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Interview with Mark Schubart

David L. Groves
Bowling Green State University

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INTERVIEW WITH MARK SCHUBART

BY

DAVID L. GROVES

ABSTRACT

Mark Schubart is Director of the Lincoln Center Institute and one of the prime developers of the Arts Unlimited program. In his interview, he provides a view of program development at the national level. The prime focus of the article is upon the initial development of programs.

INTERVIEW WITH MARK SCHUBART

Question I: How many communities have developed programs through the Arts Unlimited format?

Answer: There are 15 programs with the Lincoln Center serving as the primary catalyst for stimulating the initial development of the program.

Question II: What role does the Lincoln Center play in cultural arts on the local level?

Answer: The Lincoln Center is a local organization in New York that has had success with cultural arts programming in the schools. The Lincoln Center is a clearing house that provides a model for interested communities. The primary thrust for interested communities must come from the local area. Each locality has different cultural resources, and therefore, opportunities to develop different types of outcomes based upon local needs.

Question III: What is the most important factor in the development of a successful program?

Answer: One of the most important ingredients is an enthusiastic leader who can identify the local cultural resources and serve to stimulate a cooperative atmosphere to allow imagination and creativity to guide programming. Another important element is openness to try new ideas and to find the most effective channels to reach teachers and students. Each community is different and presents new opportunities and challenges.

Question IV: Is the primary purpose of Arts Unlimited the development of cultural interests in the community?

Answer: No, its primary function is to use cultural arts as tools to help the participant to perceive the world and themselves in a different way.

Question V: What are some of the specific types of outcomes that have been observed from this program?

Answer: Two of the primary outcomes have been improvement in self-concept and the viewing of one's self in a different perspective and the improvement in problem-solving and decision-making ability using a more open and creative approach.

Question VI: What are the key ingredients for success of a program in terms of implementation?

Answer: The key elements are the expertise from an interdisciplinary team of cultural arts specialists and teachers who have the knowledge or methods of knowing how to work with these audiences. There must be a marriage between these two elements for effective program development. Each of these factions must agree on the program objectives and work in a cooperative atmosphere to gain an understanding of each other's perspectives. A third element in the triangle, the participant, has to be willing to try new and different experiences. One of the key problems that the cultural arts specialist and teacher have to deal with is the issue of motivation.

Question VII: What is the future of the Arts Unlimited program?

Answer: It is growing at an unprecedented rate but the biggest factor is the improvement in quality of life for the individuals who participate, because of greater aesthetic appreciation.

For more information on the Arts Unlimited program, contact:

MR. MARK SCHUBART
DIRECTOR OF LINCOLN CENTER INSTITUTE
LINCOLN CENTER OF PERFORMING ARTS
140 WEST 65TH STREET
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10023

COMMENTS

Crisis management is the ability to anticipate potential problems and preplan a course of action. This is the margin of survival in a turbulent environment. This type of organization not only survives, but adapts, grows, and flourishes.