GiveNOLA Day will Help Children kNOw What It Means

Strengthening Community through Historic/Cultural Connections

All funds directed to Kid smArT through GiveNOLA Day will support the kNOw What It Means project to introduce local school children to three elements that make our community so special—our architecture, our cuisine and our Carnival traditions. By introducing children to the richness of the arts and cultural life of New Orleans in these arenas, children have another reason to be proud to live and learn here and another reason to preserve and enhance the arts and cultural life of the city.

kNOw What It Means is a series of three durable, portable visual arts curriculum kits for use in grades 3-6 in local public schools and their After School/Summer programs. They are designed so that non-artist teachers and after school providers can use them effectively. Arts integrated activities also link to state standards in social studies, math and English Language Arts.

Make a Kid smART JUMP to Online Giving on GiveNOLA Day! It’s Easy...

Go to http://www.givenola.org/kid-smart or email linda@kidsmart.org anytime between 12:00:01 A.M. and 11:59:59 P.M. on May 6.

Hit the Donate button to give through the Greater New Orleans Foundation GiveNOLA Day system. It’s just that secure & easy!

For more information on GiveNOLA Day go to the event website www.givenola.org. (Or email Kid smART Development Director Linda at linda@kidsmart.org and mark your calendar now to join us in mission and to support GnOF’s newest community-builder.)
STRENGTHENING Learning Communities

KID smART Partners with Smithsonian’s Will to Adorn

The Will to Adorn is a multi-year collaborative folk cultural research and public projection project of the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, its objective is to explore the diversity of African American identities as expressed through the cultural aesthetics and traditional arts of the body, dress and adornment. The project recognizes that dress and body adornment are “cultural markers” – ways people communicate their self-definitions, the communities with which they identify, their self-definitions, the communities which people communicate their – aspects of visual culture through dress and body arts traditions of their regions. (learn more about Will to Adorn in the sidebar to the left).

KID smART, with its Smithsonian Partnership, will focus on the idea of loftier youth understanding who they are. “Having students creatively express how they want to present themselves to the world is an important part of the process of developing an identity. The work is a reflective process that includes thinking about how the choices we make affect how we connect with others.”

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STRENGTHENING Learning Communities

Dancing Onomatopoeia

Success in building creative and sustainable communities rests on the ability of a group’s members to collaborate and work in diverse teams. Learning the skills of ensemble work in the performing arts can have a powerful crossover impact on student learning as evidenced in work by Teaching Artists Andy Drescher with students at the Smithsonian’s Elementary.

Andy’s residency is a hybrid of arts in which imagemaking interaction in the theater arts is in a reading class with Ms. Drescher and then follows those same students to a dance class where he co-teaches with Ms. Roberts. This structure provides a way to make multiple connections through multiple intelligences and to a more effective way as much of the learning is experiential. Where children process knowledge, they receive kinesthetically and emotionally and the brain adds a new learning dimension – enhancing students’ abilities to retain what they’ve learned. They remember what they connect to emotionally.

How does it work? Here’s a recent example. Ms. Drescher is introducing the children to the concept of onomatopoeia. She presents some words like hopping.

Andy planned with each and both to use theatre ensembles to tie these words into an onomatopoeia context by making up a new learning pattern – enhancing students’ abilities to retain what they have learned. They remember what they connect to emotionally.

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In her class, Jenna explains how the arts of dress and body arts traditions of their regions. (Learn more about Will to Adorn in the sidebar to the left). Jenna explores how the arts of dress and adornment help youth understand who they are. "Having students creatively express how they want to present themselves to the world is an important part of the process of developing an identity. The work is a reflective process that includes thinking about how the choices we make affect how we connect with others."

A visit to the group by Chief Darryl Montana and Spy Boy Yancy of the Yellow Pocahontas with others.”

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A way to open the conversation to the concept of onomatopoeia is, “having students creatively express how they want to present themselves to the world is an important part of the process of developing an identity. The work is a reflective process that includes thinking about how the choices we make affect how we connect with others.”

Andy planned with each and both to use theater ensembles to tie these seemingly unrelated fundamental concepts together in a way that deepened the learning in each. Groups of students (with varying memberships) were asked to come together in an ensemble piece about that situation. For example, one group chose the dropping of an object on a foot, the resulting hop and—the piece de résistance—sounds or words they would say when said words give hints to what they mean by the way they sound—words like hopping. Students learned about onomatopoeia.

Students in grades 3-8 who participated in an arts integrated classroom indicated they learned:

- 60-79% said teaching artists helped them grow in wanting to come to another subject area and in working well with others.
- 80% & > said their teaching artist improved their instruction.
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KiD smART is participating in the first ever GiveNOLA Day hosted on Tuesday May 6th, by the Greater New Orleans Foundation. GiveNOLA Day is a one-day online giving event to inspire people to give generously to nonprofit organizations, including KiD smART, who make our region a stronger community for all. It’s a day to come together as one and for every dollar donated to KiD smART from midnight to midnight on May 6th, we also will receive a portion of a $300,000 Leopold Fund. We will have a chance to win additional awards and prizes—making your dollar go further.

GiveNOLA Day is tied to a national event called GiveLocal America where hundreds of community foundations across the nation are asking their communities to give back on May 6, 2014.

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Go to http://www.givenola.org/kiid-smart or call 1-800-445-5939 and hit the Donate button to give through the Greater New Orleans Foundation GiveNOLA Day system. It’s just that secure & easy! For more information on GiveNOLA Day, go to the event’s website, www.givenola.org. Or, Email KiD smART Development Director Linda Irwin at linda@kidsmart.org.

KiD smART’s mission can be viewed through many “frames.” One is the importance of our work in strengthening Community (with that capital C) and strengthening a broad range of learning communities built by the arts...
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Strong communities and strong learning communities that support both new and veteran teachers. Teachers shown here are in Andy Vaught’s Encouraging Instability group – exploring strategies to integrate the theatre arts and the English Language Arts.

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