

Recent conference calls and e-mails have centered around the impending losses in the Arts Community. Economic problems throughout our country and state are causing funding to be cut in most arts organizations. There are to be many meetings this summer to discuss budget needs and possible creative funding.

The FAAE/ACE Leadership Summit is being held at the same time as the FSMTA Conference. The agenda for the Summit covers the effects of these cutbacks on Florida Arts. There is a new PowerPoint program developed by FAAE which can be used to get information out to the public and gather support for the arts. www.faae.org Check under Advocacy, Tips and Tools There is also a script on the website for use with the PowerPoint program. It is already being used by ACE coalitions throughout the state.

Also to be discussed are the positions lost in the public schools. At this time, there are no definite numbers, only possibilities. For example, the Lee County School Board (Fort Myers) has notified the schools that they will be cutting Art and Music in the elementary schools. This would be a loss of 84 positions and affect all students who are not enrolled in Fine Art magnet schools. While this situation is being discussed, it is suggested to raise the tax mileage and only cut 42 positions. The discussions are on-going and the community is becoming very active and verbal in support of the arts.

Arts and Education in the News

These are supportive articles for the Arts which can be viewed on

[Venezuela Music Program Flourishes as Global Model](#)

Associated Press

May 23, 2009

A government funded system of quality music education in Venezuela attracts international attention

[Getting Scientific about Fine Arts Education](#)

Chicago Tribune

May 24, 2009

A new interdisciplinary field researches the effects of learning fine arts on a student's brain

[Songs from the Southside](#)

St. Petersburg Times

May 24, 2009

A school closing causes students, parents, and teachers to reflect on the power and importance of a strong school music program

[Play it again, Boris Johnson. Give us a Kerbside Singsong](#)

The Times (UK)

May 31, 2009

London mayor organizes an experiment that places pianos around the capitol in an effort to encourage people to gather with strangers for spontaneous music making