



Southeast Center for Education in the Arts
The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

Recipient of the 2003 Governor's Award for Arts Leadership

The Governor's Awards in the Arts are Tennessee's highest honor in the arts recognizing those individuals and organizations who have made significant contributions to the cultural life of Tennessee. The Arts Leadership Award recognizes individuals and organizations who have demonstrated significant support or participation in activities which foster excellence in, appreciation or, or access to the arts.

The 2003 award was designed by internationally renowned craft artist Roy Overcast. Working in clay, he created a grouping of masks he calls the "Faces of Tennessee." The three faces of the young, the old, and the ethnic influence represent the diversity, heritage, and the future of the arts in Tennessee.

The following excerpts from letters supporting SCEA's nomination testify to the merit and impact of the advocacy, leadership, and professional development provided by the Southeast Center for Education in the Arts since 1988.



THE NOMINATION

I am pleased to place in nomination for the Governor's Award in Arts Leadership the Southeast Center for Education in the Arts. The Center's purpose is to integrate the arts as part of the core curriculum so that children learn about and develop a connection to their various cultural heritages.

Every undergraduate in teacher preparation at UTC must now take a course on how to make the arts part of the core curriculum. For teachers already in service, annual summer institutes are conducted that prepare teachers with substantive knowledge in visual arts, music, theatre, and dance along with teaching techniques. To date, the Center's programs have reached thousands of teachers from 450 elementary and secondary schools, representing 68 schools districts in 8 states. A comprehensive approach to arts education has changed the way thousands of children learn. It has even reached beyond the Southeast to children in Brazil and Japan through teacher attendance in summer programs.

The Center is a public/private collaboration of national, state, and local organizations and individuals. \$6.7 million has been raised to support the program with nearly \$2 million endowing the Center itself. In all of these accomplishments however, none is more important than giving thousands of children direct access to their cultural heritage. It is for these reasons that I believe the Center is deserving of the Governor's Award.

– Ruth S. Holmberg, Chairman (retired), The Chattanooga Times, Chair of SCEA Board

I have enjoyed an association with the Southeast Center since its establishment in 1988. The Lyndhurst Foundation was one of the founding partners providing the initial capitalization for this creative enterprise. The Center's initial activities focused on providing professional development for teachers in our home county. But the work soon acquired a regional reputation and generated regional demand for its services. Five years after its founding, the Center began to operate satellite programs in Atlanta, Savannah, Montgomery, and New Orleans. The Southeast Center continues to adapt as the opportunities and challenges of arts education in public schools continues to evolve. New technologies and new designs have enabled the Center to bring its services to new audiences at lower cost and with greater efficiency. Nevertheless, it continues to function as a credible advocate for adequate investment to achieve excellence in curricular design and instructional leadership in the generally neglected field of arts education. I can think of no other enterprise in our state that has done so much for this field in the last decade.

– Jack Murrah, President of the Lyndhurst Foundation, Chattanooga

Since its establishment on the UTC campus fifteen years ago, the Southeast Center has served as a national model for educators and other community leaders who seek to integrate the fine arts into the curricular offerings of area school systems. By effectively cross-training teachers in appreciation of and instruction in the visual arts, theatre, music, and dance, the faculty members and teacher associates of the Center have served to help fulfill the metropolitan outreach mission of the University, and positively affected the lives of hundreds of K-12 students.

– Bill W. Stacy, Chancellor of The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

From the Center's outset, teacher preparation has stressed multi-cultural content in the various art forms so that, drawing from a span of ethnic sources and time periods, the richness and diversity of all of the arts is made accessible to the diverse population of children in our schools. Hundreds of teachers have now been trained in using the arts in the classroom; additional thousands of students have made connection with their cultural heritages through the Center's programs.

– Jane Harbaugh, Associate Provost (retired), The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
(Dr. Harbaugh was Acting Director of the Center from 1988 to 1991)

SCEA operate with a bias toward collaboration and partnership. It has formed partnerships with other organizations throughout the community, including arts projects with Allied Arts, the Chattanooga Symphony and Opera, the Public Education Foundation, the Hunter Museum, and the Creative Discovery Museum. The Southeast Center is a Tennessee treasure and an arts resource for the entire nation.

– Jim Hill, SCEA Board Member, Former Chair of the Tennessee Arts Commission

I have known the staff of the Southeast Center for 12 years in my role as the first director of the Center, as program officer for the J. Paul Getty Trust, and now as President & CEO of The Children's Museum of Indianapolis. Throughout this period, the Center has significantly improved the achievement of students and their teachers through rigorous multidisciplinary arts curricula tied to national and state standards. More important than the regional and national accolades received by the Center, is the commitment by the Chattanooga community and The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga to this project. Over the years, significant grant and endowment dollars have flowed to the Center to ensure its impact for decades to come. This is an important testament to the viability and importance of the Center to the state of Tennessee and the thousands of children and teachers reached by the Center's important work.

