

Kern County
Arts Pilot Project
Meeting Summary
November 30, 2006

On November 30, 2006 a meeting was convened that was a gathering of representative constituents who shared interest in furthering the development of arts education opportunities for Kern County students.

The meeting was held at the Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office and facilitated by staff of the Division of Instructional Services. This meeting was part of the grant from CCSESA and funded by the Hewlett Foundation as the County Arts Pilot Project.

A primary requirement of the grant was to develop a county-wide plan for the development of a plan that addresses the needs of all children for access to high quality arts education.

The following is a summary report of the discussions of that meeting.

The constituents included representation of the following.

- Community arts organizations
- Higher education
- K-12 education

Four questions were asked.

1. In the context of the need for a collaborative county plan for standards-based arts education, what currently exists to support such a plan for Kern County?
2. What is your vision for a countywide plan for standards-based arts education for all students?
3. How do we develop and implement our vision of a countywide plan for standards-based arts education for all students?
4. Given the conversations you've just had, what specific next steps should you take as individuals, as schools, as school districts, and as community organizations in the next two months to make tangible progress in realizing this vision of a comprehensive arts education for every child in Kern County?

Discussion Summary of question one.

In the context of the need for a collaborative county plan for standards-based arts education, what currently exists to support such a plan for Kern County?

Responses from participants shared these commonalities.

1. State Support including Standards and Framework, funding, and university entrance requirements.
2. Kern County Arts Community including such organizations as the Bakersfield Symphony, Bakersfield Museum of Art, Arts Council of Kern, Young Audiences of Kern and institutions higher education.
3. The Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office including such services as the music festivals, art displays and professional development.
4. K-12 school and district support including existing arts programs, electives, performances and displays.

Discussion Summary of question two.

What is your vision for a countywide plan for standards-based arts education for all students?

Responses from participants shared these commonalities.

1. Access: Students would have access to standards based arts education instruction including course offerings at school sites and class time for instruction.
2. Resources: Students would have school and district resources including standards based curriculum materials and performance/display opportunities. Students would have community resources including arts organizations offering services to schools, volunteers, increased funding and business support.
3. Professional Development: Students would have instruction from teachers that have had the benefit of effective standards based professional growth.
4. Assessments: Students would have opportunities to demonstrate learning and achievement in the arts.

Discussion Summary of question three.

How do we develop and implement our vision of a countywide plan for standards-based arts education for all students?

Responses from participants shared these commonalities.

1. Focus on the needs of students by establishing goals that include:
 - Access
 - Resources
 - Teacher professional development
 - Student assessments

2. Develop partnerships and collaborations between community arts support and K-12 schools and districts.

3. Implement strategies for advocacy including efforts locally and statewide.

Discussion Summary of question four.

Given the conversations you've just had, what specific next steps should you take as individuals, as schools, as school districts, and as community organizations in the next two months to make tangible progress in realizing this vision of a comprehensive arts education for every child in Kern County?

Responses from participants shared these commonalities.

1. Take action that supports the implementation of quality arts education opportunities for students that includes:
 - Access
 - Resources
 - Professional development
 - Assessments

2. Needs Assessments: Search for opportunities to implement needs assessments including community arts needs and also K-12 needs assessments.

3. Collaborations: Search for opportunities to implement collaborations between Kern County community arts providers and K-12 schools and districts.

4. Advocacy: Search for opportunities to implement arts education advocacy in the Kern County community as well as in K-12 schools and districts.