

SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT CULTURAL COALITION

**Rising Tide Series - Cultural Summit- Connecting to the Curriculum
February 23, 2016 at Charter Oak Federal Credit Union, Waterford**

SUMMARY

Panelists:

Jacqueline Coleman - *Education Consultant for the Arts at Connecticut State Board of Education*

Kate Ericson - *Director of Professional Development, LEARN*

Kate Fioravanti - *District Arts Supervisor, New London Public Schools*

Kaitlyn O'Leary - *Director of Strategic Initiatives, Norwich Public Schools*

Steve Armstrong – *Education Consultant for Social Studies at Connecticut State Board of Education*

Liz Shapiro – *Executive Director, Connecticut League of History Organizations*

Attendance:

55 people attended representing 40 organizations and businesses

Discussion topics, highlights and notable areas of interest:

- Ms. Coleman's overview of Arts Learning in Connecticut described efforts in three areas:
 1. New Art Standards– State Board of Education to provide 11 anchor standards to build artistic literacy
 2. Visibility & Communications – new Regional Education Service Centers to provide connections with teachers, ongoing advocacy and promotion of the innovative work in arts education
 3. Arts Equity – creating consistent access to arts across districts, building equity among arts disciplines, building on arts and culture school experiences to bring them into the home and the community
- The panel discussed best practices for arts and cultural resources to create successful ongoing partnerships with schools. These included:
 1. Having a clear idea of your strengths (after school activity, in the classroom, solo or with other groups) – doing your best work, with passion and a sincere interest in engaging with students
 2. Letting the educator lead the process (what they need, how they need it) to fit with the curriculum
 3. Working in partnership with teacher to provide tie-ins, study guides and questions or lesson “seeds”
 4. Offering interactive programs, viewed as mentoring the students about a career in the arts, rather than only providing a performance
- Mr. Armstrong provided an overview of his work on the new Social Studies Curriculum standards. Ms. Shapiro echoed the panel sentiments regarding best practices in connecting the Humanities with these standards
- Many funders were in the audience

Outcomes:

- An Arts Education handout showing the benefits to students from certified arts educators, certified non-arts educators, and community arts providers was made available to participants
- List of Arts contact person for each school to be added to Coalition website for resources
- List of what each school district offers for artists to find out about opportunities (such as RFP process) to be added to Coalition website