ArtsBridge: Model for Success

ArtsBridge is a model for success. What started as a local arts education and outreach program in 1996 is now a national network of universities using the ArtsBridge model to bring more arts education to more children across the country.

Under the visionary leadership of ArtsBridge founder Jill Beck, dean of the Claire Trevor School of the Arts, the program has grown from serving seven classrooms in Orange County to over 800 classrooms across the country. Recognized and funded by the State of California as a statewide model, UCI's ArtsBridge program was initiated at eight University of California campuses in 1998. Further funding in 2001 from a U.S. Department of Education grant has launched a national network of universities using the ArtsBridge model. The most recent evolution in ArtsBridge's extraordinary life has been the establishment at UCI of the Center for Arts Research in Education (CARE). The Center will bring together faculty in the arts and other disciplines at the university to study the relationships between the arts, aspects of cognitive and social development, civic engagement and public policy formation. In recognition of these achievements, Jill Beck has been named a recipient of the 2002 UCI Medal, the university's highest honor. With a proven model for success, Beck is already preparing for the next item on the ArtsBridge agenda: a trip to Washington, D.C. to promote advocacy for a national policy for arts education in schools. Before she heads out the door, she takes a few minutes to talk about ArtsBridge's life...so far.

September 2001, Claire Trevor School of the Arts received an $846,500 grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) to support the expansion of ArtsBridge. How is the FIPSE grant going to be used? The FIPSE money is going to be used to build a national network of universities working with various schools to bring more arts education to more children across the country. We will deepen ArtsBridge's impact in California by replication within campuses.

1996

Under the leadership of Dean Jill Beck at the University of California, Irvine, ArtsBridge launches its first arts projects with seven ArtsBridge scholars teaching in seven K-12 schools in Orange County. Professor Keith Fowler, head of directing in the Department of Drama, is appointed Faculty Director of UCI's ArtsBridge program.

1999-2000

ArtsBridge receives $1.5 million from the State of California to expand UCI's acclaimed ArtsBridge program throughout the University of California system. Eleanore Stewart is appointed Associate Director of statewide ArtsBridge. UCI's School of the Arts receives $310,000 of the state funding to build out UCI's ArtsBridge program and to assume administrative leadership for the systemwide initiative for the next three years.

In its first year of dissemination to seven additional UC campuses, ArtsBridge scholars deliver arts education to 23,922 K-12 students in 276 schools, 64% of which are low-performing. 932 UC students teach visual arts, music, drama, dance, and digital arts to both primary and secondary school students, and offers professional development to teacher-credential candidates and to schoolteachers.

2000-2001

“Bright Minds, Strong Voices: Art by California Children.” First bi-annual UC ArtsBridge Exhibition presents a sampling of artwork from children participating in ArtsBridge programs throughout the state. The exhibition opens at UCI in January and tours to four UC campuses.

Claire Trevor School of the Arts receives an $846,500 grant from the Fund for the continued on page 2

The Life of ArtsBridge...so far

ART HAS A SPECIAL PLACE IN OUR WORLD, inspiring both the heart and the mind, creating bridges between us, and helping us to communicate more effectively. I commend you for the work you have done with ArtsBridge.

—Barbara Boxer, United States Senator, CA

Winter Performance Highlight

THE JUNIOR BALLET CLASSIQUE DU CONSERVATOIRE DE PARIS
Performance of works by internationally noted choreographers Nicolò Fonte, Davide Bombana, Robert North and David Allan.
Sun., Feb. 24, 3 pm, Irvine Barclay Theatre, $15/14/8

Eight student dancers from the Conservatoire de Paris arrive at UCI, Feb. 14, for a two-week residency hosted by the Dance Department’s International Dance Exchange program. These young darlings are members of the Tha Junior Ballet Classique, the Conservatoire’s professional training and touring company. While at UCI, they will take dance classes and perform in the UCI Dance Visions concert. In a special performance at the Irvine Barclay Theatre, The Junior Ballet Classique will present a full repertoire program which they recently toured in Europe to great critical acclaim.

University of California, Irvine
Claire Trevor School of the Arts
300 Arts
Irvine, CA 92697-2775
the California State University (CSU) system and broaden its impact by moving beyond California to additional public universities. A collective network of many major research universities can start to be a very powerful voice for how the arts are supported in our nation’s schools.

The FPSE project is so important because of what we will learn from our partners across the country. There are some very sophisticated programs at New York University, the University of Utah and at the other partner schools, and the network will provide open access to what we are all learning. I expect that the fourteen universities now participating will improve what they do because of exposure to each other. The other important point is, as ArtsBridge replicates across the country through our partner universities, we will share a set of principals upon which we all agree. Although programs will differ locally because everybody has different expertise and local needs, we will share basic agreement on values and approach.