- Jeffrey H. Patchen, President & CEO, The Children's Museum of Indianapolis
(Dr. Patchen was the first director of the Center serving from 1991 to 1996)

The Southeast Center has transformed not only arts education within school districts and classrooms, it has transformed lives – the lives of both students and teachers. Teachers who attended the professional development programs provided by the Center have become better teachers, lifelong learners, and lovers of art. Their classrooms are remarkably changed as well. These teachers help students develop an understanding of history and cultures from around the world, an ability to critically analyze works of art, an increased aesthetic awareness of many art forms, and an ability to develop their own artistic creations. These students are active participants in learning that stimulates critical thinking and provides important links to other subjects within the curriculum.

- Carol Edwards, Assistant Dean, Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw, GA
(Dr. Edwards founded the SCEA satellite institute at Kennesaw State University)

The initial success of the Louisiana Institute for Education in the Arts is profoundly due to the leadership provided by the Southeast Center. The LAIEA story is only one of many the Center can be proud to tell. Over its fifteen-year existence, SCEA has consistently and with the highest degree of integrity contributed to arts education both in Tennessee and the nation. I am proud to be a part of their accomplishments.

- Kimberlye P. Hunicke, Program Director of Louisiana Institute for Education in the Arts, New Orleans (Ms. Hunicke founded the SCEA satellite institute in Louisiana)

The Southeast Center's ongoing research and development in arts education and school reform have transformed schools in Tennessee and the southeast. Additionally, SCEA has become a national force for change in the nation's schools due to the Annenberg/CPB educational television series. Their work has changed the way teachers think and teach, inspired and enabled students to achieve both in the arts and other subjects, and influenced national educational policy.

- Dr. Donald J. Killeen, Director, National Arts Education Consortium, Columbus, OH
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In the fall of 2000, Annenberg/CPB commissioned Lavine Production Group in New York City to produce a project called *The Arts in Every Classroom*. After considering several programs around the country, the Southeast Center was selected as the instructional designers because of their nationally recognized excellence in innovative professional development for teachers. The two-year collaboration between the Southeast Center and Lavine Production Group has been stimulating and productive. We are pleased to be able to disseminate a philosophy of arts education and instructional strategies developed in Chattanooga to a national audience. Our nation's teachers and students will benefit from the outstanding work of the Southeast Center for Education in the Arts.

– Karen Sensing Gallagher, Senior Project Officer, Annenberg/CPB, Washington, DC

The Southeast Center was a key partner in the development, design and production of a television series for elementary schools teachers, *The Arts in Every Classroom*, for Annenberg/CPB. Fresh from that experience, SCEA plunged into another media collaboration, this time looking at collaborations between arts specialists and other subject area teachers in middle schools. As project director for both of these undertakings, it was my decision to invite SECA to join the creative team responsible for developing all components of the project. SCEA was a standout, hands-down choice to provide the instructional design. Its affiliation with an institute of higher learning, its research-based philosophy, and its total commitment to providing quality professional development made the choice an easy one.

– Kaye Lavine, President, Lavine Production Group, Inc., New York City

The Southeast Center has changed my life. As a thirteen-year veteran of the classroom in 1990 I found myself being asked to teach “fine arts” in my elementary school. With no arts background, I attended a three-week SCEA music institute. These three weeks changed the course of my life as I discovered what I had been missing in not having a working knowledge of the arts. I used the philosophical approach that I learned as well as the units of study offered by SCEA in those first years to ignite in my students the same passion for the arts that I had discovered, and we learned together. In the following seven years I worked with over 500 students and I believe that the idea of the “arts as an authentic part of life” was internalized by most of these children. It is because of this new understanding of the arts that I was asked to apply for and got the job of Director of Education at the Creative Discovery Museum. My ongoing experiences with SCEA have sustained me in my six years in this position.

– Jayne Griffin, Director of Education, Creative Discovery Museum, Chattanooga

The Chattanooga Symphony and Opera collaborates directly with the Southeast Center's staff to assure that our education product supports other curricular goals and meets students' needs and expectations. The primary results of this collaboration are the docent packages that SCEA researches, prepares and produces. SCEA also helps us prepare volunteer docents for their classroom experience. Performing and communicating about performing are different skills and our good collaboration relationship with SCEA, while allowing us to help shape support materials, permits us to concentrate on presenting the music. Without them, the CSO would be vastly less efficient at both parts of this effort. Because of SCEA's immersion in education principles, significant resources, and commitment to producing quality materials, the CSO is freed to do its best work.

- John Wehrle, Executive Director, Chattanooga Symphony & Opera

For a number of years, I had heard from teachers about the outstanding summer workshops that the Center conducted. Our school system received a grant from the U.S. Department of Education in 1999 to transform three traditional schools into fine arts schools (elementary, middle, and high). All the faculties and administrators of the three schools, as well as myself, attended a two-week disciplined based arts education institute which helped tremendously as we developed arts integrated curriculum for each of the new schools. The SCEA staff continued to work with the faculties on curriculum development and strategies throughout the year. In fact, they have remained in a collaborative relationship with each of the schools, assisting them with their specific needs. We attribute the success of these magnet schools to the arts integrated curriculum; therefore, we are deeply indebted to the SCEA staff for their training and continued assistance

- Joanne S. Smith, Director of Magnet Schools, Hamilton County Department of Education, Chattanooga

The Southeast Center has supported our school in many activities which foster excellence in, appreciation of, and access to the arts. The entire faculty has attended SCEA professional development institutes. With long-term commitment and support from the Southeast Center, we have established a new school with solid planning and well-defined goals. We have established a connectivity of arts and academics at the heart of the curriculum. Students have been trained as docents for the Chattanooga Symphony and Opera by SCEA staff members. The SCEA director has served in an advisory position on curriculum design committees. Simply stated, the climate of the Southeast Center reflects artistic excellence.

