

CULTURAL RELEVANCE IN ART MATTERS: AN ACCESSIBLE CURRICULUM

by

Mary Beth Magyar

A capstone submitted in partial fulfillment of the
Requirements for the degree of Masters in of Arts in Education

Hamline University
Karen Moroz
December 2022

My thesis paper explored why art matters and the relationship of art to curriculum narrowing, cultural relevance, and mental health. Art can engage students at many levels, with making or learning about art history or focusing on contemporary work. As an educator in many non-traditional settings I have witnessed and personally experienced firsthand how important it can be to see oneself reflected in the visual arts. My research question for my paper and thesis project is, *How can art be taught with cultural relevance in a financially and physically accessible way for all educators?*

What is the website All of the Artists?

My project is to build a website that is cost free to art educators that highlights a diverse and inclusive list of artists from Minnesota. The home page explains the project and provides research that inspired the project. The second page has an index that includes, Asian-Pacific Islander, Black-African American, Latin/X, LGBTQIA+, American-Indian/Indigenous, Middle Eastern, White Women and White Men artists. There is a listing of museums and galleries in Minnesota following the artists. The final page includes lessons and online resources. The lessons include Minnesota Education state standards, materials lists, history, and Minnesota artists. There are also national artists included as well as differentiated prompts. The online resources help educators look at applicable grants, other organizations that work with students, and art supplies. The lessons are designed for K-12 students and many incorporate James A. Banks' Multicultural levels.

Who is the audience I am aiming to reach

The intended audience for this project is art educators. This index and set of lessons are meant to help educators better cater to their diverse student population. In the event that their student population is predominantly white, this website will help them introduce more diversity

and inclusion as well as dispel the myth that the majority of successful artists are white. This website is designed to be used by non-traditional art educators as well. The lessons are designed to be taught by educators that might not have much, or any, background in art to teach art. This website is to allow all levels of educators to teach all levels of students.

Future plans to share my project

The Minnesota Department of Education revamped the visual arts curriculum recently and there is a new emphasis on Native Artists. Because of the push towards MN Indigenous peoples inclusion this project is very timely. The website and a hands-on workshop will be presented to the Rochester Public Schools in February 2023. At the Minnesota, Wisconsin Art Educators conference COLLABORATE in October 2022 the organizers estimated I would have four or five participants and I had over twenty. Many educators shared with me that they know it is important to expose students to more local artists, especially Native Minnesotan artists but they simply did not have the time to do the research. In March 2023 I will present this website at The National Council on the Education in the Ceramic Arts (NCECA) in my talk, *Community Engagement; How, Why and Where?*. The National Art Educators Association (NAEA) is in Minneapolis in 2024 and I will apply to speak there. Now that the project is finished, I am contacting school districts in the Minneapolis, St.Paul suburbs to bring the website to them and am emailing links to the eleven regional arts councils in Minnesota to spread the word to fellow artist educators. Finally, I am applying for a McKnight Community Engagement grant that would give me funds to make the site multilingual and allow for hands-on workshops featuring the lessons featuring our diverse, incredibly talented pool of Minnesota artists.

The project

www.alloftheartists.com

[Google Slide Presentation](#) of the project

References

- Banks, James A., and Cherry A. McGee-Banks. Multicultural Education, Issues and Perspectives. 8th ed., John Wiley & Sons, 2013.
- Hobbs, S. M. (1992). The DBAE Handbook: An Overview. Getty Center for Education in the Arts. <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED349253.pdf>
- Tomlinson, Carol Ann, and Jay McTighe. Integrating Differentiated Instruction + Understanding by Design. 1st ed., Alexandria, Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, 2006.
- Varian, S. (2016). CHOOSING CREATIVELY: CHOICE-BASED ART EDUCATION IN AN INCLUSIVE CLASSROOM [Master's Degree Proposal]. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED567778.pdf>
- Wiggins, Grant, and Jay McTighe. Understanding by Design. 2nd ed., Alexandria, Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, 2005.