Inaugural ArtsBridge Exhibition: Minds, Strong Voices: Art by California Children

The latest evolution in the ArtsBridge program is the establishment of the Center for Arts Research in Education (CARE) on the UCI campus. Why the need for such a center?

We rely too heavily on standardized testing to prove what children learn. Einstein said, “Not everything that can be counted counts. I think we also have to find methodologies for tracking what children learn that is less ‘easy’ to measure. For instance, their willingness to take risks in the classroom, to pose multiple solutions to problems, or to raise their hands and speak in public. The answers to these questions cannot be extracted with big standardized tests, and one can’t teach these things as answers to specific questions that can be drilled and memorized. They are mental operations that need to be developed in children.

We know these areas of development are assisted by arts learning, but ‘how can we measure it?’ It is an essential mission of CARE to devise studies to report on why early arts learning is a positive force. This means the establishment of a valid system for evaluation and assessment. The Center is fortunate to be working with Dr. Robert Horowitz, who is Associate Director of the Center for Arts Education Research at Teachers College, Columbia University. His investigations have focused on the impact of arts learning on several cognitive and social dimensions such as creativity, personal expression, and school climate. Dr. Horowitz will help develop methodologies through interdisciplinary research, which will involve social ecologists, psychologists and cognitive specialists, doctors, scientists, artists and educators.

How will CARE benefit the university community?

An important component of CARE is the opportunity for faculty to derive direct benefit from being involved. Other campuses have been quick to see the research potential in ArtsBridge. I hope I can encourage UCI faculty to take advantage of the research potential to be found in the diverse human populations at myriad ArtsBridge sites. It’s a problem in a research institution if work in ArtsBridge is only perceived as service, because service doesn’t count for much in advancement through the faculty ranks. But if involvement in ArtsBridge affects one’s teaching, what is offered in the curriculum, how a department defines itself in terms of the role of its art form in society, or one’s ability to develop conference presentations or publications—all these things count to research university faculty.

We have already established partnerships with the Department of Education, School of Social Ecology, and the College of Medicine. Their faculty members have their own research interests that really border those of ArtsBridge. They are able to see how their work could overlap and come under the umbrella of the Center and allow them to get more grant funding and new partners on campus to help with their interests.

Associate Dean Janelle Rainelt is at work developing a master’s degree program in Arts Education through the Claire Trevor School of the Arts. Before CARE, ArtsBridge was not organized enough to conduct systematic research projects. We can now support and attract graduate students interested in the field of arts learning with more than 250 classrooms across the state, and with a research center structured to supervise observation and evaluation through faculty guided graduate research projects. We should be able to deliver a lot of findings in the next few years, and that will be important in advocating more arts education in the schools.

What do you envision for ArtsBridge in the next few years?

I think the national network will grow and I think we will see a change in the data and language we are able to provide to decision makers and legislators so that public policy vis-a-vis the arts will evolve. It is going to be very important to advocate for national funding for the arts because right now there are few places to go to apply for arts research money.
THE LIFE OF ARTSBridge

continued from page 7

Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FPSE) in the U.S. Department of Education for “Disseminating the Proven Model of ArtsBridge.” The project will fund the dissemination of the the ArtsBridge partnership from its current eight University of California campuses to 14 universities in five states, including New York University, New York City, Arizona State University in Phoenix/Tempe, University of Colorado, Boulder, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, and two California State Universities at Sacramento and Long Beach. The grant will also fund a three-year research component to study the impact of ArtsBridge on participating university students, on K-12 student learning, and on participating faculty and teachers.

ArtsBridge is a model for bringing together the schools and universities for the good of all. We greatly admire the program and wish to help actively promote it as a national model.

—Robert Wolsch
President of the Woodrow Wilson Foundation

● The Center for Arts Research in Education (CARE), is established at UCI. The Center, located in the Claire Trevor School of the Arts, will bring together faculty from the arts, education, social ecology, and the College of Medicine to study the relationships between the arts, aspects of cognitive and social development, civic engagement, and public policy formation. Much of the initial Center activity will focus on the evaluation work undertaken under the FPSE grant from the U.S. Department of Education, and on an Eisenhower grant awarded to Professor Liane Brouillette in the Department of Education.

● During the 2000-2001 academic year, 780 ArtsBridge scholars, from eight UC campuses, work in 237 California schools serving more than 20,000 K-12 children.