- Kathy Allison Fine Arts Facilitator, Chattanooga High Center for Creative Arts
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SCEA provides rigorous and compelling arts education training and professional development for both administrators and classroom educators. The discipline-based arts education institutes have opened the door to numerous students in Hamilton County and surrounding areas by making arts education a priority for both arts educators and general education professionals. SCEA has demonstrated the willingness to collaborate and customize workshops for schools. Their commitment to arts education for all students has been tireless and continuous.

– Wendy A. Jung, Principal, East Lake Academy of Fine Arts, Chattanooga

The Southeast Center provided the vision, schema, instruction, and support Brown Academy needed as we began a new laboratory school on the campus of The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga this year. They were our mentors as our entire faculty worked with the Center to envision, design, and implement our curriculum with an arts integrated focus. The Center's ability to work with a diverse learning community provided the emotional and academic prop my faculty needed to successfully acquire and synthesize the knowledge and skills necessary to engage students in a personal journey of exploring the arts and connecting those experiences to their everyday lives. Without reservation, Brown Academy for Classical Studies endorses the philosophy and vision of the Southeast Center as we partner together to create an understanding and appreciation for the fine arts in all of our community.

– Ron Hughes, Principal, Brown Academy for Classical Studies, Chattanooga

Nine Battle Academy teachers participated in SCEA professional development two months prior to the official opening of our brand new school in August of 2002. As a result of their training, teachers have redesigned and created units of study that demonstrate their interest and knowledge of arts integration. Authentic connections are being made everyday in our classrooms among the arts, language arts, social studies, math, and science. We look forward to future professional development and support that will be provided by the Center.

– Aimee Randolph, Principal, Battle Academy for Teaching and Learning, Chattanooga

SCEA has been supportive and beneficial to our program from the beginning five years ago, as we have built a school of reform in education with a focus on transforming curriculum through infusing the arts. Our staff initially trained with SCEA for two weeks with follow-up trainings each summer as well as different weekends. Our test data has risen from the twenty percentile to the fifty percentile with the initiation of the fine arts theme. With the support of the Southeast Center we will continue to improve our curriculum and endeavors of education reform.

– Madeline Bell, Assistant Principal, Barger Academy of Fine Arts, Chattanooga

No other training received during my thirty-two years of service has impacted my teaching and my students as profoundly as the training received during the Southeast Center's first three-week institute in 1988. From that first institute and through subsequent institutes the Center has supported substantive changes in the way the arts are brought to the classroom. The expertise they have provided has empowered teachers and made their teaching more engaging and more thoughtful.

– Sheron C. Kenaston, Consulting Teacher, Hamilton County Department of Education

The Southeast Center has made a remarkable and lasting difference in the method of teaching at our school. It is my belief that the discipline-based arts education approach has affected the high test scores our children achieve on the state test. More importantly, it affects the children's way of thinking.

– Lisa Miller, Principal, Wallace A. Smith Elementary School, Ooltewah, TN

The summer programs changed my way of thinking about teaching; questioning became a much more important part of my teaching strategy and the inclusion of art, theatre and dance in my music classes helped make my students more rounded scholars. In my thirty years of teaching I believe that nothing has influenced me more than my experiences through the Southeast Center.

– Dixie Eiseman, Music Specialist, Wallace A. Smith Elementary School, Ooltewah, TN

Since 1991, the Southeast Center has helped the administrators, arts specialists, classroom teachers, parents and students of Browns Mill Elementary School understand the nature of art, dance, music, and theatre. Through their support, we discovered exciting ways to weave the arts throughout the curriculum. The Center provided instructional materials and professional development venues that enabled our teachers to foster a more creative involved learning environment for our students. Because of our involvement with the Center, the success of Browns Mill is being heard throughout the DeKalb County School System and beyond.

– Hazel A. Lucas, Assistant Principal of Instruction, Browns Mill Elementary School, Lithonia, GA

The Southeast Center recognizes that the arts are basic forms of communication and are precursors of language development, mathematical theory and scientific thought. Guided by this concept, SCEA has successfully promoted systemic education reform embracing arts education at the core of the curriculum. The Center plays an important ongoing role in the design and implementation of arts education content standards and assessment not only in Tennessee, but nationwide. The Louisiana State Plan for Arts Education reflects this influence and is based on the SCEA model.

– Jan L. Grace, Music Coordinator, Louisiana Alliance Institute for Education in the Arts
