

Title of Session: Arts for At-Risk, Alternative & Incarcerated Individuals

Moderator: BJ Berquist

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Room: Hot Tub Conference Room

SandraS: Welcome everyone to the annual Tapped In Festival and to this session

SandraS: If you haven't already read the 10 Steps for having a successful chat, be sure to do so

SandraS: Today our session is Arts for At-Risk, Alternative and Incarcerated Individuals

SandraS: And BJ Berquist is leading the discussion.

SandraS: BJ teaches art in Pennsylvania to at-risk kids

SandraS: and she's an indispensable part of Tapped In

BJ: Welcome, everyone!

SandraS: normally, we begin the discussion by having everyone introduce themselves

SandraS: but we've got a large number today

SandraS: so I'm going to ask BJ to just jump in

BJ: are you ready for a wild ride?

SandraS: absolutely

BJ: I'd like to start this session with a quote from Pablo Picasso...

BJ: "A picture lives a life like a living creature, undergoing changes imposed on us by our life from day to day. This is natural enough, as the picture LIVES ONLY THROUGH THE MAN WHO IS LOOKING AT IT."

KellyeC: I like that...

BJ: Visual Literacy is the ability to construct meaning from visual input, much as you construct meaning from the symbols of an alphabet. Understanding and interpreting visual information (allowing the picture to 'live') is both a concrete and abstract process, allowing for the development of the higher order thinking skills of synthesis, analysis, and evaluation.

BJ: Arts in Corrections is a community of practice in Tapped In that serves as an advocate for arts as a visual literacy, literacy and therapeutic tool. This discussion will show you several of the many exciting programs that are available to enhance your students' writing and communication skills by integrating the arts into your curriculum.

BJ: There are MANY resources that I want to share, so buckle up and get ready for a fast ride! If we have time, I'll answer questions at the end of the presentation. I will also give you the code for this session so you can submit your sign in form for your certificate of participation.

BJ: A reminder that if you are a Tapped In member, all the following urls will be in your transcript.

SandraS: if you have any questions, please send a private message to me, and I'll help

ElizaL joined the room.

BJ: Many individuals and organizations support the arts and provide resource materials and personnel.

BJ: The Correctional Education Association (CEA) has an arts related Special Interest Group: Prison Arts. <http://www.ceanational.org> A link to the list of Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are listed on the main menu on the left of the CEA homepage.

BJ: There are two Tapped In Special Interest Groups- Arts in Corrections and the Alternative/Correctional Ed Forum. Both these groups have a group/resource room in Tapped In. The Alt/Correctional Ed Forum presents a monthly ASO event that is posted on the Tapped In calendar. Tapped In also has a monthly Arts and Literacy discussion that looks at arts across the curriculum, focusing on a different discipline each month.

BJ: Local State and National Arts Councils contain a wealth of resources. Don't overlook the resources at your doorstep. Local Arts Councils will frequently offer advocacy support and provide artist in residency programs.

BJ: The following is a quote from an Artist In Residence that I've had in my classroom for several years. Alphonse Ciaccio is a musician and teaches the residents to play the guitar. His rapport with the boys is extraordinary.

BJ: ". . . as if from some divine inspiration this phrase came to me "help these kids to dream again". It was then that I realized that my particular role as an Artist in Residence in correctional education went beyond that of jazz musician, arranger, composer studio musician, sideman and touring artist. I was to offer these tools to perhaps help these boys recover their ability to dream."

BJ: "It is my opinion that people need to know that the arts are about dreams. We artists are dreamers. We artists are servants of the muse and any of her children no-matter where we find them."

MarleneM: that's a nice thought

BJ: The National Assembly of State Arts Agencies at <http://www.nasaa-arts.org/> can provide links to your state Arts organizations and resources for residencies and Arts Activism.

BJ: The National Gallery of Art has many resources available for teachers. The NGA 2004 Teacher Institute focused on storytelling and the visual arts. The Gallery has launched NGA Classroom, an online destination where teachers and students can connect works of art in the Gallery's collection with their curriculum. NGA Classroom presents online lessons, interactive projects for students, and a search capability for finding relevant resources. <http://www.nga.gov>

MichelleZy: cool

BJ: Teaching packets, color slide programs, videocassettes, and videodiscs are available as free loans to schools, libraries, community organizations, and individuals. Complete descriptions of resources and lending procedures are also available on the Gallery's Web site at www.nga.gov/education/classroom/loanfinder/.