2002

● Jill Beck, dean of the Claire Trevor School of the Arts, has been named a 2002 recipient of the UCI Medal, the university’s highest honor. She is honored for her visionary community leadership as founder of ArtsBridge, a national model for the advancement of educational arts partnerships between the university and K-12 communities.

● The Claire Trevor Arts Academy and ArtsBridge Program will open its doors in July for three weeks of advanced training in the arts to selected high school juniors and seniors from Orange County schools. The summer academy will be directed by Keith Fowler, who is also UCI's director of ArtsBridge and head of the directing program in drama. He will be joined by faculty members Janice Gudde Plastino, professor of dance, and Stephen Tucker, musician/teacher of choreography, and directs research in dance science at UCI.

Find out more about ArtsBridge. Visit our website at www.arts.uci.edu/artsbridge

Faculty Mentors Critical to ArtsBridge Success

IT’S NO ACCIDENT CLAIRE TREVOR SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

ArtsBridge scholars are such a success in the field. They are among the student elite pursuing arts degrees in a nationally top-ranked institution with a world-class faculty in the arts. These students are studying with faculty who are intensely engaged in teaching, research, and arts production, but in many cases, have also made time to mentor ArtsBridge scholars. Two such faculty are Janice Gudde Plastino in dance and Stephen Tucker in music. Their role is to conduct initial screenings of ArtsBridge applications in their disciplines, to help develop projects that successfully integrate the arts into the classroom curriculum, and to observe ArtsBridge scholars as they teach on site. Both Plastino and Tucker view faculty involvement as critical to the success of the ArtsBridge program, and feel that the time they invest working with ArtsBridge scholars is amply rewarded.

Janice Gudde Plastino, professor of dance, is an author, choreographer and teacher of choreography, kinesiology and injury prevention. She is a leading expert in injury prevention and dance conditioning, and directs research in dance science at UCI.

Stephen Tucker, conductor of professional orchestras and frequently guest conducts professional orchestras throughout the world.

UCI’s Symphony Orchestra conductor Stephen Tucker leads a very active life as a professional musician and teacher. He has served on the faculty of the University of California, Riverside, and as director of the Chamber Orchestra at Atlantic Union College in Massachusetts. He has worked with many youth orchestras and frequently guest conducts professional orchestras throughout the world.

ArtsBridge helps our scholars become better artists, but I also think it may make some of them realize their real gift is to take their art and give it back in teaching.

Dear UCI Arts Patrons,

We’re starting spring-cleaning early and we need your help. In the next few weeks you will receive a postcard in the mail. If you want to REMAIN on the Claire Trevor School of the Arts mailing list for our season brochure and quarterly newsletter, please fill out the postage-paid return panel and send it back to us. Questions? Please call the UCI Arts Box Office (949) 824-2787.

I think the most rewarding part of my involvement in ArtsBridge has been to watch the young students at the Freshman or Sophomore level who have little or no teaching experience become ArtsBridge scholars. Watching them grow support the classroom’s curriculum and periodically observe them in the classroom. Their progress is closely supervised by past ArtsBridge scholars in dance, and ArtsBridge scholars in dance who are now ArtsBridge Mentors, and I am available to them throughout the project. It’s a wonderful collaborative system that almost guarantees a successful outcome for the ArtsBridge scholars, for the students they are teaching, and for those of us involved in this wonderful effort. It is such a thrill to see these scholars apply what they are learning in my classroom to their ArtsBridge projects in the schools.

Jill Beck, dean of the Claire Trevor School of the Arts

Jan. 20-March 10, 2002 Beall Center for Art and Technology

The Dream of the Audience: Theresa Hak Kyung Cha (1951-1982) is a retrospective exhibition of the works of Theresa Hak Kyung Cha, an influential but little known Korean-American artist who worked in media ranging from performance, film and video, to mail art and artist’s books.

Center Hours: Tues.-Sun., noon-5 pm; Thurs., noon-8 pm. Admission is free. Information: (949) 824-6206. http://beallcenter.uci.edu

NEW MUSIC BY UCI STUDENTS

Wed., March 20, 8 pm Winifred Smith Hall, free

TICKET PRICE LEGEND

Prices are listed in this order: General audience/UCI faculty, staff, alumni association members, senior citizens/UCI students & children under 19. Need help or want to add your name to our mailing list? Call UCIArts Box Office: (949) 824-2787.

HOW TO ORDER TICKETS

BY PHONE Call (949) UCI-ARTS (949) 824-2787.

Change it to Visa or MasterCard ($3 service charge for phone orders). Credit cards accepted during daytime hours only.

BY MAIL Send your ticket request and check payable to UC Regents to UCIArts Box Office University of California, Irvine, CA 92697-2775.

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