



# LEARNING ON DISPLAY: STUDENT-CREATED MUSEUMS THAT BUILD UNDERSTANDING



LEFT: ALLEN-FIELD SCHOOL MUSEUM EXHIBITS ON DISPLAY AT GALLERY@LARGE EXHIBIT OPENING

ABOVE: ALLEN-FIELD STUDENTS CONDUCT RESEARCH FOR THEIR MUSEUM PROJECT WITH ARTIST EDUCATOR

## Arts @ Large Offers Innovative Program through C.R.E.A.T.E. Grant

Arts @ Large and Milwaukee Public Schools obtained an Arts in Education Professional Development Grant from the U.S. Department of Education to train three cohorts of teachers in the Kid Curator school museum process as outlined in *Learning on Display: Student-Created Museums that Build Understanding* (D'Acquisto, 2006). The Kid Curator instructional process puts students in the roles of

researcher, exhibit designer and docent as they create and staff their own school museums. Throughout the process students learn academic content and important skills. The highly successful March to Equality exhibition (see QR code for more information) was a product of the school museum process, illustrating how the Kid Curator model of engaging students in exhibit design

transforms teaching and learning. MPS C.R.E.A.T.E. teachers lead students in this dynamic work!



SCAN THIS QR CODE FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE MARCH TO EQUALITY AND OTHER SCHOOL MUSEUMS.



SCAN THIS QR CODE FOR VIDEO STORES ABOUT DIFFERENT SCHOOL MUSEUM PROJECTS.



MODELING THE RESEARCH PROCESS.



STUDYING EXHIBITS AT THE JEWISH MILWAUKEE MUSEUM.



MODELING THE DESIGN PROCESS.

# MPS STUDENT-CREATED MUSEUMS



NOVA MIDDLE AND HIGH



ALLEN-FIELD ELEMENTARY



HAMPTON ELEMENTARY



ENGELBURG ELEMENTARY



THOREAU ELEMENTARY

## Professional Development that Improves Teaching and Learning

During the summers of 2012, 2013, and 2014, three cohorts of over 60 MPS teachers gathered to learn the Kid Curator school museum framework. Sessions were held at Cardinal Stritch University and various local museums, where teachers studied exhibit design using observation guides that will later be used with their students. Teachers also examined samples of successful Kid Curator school museum projects, used many tools and processes from *Learning on Display*, created small-scale projects, and learned art making techniques from local artists. Each teacher developed a school museum project plan, assessment plan, and a timeline for implementation. Teacher learning continued throughout the year with monthly cohort sessions at Arts @ Large and ongoing coaching support at school sites.

*Here are a few comments from teacher participants:*

"We feel like the luckiest teachers in MPS to have participated in this career-changing cohort. You have helped us revolutionize the way we teach our students inside and outside the classroom."

- Cohort #1 teaching partners

"This was hands-down the best PD program I have ever attended."

- Cohort #1 teacher

"I beyond liked, I LOVED the entire experience today. By taking this class I have developed a new love of history."

- Cohort #2 teacher

"Wow, I don't even know what to say! This has been the most valuable PD I have had in my 30 years. It has helped me learn how to reorganize my teaching into a project-based approach to learning--something I always wanted to do, but felt overwhelmed."

- Cohort #3 teacher

"Loved every aspect of the program. In 15 years of teaching my absolutely BEST PD EVER!"

- Cohort #3 teacher

"So much learning occurs at each point along the way--good life-long learning skills for the child and adult...and hits many of the Common Core Standards."

-Cohort #3 teacher



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