SharonDi: I've used some of the stuff. It is amazing!

BJ: The Smithsonian Institution museum complex has links to many cultural resources. <http://www.si.edu/museums/>

BJ: Kennedy Center for the Arts provides ArtsEdge which has links to lesson plans, units, and information about the arts at <http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/>

BJ . o O (these are mega sites. Don't forget the urls will be in your transcript since there is no way you'll be able to look at them all during this session)

BJ: ArtsConnectEd <http://www.artsconnected.org/> is the product of a partnership between The Minneapolis Institute of Arts and the Walker Art Center. The goal of

ArtsConnectEd is to make arts education timely, engaging, interactive, and pertinent for both teachers and students of all ages. Kevan Nitzberg leads a tutorial on ArtsConnectEd each month in Tapped In.

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BJ: PBS P.O.V. has several films and video series for promoting ESL and Literacy.

BJ: What I Want My Words to do to You, by Eve Ensler, author of The Vagina Monologues, is a powerful film that focuses on a group of 15 women who participate in a writing workshop at the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility in New York.

<http://www.pbs.org/pov/pov2003/whatiwant/>

LydiaO: Can art be used in Math class

LydiaO: I mean to correct previous learning

BJ: Well known actresses Mary Alice, Glenn Close, Hazelle Goodman, Rosie Perez and Marisa Tomei provide an emotionally charged prison performance of the women's writing. An excellent teacher's guide to this program is available at

http://www.pbs.org/pov/pov2003/whatiwant/pdf/resources_guide.pdf

BJ: Eliza Licht from PBS P.O.V. was a featured guest speaker during a January 15, 2004 Tapped In Alternative/Correctional Education Forum on What I Want My Words To Do To You. The archived transcript is available at <http://www.tappedin.org/transcripts>

BJ . o O (Eliza is with us today)

BJ: "This film allows viewers to see past the crime to the person, to see 'the woman' and not just 'the mistake.'" Eliza Licht

BJ . o O (yes to the question of math)

BJ: PBS P.O.V. Borders is a video series good for encouraging discussion and language learning. http://www.pbs.org/pov/borders/index_flash.html

BJ: Each of the Borders series is accompanied by companion lesson plans.

<http://www.pbs.org/pov/borders/2004/educators/>

BJ: before we move on to the next part of the discussion are there any questions?

ElizaL: thanks-BJ--hi everyone]

RobertWB: awesome so far.

LeoL: thanks Bj I'm good

BJ: Next we'll take a look at some local, national and international Arts Projects

BJ: Blanket the World With Peace Project <http://www.cedarnet.org/emig/peace/> was planned in Tapped In by Anna Martin, an art teacher in North Carolina and a group of arts educators from across the US. The Peace Blanket is a digital quilt with the theme of "Peace through the resolution of conflict."

BJ: Organizations can submit a digital image to be placed on the webpage. The link can be one link deep, which allows for your organization's webpage to expand upon and show more examples of the submitted image. It also allows for the submission of poetry and prose, and video and audio for dance and music.

BJ: One example of a submitted digital square and link to more information is the hat which links to the Hats Off to Peace Project at <http://ti2.sri.com/archive/projects/hatsoff/> .

BJ: This is an ongoing project that will accept submissions at any time

BJ: Empty and Meaningless: The Box Project is transformational community art <http://www.urbanesque.com/empty/> Adrienne Fritz led a discussion on her Box Project for the December 4, 2003 Tapped In ArtsSites. You can access the archived transcript at <http://www.tappedin.org/transcripts>

BJ: "The [Empty and Meaningless: The Box] project is all about relationships....the canvas for each artwork is a small paper box. Each box represents a relationship in the artist's life. The box always remains empty, the emptiness representing INFINITE possibility inside the relationship regardless of the current structure of the relationship."
Adrienne Fritz

BJ: The Silence Speaks <http://www.silencespeaks.org/> is an example of the power of digital storytelling. DS is a wonderful way to connect images and words in a personal and meaningful way. Amy Hill from The Silence Speaks was a featured guest for an October 16, 2003 Alternative/Correctional Ed Forum. The transcript is archived on the transcripts page.

BJ: "In terms of Silence Speaks, the premise is using video as a form of art therapy. We teach people with little to no computer experience how to create short digital videos. [The images] are powerful. I have seen those stories a million times, and some of them still make me cry, every time." Amy Hill

BJ: The AS220 Broad Street Studio is a suite of programs aimed at engaging Rhode Island youth in the programs and mission of AS220.

