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## MINUTES

### Advisory Committee Meeting

#### Performing Arts Centers and Schools: Partners in Education

February 16, 1997

ANA Hotel

Attending: Sal Corda, Hector LaSala, Julie Liska, Mitch Machado, Jeannie Mellinger, and Christiana Shaw. Kennedy Center Staff: Karen Currie, Derek Gordon, Amy Nordin, Barbara Shepherd, and Claire Sutherland.

Barbara Shepherd opened the meeting by thanking Derek Gordon for his support for the Performing Arts Centers and Schools program. Mr. Gordon responded that the work of the Performing Arts Centers and Schools network is important to the Kennedy Center, pointing to the example of the Congressional Breakfast at the Annual Meeting. Both Kennedy Center president, Larry Wilker and Chairman Jim Johnson saw the power and commitment of partnership teams at that event. As legislators become familiar with the program, they will identify organizations within their districts that they would like to see become involved in the Performing Arts Centers and Schools program.

Mr. Gordon stated that he would like to see teams report about their programs and initiatives on ArtsEdge. He said the teams are doing too good a job not to have others benefit from their work. Even if members are not on-line, they should be visible on-line.

Sal Corda suggested that teams presenting during the Annual Meeting's *Bright Ideas* session hand in a one-page description of their ideas. It would also be possible to ask team members who attended the session to summarize what they heard, and respond with comments to elaborate on those ideas.

Derek Gordon asked about team members' concerns that the tour of the production of *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* was booked before they had knowledge of the availability of the production. He stated that tours are usually booked in December at the Association of Performing Arts Presenters (APAP) meeting, and that in future the Kennedy Center will alert teams to the touring productions earlier in the fall. The Kennedy Center will be touring the production again in 1998. The tour of the other Kennedy Center production, *Children of the Sun*, is still open for booking.

### 1997 Annual Meeting Review

The Advisory Committee reviewed the agenda for the meeting and concurred that the overall feeling by Annual Meeting participants was that sessions were of good quality, the timing of sessions was excellent and that the presenters were very good.

Barbara Shepherd asked about the length of the Annual Meeting, stating that in the past, some members had requested shortening the meeting to three days. One option would be to bring in new team members for the first day of the Annual Meeting and to bring in veteran members for only Thursday through Saturday. Sal Corda stated that he did not get the impression that participants wanted to have fewer days for the Annual Meeting. It was suggested that there continue to be more variety in sessions: some designed for teams which had been in the program longer, and some for new teams. Additionally, the Annual Meeting should continue to provide opportunities for all the teams to mingle.

After a brief discussion about the best time of the year to hold the Annual Meeting, Barbara Shepherd stated that the meeting time is determined by a number of factors: membership requests indicated on the Annual Meeting evaluation form, the availability of the ANA Hotel and Kennedy Center facilities and programming. Advisory Committee members reported that several team members requested regional meetings, job-alike meetings, and meetings for teams whose arts centers were of a similar size.

It was suggested that teams be encouraged to host regional meetings for other teams in their area to provide another opportunity for personal contact in the months between Kennedy Center Annual Meetings. Barbara Shepherd mentioned that the Wang Center in Boston is preparing to host a second regional meeting for New England teams this summer. The host does incur the expense and staff time to facilitate such a meeting. It was suggested that Advisory Committee members offer to serve as facilitators for these meetings.

Derek Gordon suggested investigating the possibilities of "virtual meetings" which would eliminate the need for someone to host a meeting. Mitch Machado stated that the downside of a virtual meeting is that team members would miss the personal contact and networking.

The conversation yielded several ideas for next year's meeting:

- conduct meetings by Advisory Committee member later during the Annual Meeting so participants had more experience to share
- have more meal times free of agenda items and speakers
- split "Bright Ideas" into different sessions, or furnish presenters with separate tables for each "Idea" that participants can visit if they choose; or post a schedule of when each "Idea" will be presented so participants can come in and out of the session
- extend the "Partners Session" into a longer session with team -building strategies or problem-solving sessions
- keep the partnership agreement update form; it was easier to complete
- include a workshop for special education teachers

### **Team Member or Annual Meeting Guest?**

Several teams invited guests to accompany them to the Annual Meeting. This contributed to confusion about what constitutes an official "team member" vs. a "guest" of a team. The Kennedy Center recognizes the designated representatives of the partnership organizations which participated in an Institute when admitted to the program as the official partners. Representatives of other organizations which collaborate with the team are welcomed as guests to the Annual Meeting, but cannot be considered official partners. This policy was initiated 3 years ago when the question of adding partners to a team first arose. The policy developed by the Performing Arts Centers and Schools Advisory Committee is enclosed.

### **Team Research**

In the past year, the Performing Arts Centers and Schools program has provided sessions on action research at the past two Annual Meetings and has asked teams to share documentation that shows the impact of workshops on teaching practice. Barbara reported that six teams have sent in samples of lesson plans, video tapes and pictures. On the whole, it is not enough evidence to provide a conclusive statement about the use of workshop strategies by teachers. Sal Corda suggested that team-based research is a local endeavor, driven by the need of the individual team to answer questions about their program. It was further suggested that the appropriate role for the Kennedy Center is to provide information about research, current findings and strategies for conducting program research, as a way of assisting teams as they consider taking on research projects.

### **Advisory Committee Elections**

The Advisory Committee feels the Nomination and Election Procedures are working smoothly. It was suggested that it would be helpful to provide pictures of the Advisory Committee nominees so it is easier for team members to recognize them prior to voting on the slate.

### **Kennedy Center Artist Training Initiative**

Barbara Shepherd reported on a new endeavor by the Center to provide professional development for artists in school residencies. The Kennedy Center is planning to develop a long-term, on-going program that will be able to be shared with other organizations providing residencies to schools. The Kennedy Center will contact Performing Arts Centers and Schools teams to learn about their artist training programs this summer.

Amy Nordin reported on professional development for workshop leaders, noting that the Kennedy Center has developed a Seminar Follow-up day in the past year, as well as an orientation session for workshop leaders which takes place at the beginning of the school year. The Kennedy Center is also considering developing other professional development sessions as well as "fellowships" for new workshop leaders.

### May 1997 Institute

Barbara Shepherd reported that for the first time, a producing organization-a theater company-will be participating in the Institute. Based on the success of integrating producers in with presenting organizations at the Institute, the Kennedy Center will consider opening the Performing Arts Centers and Schools programs to other producing organizations.

### Areas for Future Exploration

It was suggested that the Performing Arts Centers and Schools program explore the area of pre-service education: education that takes place in the colleges and universities for students studying to become teachers. There are a few teams already engaged in working with university education departments in the pre-service arena.

Barbara Shepherd closed the meeting, thanking Sal Corda and Christie Shaw for their two years of service to the program as Advisory Committee members.

The next meeting of the Advisory Committee is scheduled for June 26, 27, 1997 at the Kennedy Center.