

Title of Session: Alt/Correctional Ed Forum-Arts in Corrections

Moderator: BJ Berquist

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Room: After School Online Room

AdrienneF joined the room.

AdrienneF: hi all

BJ: Hi, Adrienne. Glad you could join the discussion!

AdrienneF: thank you

BJ: We'll start in a couple minutes

BJ: Let's get started and we can catch up any latecomers

BJ: welcome to the Alt/Correctional Ed Forum

BJ: Tonight's topic is Arts in Corrections

BJ: Vivian, can you please introduce yourself?

BJ: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania and teach in a juvenile correctional facility

VivianE: My name is Vivian and I work for the Calcasieu Parish School Board in the area of Adult Education.

BJ: excellent, Vivian. What interested you about this topic?

BJ: Adrienne, want to intro yourself, please?

AdrienneF: sure

AdrienneF: I'm an artist and life coach, and founder of Empty & Meaningless: the Box Project a therapeutic arts program used in prisons, school, other organizations where breakthrough is desired...

VivianE: We were required to attend a Tapped In session and since this one included adult education resources I decided to check it out.

BJ: Hopefully, we'll meet your expectations...and maybe exceed them, Vivian

BJ: some background about Arts in Corrections

VivianE: Thanks,

BJ: about a year ago, I found that there were a wealth of resources 'out there' for using art in alternative and correctional ed as a therapeutic and literacy tool

BJ: but all the resources were pretty scattered.

BJ: So, I started contacting people who where doing cool things...and some of those people contacted me

BJ: Adrienne is one of those people

AdrienneF: <---blushing

BJ: Adrienne has lead a couple discussions in Tapped In on her project

BJ: I'm going to show you a url to the Empty and Meaningless: The Box Project

BJ: <http://www.urbanesque.com/empty/>

BJ: The Box project is a great way to improve literacy skills...but it's also very therapeutic

BJ: Adrienne, did you want to comment on the Box Project?

BJ: <http://www.urbanesque.com/empty/>

AdrienneF: sure...let me think here...

AdrienneF: Vivian, the Box Project is a tool I began working with for my own re-entry in to being an artist....after having abandoned art for nearly 2 decades...

AdrienneF: and it's found its way to others who really use it to open up their own abilities at self expressions

AdrienneF: and self healing

AdrienneF: the program is often used during the course of other therapeutic or training programs in prisons

BJ wonders if Vivian has any questions?

VivianE: I would like to just listen to what you have to say about the project and see if it could benefit me or my coworkers who work in the correctional facilities.

BJ nods to Vivian.

AdrienneF: actually, what I'd love to be able to present is not just this project as one way of enhancing and breaking through issues in correctional facilities...but how the use of the arts world-wide is causing a major shift in the lives of people who find themselves behind bars...

AdrienneF: my project is unique among them, at this time, as it's concerned primarily with relationships in the inmate's life

BJ: I'm going to be sharing several urls of groups or organizations that have participated in or joined the Tapped In Arts in Corrections group

AdrienneF: and I use a combination of ontological coaching techniques

BJ: I think your project is applicable to all kinds of situations, Adrienne...

AdrienneF: and visual arts

AdrienneF: it is

BJ: we all tend to build our own 'prisons'

AdrienneF: yes, we do

AdrienneF: in fact

AdrienneF: Razor Wire Phoenixes

AdrienneF: the program I developed for prisons

AdrienneF: is having its first solo exhibition in a public arena next month

AdrienneF: the idea is to take the stories of the courageous folks I work with in prison

AdrienneF: using the vehicle of the boxes they create

AdrienneF: to produce a community expression about imprisonment and freedom

BJ: great....be sure to post to the Arts in Corrections group discussion board about how it goes, Adrienne

AdrienneF: imprisonment being defined as the beliefs they held that restricted their actions...

AdrienneF: I shall

BJ: thanks

AdrienneF: so the inmates, when they take my workshop

AdrienneF: know that their work - the real work they do to re-create themselves

AdrienneF: re-create

AdrienneF: will be out there in the public inspiring others to do the same

AdrienneF: it's truly a phenomenal honor to be the conduit for this

AdrienneF: and that's just one application of how the arts can make a huge difference in the lives of inmates, and the rest of us

BJ: adult learners probably can relate to re-creating and renewing, Vivian

AdrienneF: absolutely

BJ: OK...let's see what other resources we can share with Vivian...

VivianE: I think you could be right about that.

BJ: <http://www.silencespeaks.org/>

BJ: The silence speaks is a writing project for abused women

BJ: again, an opportunity to write creatively and passionately

BJ: as a healing process

AdrienneF: this suite is beautiful....

