



Arteeducación⁰⁹

Latin American and Caribbean Regional Summit on Arts Education

Bogotá, November 19-23, 2009

Approaches from the scenery of joint reflections towards the World Conference on Arts Education UNESCO 2010

Conclusions

We, artists, educators, creators, researcher and advocates, have met in Bogotá, in the Latin American and Caribbean Summit on Arts Education “Arteeducacion09” in order to think about and discuss the challenges and new paradigms that link art and education to the Millenium Purposes.

We are a region marked by multicultural diversity and richness of expressions reflective of our populations. Paradoxically, the vitality of expressions and creative strengths continue to be threatened by ghost of exclusion, invisibility, silence, and inequities. In Latin America and the Caribbean not everyone can raise their voice to talk about their histories, visions, needs or wishes, and those that do may not be heard, seen or acknowledged.

If the mission of art is to rescue our dreams, to return wonderment to the world and to put creativity and imagination to good use in the (re)invention of new worlds. Educators of art and for art, have a big responsibility with our region. These responsibilities include building a new paradigm of relations between human beings, a paradigm that works toward overcoming destructive competitiveness in the global marketplace and promotes cooperation, and environmental and social sustainability. This paradigm invites all nations to engage in reconciliation; weaving brotherly links among human beings, and strengthening our sense of community and pleasure.

We believe that, in order to contribute to the construction of a regional and global solidarity, it is essential that we strengthen cultural and educational policy and practice in sensitivity and creativity, thus strengthening the autonomous capacities of citizens to contribute, build, subvert, denounce and transform, Strengthening artistic education, aesthetic education, education through art, education for art and art-education is to strengthen the capacity of creating and believing that it is possible to express collective wills through organizational efforts. It means strengthening the dialog with the States and with International Organizations; it means creating bridges and protocols for public policies to be able to respond to the necessities and interests of communities. It means promoting the co-advocacy of resources as opportunities to construct the public jointly with the State and the Civil Society.

We must find a way to materialize all the richness and complexity of the discourses that we have shared during four days. Such is our challenge; to get the formation processes to respond to the needs of each context and of contemporary reality; to get art education teachers to be able to form themselves, to get to take the transforming magic to the most forgotten sectors, to form a Regional Alliance to influence the decisions the State makes about art and education; to get to dialog with memories, from consensus and disensions, to be able to benefit from new information technologies to tell, that is, to express our opinions and transform; and to be able to understand those who are different because we can listen to us and we have the capacity to care and appreciate ourselves within diversity.

But if art education helps to think and understand the world, it is also true that it is necessary to permanently think art in education. We will only be able to offer the region all the strength and creative potential of aesthetic education inasmuch as we don't stop thinking, observing and enriching what we do. Let no word, no idea, no sound, no trace and no image be expressed without us having thought why and for what reason we undertake this work. To accomplish this in a better ways, we need to keep meeting, to strengthen networks across the art and with other disciplines. Let's consolidate the Regional Latin American and Caribbean Alliance. Let's invite other educators, institutions, communicators and the private sector to talk. Let them become partners in this common purpose. Let's fight for improving the economic conditions of creators and of those who teach to create. Let's bring arts education closer to universally accessible practices, encouraging, entrepreneurship and advocacy, without giving up our ethical convictions.

The field of the arts embraces within its bosom the worlds walked by the human being in history. Each generation summarizes in itself the avatars of historical moments. Moments that, in turn, circulate through symbols that society defines as a singular gesture. Objects are dimensioned, transformed in their meaning, broadened and collectors of cristalizations of diverse human spheres which in turn are articulated with others through time. But it is the people, the groups and the societies who allow themselves to read them and to read themselves through artistic practices, art objects, images and sounds, through the disciplines that endorse and admit them in their own organizations. Societies are also who assume and are responsible for the formation of teachers, artists, advocates and researchers that collect and critically reflect on their own cultures and dialogues with other cultures. We need to find a way for artists-teachers to articulate their own knowledge of this field and perceptions of social dynamics within schools, universities, and communities. It is our duty to see that art, as a form of expression and symbolic construction, is valued and taught a part of life itself and not something alien or unessential.

We need to continue working together. We must take up again the voices, ideas and proposals we just heard, and together build a reference document that takes up the Road Map and directs it towards solutions to problems; these are the need and solutions we are proposing from Latin America and the Caribbean.

Friends and colleagues are responsible for advancing this common dream... we have a lot to do!!

Thank you very much.

