UNESCO Chair in Arts and Learning

Arts and Learning

The UNESCO Chair in Arts and Learning recognizes the value of the arts in education, both as an intrinsic component of human culture that deserves formal recognition in the school curriculum, and as an instrument for achieving a wide range of essential learning goals. There is increasing support for the view that the arts can enhance the social, psychological and physical development of the child or adolescent as a healthy, productive and democratic individual. A young person who is exposed to the arts at school has an enhanced potential to become a more creative, imaginative, empathetic, expressive, confident, self-reliant and critically thinking human being.

Development Objective

The long-term objective of the Chair is to build capacity in teacher education and quality of education through collaboration on projects, events and electronic sharing of knowledge in arts and learning with a view to promoting north-south and north-south-south dialogue, mutual understanding and a culture of peace.

Projects of the Chair

- International Monitoring and Comparative Research in Arts Education – reporting for UNESCO, (in collaboration with the UNESCO Chair for education in arts and culture, Erlangen-Nuremberg, Germany and UNESCO Observatory, Hong Kong Institute of Education.
- Creativity in Drama/Theatre and Arts Education, a multi-year, international study with collaborators in Canada, Norway, the United States, Jamaica.
- Advanced Interdisciplinary Research in Singing based at the University of Prince Edward Island, co-investigator and event co-sponsor.
- The impact of a culture-bearer on the intercultural understanding of an adult choir (co-investigator)

Events of the Chair

- Webcast Symposium on Creativity in Arts Education 2007
- Education Drama/Theatre Teachers, 2008
- Canadian Symposium on Arts and Learning in Kingston (host and producer of webcast) 2008
- Canadian Symposium on Arts and Learning in Toronto (program organizer and webcast producer) 2009
- Gifts for a Culture of Peace Symposium in Kingston (co-host and webcast producer) 2009
- AIRS—UNESCO Chair joint pre-conference academic program, Phenomenon of Singing Conference, Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador 2009
- Canadian Symposium on Arts and Learning in Winnipeg (webcast producer) 2010
- Webcast on The Seoul Agenda: UNESCO’s Commitment to Arts Education held Sept. 14, 2010
- Academic Visitors to Queen’s University (occasional)
- Canadian Network for Arts and Learning Founder’s Conference (host) 2013
- International Workshop on Monitoring Arts Education at UNESCO Institute for Statistics, Montreal and Queen’s University (Organizer and host) 2014
- International Arts for Peace Festival, Hong Kong (co-organizer and host) 2014

Communications and Publications

- Website hosting webcasts and disseminating information.
- Informational bulletins distributed though email list.
- INRAE Yearbook of Arts Education Research 2014 (Editor and Chair).