BJ: PBS POV did a wonderful program for incarcerated women: What I want my words to do to you

BJ: This was another session we had for Alt/Correctional ed, Vivian

BJ: <http://www.pbs.org/pov/pov2003/whatiwant/>

VivianE: I like that you are giving me several url's to explore at a later time.

BJ: there is a pdf teacher's guide at

http://www.pbs.org/pov/pov2003/whatiwant/pdf/resources_guide.pdf

BJ: POV is coming out with some very exciting new projects that we'll be sharing in future discussions

BJ: Heads On Fire is a site that is working to bridge the digital divide through digital storytelling

BJ: <http://www.headsonfire.org/hof/index.html>

BJ: they use a community based media arts program

BJ: I've also come across several groups and organizations that are advocacy groups for the arts

BJ: Thinking outside the box is a creative thinking site

BJ: <http://k-12.pisd.edu/Schools/hughston/2000Pace/creative.htm>

VivianE: I like the arts but I am not very familiar with procedures for teaching.

BJ: Vivian, some of these sites are pretty helpful and have some great ideas

BJ: . o O (and you might want to download the teachers guide for the pbs program)

AdrienneF: I think there are as many ways of teaching using the arts as there are passionate people willing to apply them in ways that inspire them...and out of that inspire others...

VivianE: I really look forward to checking them out and I will download the guide.

BJ: here's one that you might find really useful, Vivian

BJ: it's an arts advocacy group that helps to use the arts across the curriculum

BJ: <http://www.arts4learning.org/>

AdrienneF: there's a theatre arts book I recommend for folks looking at leading creative-based workshops - "Theatre for Community, Conflict & Dialogue" by Michael Rohd

AdrienneF: Michael founded the "Hope is Vital" project - which is to applied theatre arts what the Box Project is to applied visual arts...

AdrienneF: and is the work he used to inspire the structure and exercises in his book

BJ: another site for you, Vivian is

<http://www.differentways.org/services/integrating.html>

BJ: Different Ways of Knowing by the Galef Institute

VivianE: Thanks,

AdrienneF: this is a very inspiring site....

AdrienneF: I hadn't known of them before BJ...

BJ: another way to look at using the arts to improve literacy is by teaching visual literacy. Take a look at the resources offered at <http://www.ivla.org/>

VivianE: What is visual literacy?

BJ: visual literacy is learning to 'decode' art like you 'decode' the alphabet

BJ: to construct meaning from symbols

VivianE: That does sound interesting.

BJ: there was a wonderful discussion yesterday during Targeting Librarians on Visual Literacy

BJ: the transcript will be in the archives in a few days

BJ: www.tappedin.org/transcripts

VivianE: Thanks, I'll look it up in a few days.

BJ: OK, I promised Adrienne an early session so she can go to the concert

BJ: any questions, Vivian?

BJ . o O (did you have any last comments or questions, Adrienne?)

JoyEM joined the room.

VivianE: That sounds great to me because where I am it is almost 9:00.

BJ: Hi, Joy. Welcome

AdrienneF: no, as always, this was very informative....I've new resources...and hope to see Vivian again...

JoyEM: Hi. Thank you.

AdrienneF: okay ladies - I'm off to my daughter's concert....

BJ: Vivian, you are also welcome to join the Arts in Corrections group

AdrienneF: be well all!

BJ: enjoy, Adrienne. Have fun

BJ: May I help you with something, Joy?

AdrienneF left the room (signed off).

JoyEM: I was just checking in. I got home later than anticipated --wanted to attend this session, but I can see that it has ended.

VivianE: Thanks, but I think that I will leave to go home since it is so late.

BJ waves goodnight. Thanks for joining the discussion.

VivianE: Bye

BJ: I hope you found it beneficial

VivianE: It was great, Thanks a lot.

BJ: Joy, can I help you find something?

JoyEM: No. Did you read my message above? I wanted to attend this session, but noted now that it has ended. Is there a way to access transcripts of it?

JoyEM: I liked the topic

BJ: The transcript will be archived in a few days, Joy. You can access it at

www.tappedin.org/transcripts

JoyEM: I am an art teacher - middle school/junior high level. I deal with a lot of at risk kids, and thought I would find some benefit from this.

JoyEM: Okay. Sounds good. I appreciate the info

BJ: oh, I'm sorry you missed the discussion!

JoyEM: me too!

BJ: Joy, we meet the third Thursday of every month

BJ . o O (I'm also an art teacher)

JoyEM: Okay. I will definitely try to make the next meeting then, and I will look for the transcripts over the next few days.

JoyEM: Good! It can be an isolated sort of endeavor in the school system

BJ: great, Joy. If you have any questions, email me at bjb@tappedin.org

JoyEM: Thanks BJ. I hope you have a good evening.

BJ waves goodnight

JoyEM: night