

A SPACE FOR DIALOGUE: Perspectives on the Art & Spirit of Leadership

OUR PANEL - This group of courageous and resilient NH Arts Learning leaders wakes up every day to teach, lead, create and innovate; making quality arts learning available for all youth. Each of the panelists represents a different lens on advocacy and leadership in our Arts Education communities and brings a unique and passionate perspective to their work.



Chris Dwyer, Leadership Panel facilitator: Chris Dwyer is a Co-Owner and Senior Vice President of RMC Research Corporation, a national company based in Portsmouth, NH. In her work, Chris has been involved in documenting and researching the role of arts in community vitality. She was the author of *Reinvesting in Arts Education*, considered a landmark study in the recent generation of policy documents on the arts. She has served as the Chairwoman and President of Artspeak; a Portsmouth City Councilor; a Governor- appointed Chair of the NH State Council on the Arts, and has been a member of the Board of Directors for NH Business Committee for the Arts and the NH Center for Nonprofits. As a City Councilor, she was instrumental in advocating for and garnering support for the African Burying Ground. Chris is currently President of the Currier Museum of Art Board of Trustees.

Lynn Compton, Art and Music Educator in Peterborough, NH: Lynn teaches art and music at the Elementary School in Peterborough, New Hampshire. She received her Masters degree in “Integrated Curriculum Development” from New England College in 2012. She is an active member of the Contoocook Valley School District Curriculum Council, the Peterborough Elementary School Climate Committee, and has been the Artist in Residence Coordinator in her school for over 20 years. Lynn has won numerous awards including Elementary Teacher of the year by the Peterborough Rotary Club in 2015. She has taught music and art for 25 years. Lynn and her husband, Bob, live in Deering, NH.

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Russ Grazier, Musician and Ex. Director, Portsmouth Music & Arts Center: Composer and saxophonist Russ Grazier, Jr. is a native of Portsmouth, New Hampshire and has taught saxophone, composition, and music theory for more than 25 years. In 2002, together with Wendell Purrington and Katie Grazier, he co-founded the Portsmouth Music and Arts Center, a nonprofit community music and visual arts school. Today PMAC employs nearly fifty professional musicians and artists and is home to more than 800 students each year. Russ' eclectic career in arts administration has included work in music publishing, assisting the Registrar at Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore and managing the

Contemporary Chamber Players of Chicago. Russ has taught at the University of Chicago, Roosevelt University, Boston Conservatory and in the Preparatory School at New England Conservatory. Russ is a past member of the board of directors of Art-Speak, the cultural commission for the city of Portsmouth, where he served for six years, including two years as president. He has also served on the boards of the Portsmouth Rotary Club and the Parents Music Club of the Portsmouth Public Schools. Russ lives in Portsmouth with his wife, Katie, and their two sons, Max and Jake.

Debra Holloway, Volunteer at Arts In Reach, a NH Program (AIR): Debra is a painter, writing teacher, and researcher on the role of “voice” in the transformation of individuals and communities. She earned her master’s degree in English at UNH and Ph.D. in education from the University of Colorado. For her dissertation, she conducted an ethnographic study of AIR from 1998-1999 and remained involved with the program. She served as a program leader and the first Board Chair, appeared in a 2014 video about AIR, and conducted ongoing research, including “The Restorative Power of AIR: A Report on the 2015 Alumnae Survey.” Debra lives in Rye with her husband and daughter.

Visit www.vimeo.com/108979817 to view the video. Visit <http://www.artsinreach.org/> to learn more about the 2015 Alumnae Survey and AIR programs. Visit <https://debra-holloway.squarespace.com/> to view Debra’s paintings and a list of her publications.



Cynthia Robinson, Eco-Artist, Art Educator and Gallery Director: Cynthia, an eco artist, uses all kinds of materials and processes to make artworks centered on environmental issues and ideas. She is an experienced art educator, has taught all ages of students including preschool, elementary, high school, up to Elderhostel students for over 25 years. Her environmental art education business, “Eco Art a la Carte” takes her to schools and communities all over New Hampshire for workshops, long term programs, and artist in residence weeks. Cynthia is also the art teacher at Madison Elementary School and is Director of the Karl Drerup Art Gallery at Plymouth State University. She is a NH State Council on the Arts' Arts in Education Roster Artist, a member of the Arts Alliance of Northern NH, New England Consortium of Artist Professionals, New Hampshire Child in Nature Coalition and the Women's Caucus for Art NH. She has a BS in Studio Art from Skidmore College, and an MFA in Visual Art from Vermont College. www.cynthiarobinsonart.com

George Shea, Assistant Superintendent, Portsmouth School Department, NH:

George is the assistant superintendent of the Portsmouth School Department in Portsmouth, NH. He has taught Middle School, elementary technology and is the former principal of New Franklin School in Portsmouth. He holds a master’s degree in education from Antioch New England University, a bachelor’s degree in economics from Skidmore College, and a certificate of participation from the school of hard knocks for over eighteen years of service in public schools. He lives in Kittery, Maine.



New Hampshire
State Council on the Arts


The Art & Spirit of Leadership
2015 New Hampshire Arts Education
Partnership Conference Friday, November 6