<http://www.as220.org/as220/weblog/index.html> A guest from AS220 has been invited to present during the August Alternative/Correctional Ed Forum which takes place on the third Thursday of the month. Check the time on the

BJ: TI August calendar when it is posted.

BJ: Jill Gurr has presented Create Now! <http://www.createnow.org/> , a California based creative mentoring of at-risk/troubled youth several times in Tapped In.

BJ: Heads On Fire <http://www.headsonfire.org/hof/index.html> directed by Xavier Leonard, is an organization dedicated to bridging the Digital Divide through the means of community based media arts programs.

BJ: o O (Xavier has also been a guest in TI and is a member of Arts in Corrections)

BJ: For those interested in drama, an article about Shakespeare Behind Bars, directed by Curt Tofteland, can be found at <http://www.csmonitor.com/specials/shakespeare/> .

BJ: "I let the guys choose their roles," Curt says in the article, "and you'd be surprised how many choose to act out the very kinds of things they're in here for." The inmates have told him those roles allow them to grapple with emotions they wouldn't otherwise be able to confront safely. "I tell them, 'You choose your role, but your role also chooses you' - and I believe that happens for a reason."

BJ: Curt was a featured guest during the September 23, 2003 Alternative/Correctional Ed Forum. The complete transcript is archived on the transcripts page.

BJ: Here's one for poetry....

BJ: Through AVideoZine Telepoetics bridges cultural and digital divides by supporting writers and digital artists. Mereline Murphy and James Kass were featured guests for a December 1 2003 Arts and Literacy discussion on Brave New Voices <http://www.bravenewvoices.org/> .

BJ: From the transcript, "Youth Speaks www.youthspeaks.org is the founder and creator of Brave New Voices What we try to do with Brave New Voices is give an opportunity

for new groups from around the country to grow their local programs, to get in touch with each other, and to give young writers a national peer group." The complete transcript is archived on the transcripts page.

BJ: Jessica Hamlin from Arts:21 <http://www.pbs.org/art21/education> was a featured guest for the June 7, 2004 Arts and Literacy discussion.

BJ: "Our educational materials are designed to introduce contemporary art, specifically for the classroom and they are designed with interdisciplinary, thematic instruction in mind. Lessons in the library are designed to help teachers address thematic ideas and make connections to other subject areas including language arts and social studies."

BJ: the next part of the presentation is on Arts Advocacy organizations

BJ: At Arts for Learning <http://www.arts4learning.org/> you will find compelling examples of arts programs, resources, and discussions that can support and animate teaching and learning.

BJ: Child Research Net <http://www.childresearch.net/index.html> is a non-profit organization devoted to thinking with and about young people in Japan.

BJ: the next one is for all you Texans

BJ: The Opening Minds Through the Arts <http://www.omaproject.org/> mission is to improve student achievement by building connections between the arts and the core curriculum. The Texas based OMA Project was developed around brain-based learning theories designed to impact at-risk children and significantly increase student achievement. The goal of OMA is to help all students succeed by actively supporting and positively engaging students in all subjects through the arts.

BJ: Different Ways of Knowing's <http://www.differentways.org/services/integrating.html> arts-in-learning strategies accelerate achievement for all students and student groups

BJ: Thinking Outside The Box <http://k-12.pisd.edu/Schools/hughston/2000Pace/creative.htm> provides ways to be more creative in overcoming mental blocks and solving creative thinking problems.

BJ: International Visual Literacy Association <http://www.ivla.org/> was formed for the purpose of providing a forum for the exchange of information related to visual literacy. IVLA is also concerned with issues dealing with education, instruction and training in modes of visual communication and their application through the concept of visual literacy to individuals, groups, organizations, and to the public in general.

BJ: almost finished and then we can talk

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BJ: whoops

BJ: The 4th R - Reading, wRiting, aRithmetic, and aRt. In an era when students design Web sites for projects and integrate video, graphics, and animation into their presentations, art is fast becoming the new literacy for our times. Link to Jason Ohler's webpage at <http://www.jasonohler.com/> to read about some of his exciting work.

BJ: All these resources and more are listed on BJ's Backflip page at <http://www.backflip.com/members/bjberquist>

BJ: Opens the floor to questions and discussion

JeffC . o O (Jason Ohler rules ... along with Alfie Kohn)

SheriG: any suggestion of sites where students can post their poetry or art work?

