies in North Central West Virginia.

- The connection between arts engagement and preparation for life and learning in the 21st Century is acknowledged in the agenda of the Partnership for 21st Century Skills. The state of West Virginia is a Partnership member.

- Elevating the arts in the lives of citizens and communities and elevating the quality of the lives of citizens and communities through the arts is part of the agenda of the West Virginia Commission on the Arts.
The Center for Arts Engagement

FAIRMONT STATE UNIVERSITY

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