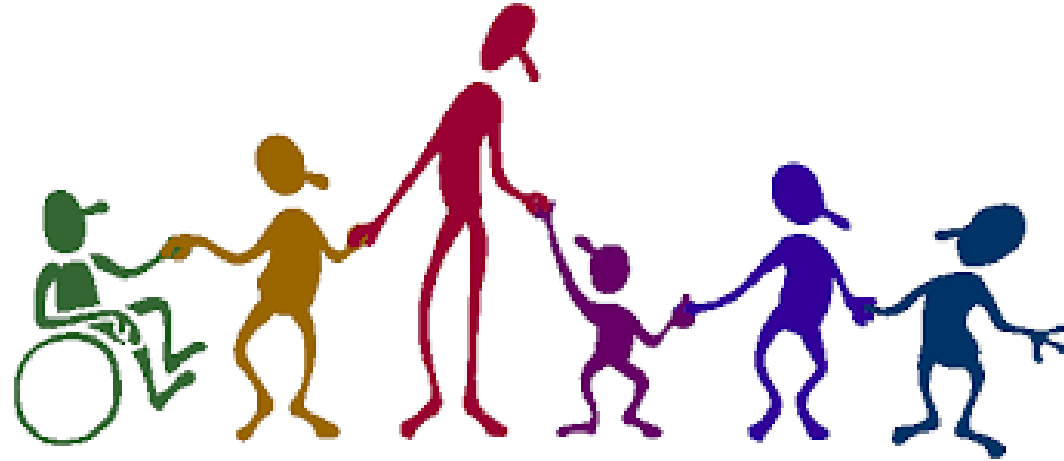




Diversity and Arts Education

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- **Possibilities**
- **Challenges**
- **Strategies** (*distilled from Promising Practices*)

Possibilities

- Students learn about themselves,
- ...about each other,
- ...about those with whom we share the world
- *How do I leverage the arts to help them learn about themselves and each other and the diversity all around them?*

Challenges

- How do I do this without offending anybody?
- Which diversities should I address?
- Which should I address first? Which ones is it OK to leave out?
- *How do I meaningfully and respectfully engage my students with art from worlds and experiences **that are not my own?***



(more) Challenges

- Is it enough to address diversity by **analyzing** art works produced by diverse artists, or should my students actually **make** art?
- What if my students inadvertently offend?
- What if they 'appropriate'?
- ***Might it be better to just stick with what I know, so that I don't offend anybody?***



Strategies & Promising Practices

- **Strategy 1:** Look to your students.
 - *What diversities do your **students** represent, or are they interested in?*
- **Promising Practices**
 - Process drama: a fictitious new society
 - Visual Arts: exploring identities

Pedagogy A: Encouraging students to create self-images, enhanced by particular ethnic signifiers such as objects, symbols or patterns



Jade, 17, explored her Maori identity

Pedagogy B: Encouraging students to place themselves within their cultural milieu, the 'scene' and activities with which they identified



Kapiti, 16, passionate about hip hop dancing and basketball

Pedagogy C: Encouraging exploration of issues connected to a student's homeland and cultural heritage



Jeeun, 17, exploring how a large percentage of young women in Korea undergo facial plastic surgery

Strategies & Promising Practices

Strategy 2: Pick one aspect of diversity and address it as fully as you are able.

- **Promising Practices**
 - H'art School





Strategies & Promising Practices

Strategy 3: Be brave.
Better to risk offense than
to ignore, and so limit
understanding.

And...seek help from a
culture bearer.



Culture Bearer

Someone raised within the culture who is a recognized practitioner of one of the culture's art forms



Summary of Strategies

- 1. Look to your students. What diversities do your students represent, or are they interested in?*
- 2. Pick one aspect of diversity and address it as fully as you are able.*
- 3. Be brave. Better to risk offense than to ignore, and so limit understanding.*

...and, if possible, seek help from a culture bearer.



Thank you!