BJ: bravenewworld is a place for the poetry, Sheri

BJ . o O (telepoetics)

DanitaC: great resources! I LOVE the project example where the incarcerated chose to act out a real life scene..

BJ nods to Danita

JeffC: What's the link for bravenewworld bj?

MicheleAt: I teach French and Spanish, any good resources to help implement art in my teaching

DanitaC: any other project based examples you know of... that maybe aren't represented by a link you've already provided?

LeoL: What's the "tele" part in telepoetics ? Is it the physical distance between the writer and aud? or is it sort kind of collaboration?

KellyeC: I agree with Danita

BJ: Leo, it's an online collaboration

MarkLS: I'm a music teacher and frequent www.nyphilkids.org for music education ideas. I highly recommend it.

BJ . o O (I think you can submit art for posting to www.icafo.org)

LeoL: Thnaks BjB I'll have to check out the site

BJ: cool, thanks, Mark

LydiaO: Any idea for math classes

BJ nods to Lydia. There is a folder for arts and math on the backflip page

KellyeC: Ok...I'm going out on a limb here...what about health/PE?

SheriG: Are the artist in residency you mentioned allowed to teach in a high school setting?

LydiaO: Can I access it if I'm not a member?

BJ: Here's the arts and math url <http://www.backflip.com/members/bjberquist/5490487>

LydiaO: Thank you

BJ nods to Lydia...it's a public site

LeoL: How does one explain the commonality of construction in the arts/lang to the students?

BJ: Sheri, the local arts council provides the residencies...and does so to all the public schools

SheriG: Thanks! This is a great idea.

LeoL: maybe kellye, PE>dance>drama>

LeoL: composition

KellyeC: Thanks Leo...that is what I had in mind...

MarkLS: My compliments on your backflip page, BJ! Very thorough.

BJ agrees with Leo. There is a backflip folder for dance

BJ: thanks, Mark

KellyeC: I'll have to check into that...thanks a bunch

LeoL: or producing Shakespeare in a teamwork/team/ context

WexGst18 likes Leo's idea

LeoL: instead of Capulets and the other guys... bears/Vikings

LeoL: sharks jets

CandaceJaG: sometimes there is a great resource with universities. here in the Delta of Mississippi, Morgan Freeman's wife runs arts/residency programs for high schoolers

BJ: Thanks, Candace. That's why I suggest that you not overlook the resources in your own backyard

LeoL: (Montagues... and Capulets == Mets Yankees)

WexGst18 . o O (Yankees/Red Sox)

BJ rolls her eyes

BJ: an example of a local resource is CreateNow which is in California

BJ: there are several similar programs across the country

BJ: and PBS has been very generous with lesson plans and units for their programs

CandaceJaG: BJ, I saw a film this summer about an alternative program in Japan that used the arts

BJ: interesting, Candace. Do you remember the name of the film?

CandaceJaG: I will look it up, and send it to you.

BJ: bjb@tappedin.org

SandraS: Just a note that we have about 10 minutes remaining in this session.

CandaceJaG: A high school in Japan. It was started to address the problem of Japanese youth staying home, and not going to school

MicheleAt: Candace can you send me the information about the Japanese movie as well. Thanks

SandraS: and before people start drifting out, I want to send a huge round of applause to BJ

BJ . o O (you may find information on ChildNet)

CandaceJaG: ok, Michele, I'm still a bit techno challenged here

SandraS: for all the wonderful resources

BJ bows humbly

SandraS: and to all of you for attending this session

LynneW: BJ these resources are fabulous. Thank you!

BJ cheers wildly. Thanks for participating

CarolynDE: Yes, thank you so much for the wealth of information and all the links!

KellyeC: Thank you so much...it was interesting.

MichelleZy: Great resources, can't wait to check them out

LydiaO: What is the code?

SheriG: Thanks for the information!

DebEd: Yes, thanks, BJ - great links. It will take hours to absorb all of this info!

CarolynDE: And thanks to Sandra!

HelenK: great work BJ and I am looking forward to exploring all of these wonderful resources

LeoL: <<<begins shredding current plans for Sept

JeanMC: Great work BJ; very interesting and excellent resources

ElizaL: You're the best!

SandraS bows to all

LydiaO: Thank you BJ I have learnt a lot here