

*Save this date - Registration information to follow!*

NECAP

The New England Consortium  
of Artist-Educator  
Professionals

Announcing the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual *Widening the Circle* NECAP Conference:

## *Artists and Youth: Working Together to Discover Something New*

A conference for artist-educators and youth workers from across New England

**Friday, June 23, 2006**

**10am—4pm**

Wheelock Family Theater, Wheelock College, Boston

Research shows that young people engaged in the arts – in school or after school – have increased chances of succeeding in school and beyond and are more involved in their communities than their peers who do not participate in arts programs. Even more compelling, arts-based programs may be especially effective in reaching those adolescents who are considered to be most at risk during this crucial time in their lives.

Arts-based youth development programs depend on artist-educators who are professional, competent and knowledgeable to reach young people through the creative and performing arts.

Gather with fellow artist-educators and youth workers in a day devoted to the field of arts-based youth development. Together, we will explore the key characteristics of successful youth development/artist-educator partnerships and learn how to move beyond school walls to find new conduits for inspiring young people to engage with life in a healthy, fulfilling manner.

Join the NECAP list-serv to stay current on conference information and other items of interest to artist-educators—e-mail [necap-on@mail-list.com](mailto:necap-on@mail-list.com) to join!

*"Had she paints or clay, or knew the discipline of the dance, or strings; had she anything to engage her tremendous curiosity and her gift for metaphor, she might have exchanged*



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## *Artists and Youth: Working Together to Discover Something New* Conference Agenda

**9am—9:45am Registration, Coffee, Networking**

**10am—Noon Welcome, Opening Remarks and Workshops**

**Keynote Address by H. Mark Smith, Massachusetts Cultural Council**

How do we define successful youth development work? How can we artist-educators develop a new set of skills and language to use in our work with adolescents? How do we move beyond short-term projects to create environments where kids can find their creative muse while developing competencies for a full and healthy life? A rich tapestry of research, inspirational stories, and pragmatism from a leader in youth development work.

**Working Together to Discover Something New:** We'll wrap up the morning with whole-group, participatory art-making, led by young and emerging artists.

**Noon Lunch and Opportunity to Browse Resource Tables**

**1:00 – 2:30pm Workshops (DRAFT — to be confirmed on the upcoming registration form)**

**What Am I Looking For?** Artists and employers discuss what makes a successful match

**Evaluation:** An introduction to the Logic Model approach to outcome-based program evaluation

**Working with Adjudicated Youth:** Representatives from successful programs discuss the challenges and rewards of working in this particular line of youth development work

**Balance of Risk and Safety:** How to push kids as far as they can possibly go and not one step further

**Research and Grants:** Whose money is out there and what are they looking for?

**Gender-Specific Programming:** Experienced artist-educators and administrators discuss the benefits and limitations of working in a gender-specific environment.

**Respecting and Negotiating Boundaries:** Discussion with social workers and others about how to stay strong and balanced in the face of challenging and emotional situations

**Sharing Leadership with Adolescents:** How to cultivate leadership skills and resilience in young people without abdicating your own roles and responsibilities

**2:45 – 4:00pm Closing Session**

**Performances by Young People:** To be followed by discussions with the young artists

**Discovering Something New:** Artist-educators speak about how their own personal art work has evolved since becoming involved with youth development work

**4:00pm and beyond Explore the Arts and Culture in Boston!**

*...she might have exchanged the restlessness  
and preoccupation with whim for an activity that provided her  
with all she yearned for." — Toni Morrison, Sula*