The Youth Community of Practice (YCoP) global listserv links professionals and practitioners at USAID and its partner organizations to effective youth development ideas, information and best practices to help:

* Design more effective, sustainable youth programs, and
* Better integrate youth participation in USAID development projects

In this Links: Arts and Youth Development: Arts programming for youth can provide an avenue for youth self-expression, and youth can use arts-related skills to obtain jobs in fields such as tourism, advertising and marketing, and can put their artistic talents to use in community development. Projects seek to empower youth through education, training and support in Arts and Media, and this edition of YCoP Links showcases a selection of some of these exciting and creative approaches to youth development.

Announcements:

**Global Youth Enterprise & Livelihoods Development Conference: Call for Proposals**
www.youthenterpriseconference.org
The fourth Global Youth Enterprise and Livelihoods Development Conference will take place at the Inter-American Development Bank in Washington, DC September 15-16, 2010. The conference organizers are soliciting proposals around five conference themes: youth enterprise development; youth-inclusive financial services and capabilities; workforce development; monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment; and adolescent girls and young women. This participatory and demand-driven learning event has become the "go to" conference for practitioners, funders, educators, policymakers, members of the private sector, and other professionals who design, implement, monitor, evaluate, and fund programs and policies in this field. The deadline to submit a proposal is May 14, 2010.

**Second World Conference on Arts Education – Seoul, Republic of Korea, May 25-28, 2010**
The second World Conference on Arts Education, hosted by the government of the Republic of South Korea and UNESCO, aims to 1) assess the progress of the Road Map for Arts Education produced at the first conference and tested in the interim period between conferences; 2) reinforce socio-cultural dimensions of arts education; and 3) build capacities for research on arts education. The Road Map for Arts Education drafted at the first conference established a framework of understanding of the concept of arts education, supported the essential role of arts education, and offered strategic recommendations for policy-related decisions and actions in implementing arts education. The conference fits into UNESCO’s Arts Education program that “aims at establishing a common ground of understanding on the important role of arts education within the international community.”
Projects and Initiatives:

**Youth Empowerment through Arts and Media**  
The Youth Empowerment Through Arts and Media (YETAM) project seeks to engage African youth aged 12-18 through arts, traditional media, and new media tools and encourage them to participate and lead the process of developing their communities. Participating youth are trained to use performance, visual arts, and social media to raise their viewpoints and dialogue with their families and peers, community members, decision makers and the general public. Youth are organized into small teams where they identify resources and challenges in their communities, and then are given training and support that allows them to produce art and media dealing with those issues. Going further, youth are encouraged to develop an action plan outlining how they can raise awareness about relevant issues and how the community can deal with those issues. Collectively, youth have produced more than 100 short videos, 100 art works, several theater pieces, and hundreds of photos. Currently the project is being implemented in Senegal, Mali, Cameroon, Rwanda, Kenya and Mozambique.

**Friends of Orphans/UgandARTS – Arts for Global Development, Uganda**  
[http://www.art4development.net/fro.html](http://www.art4development.net/fro.html)  
In the war-torn district of Pader in northern Uganda, tens of thousands of children have been victims of violence and/or witnessed horrific atrocities, and have become internally displaced persons (IDPs). Many of these children have lost their families, as well as a sense of social structure and even their own identity. Friends of Orphans, in conjunction with UgandARTS, is working to supply 1,650 Ugandan orphans with the means and mediums to express themselves through art. In addition to helping orphans, the project will convey culturally appropriate messages regarding peace, HIV/AIDS, human rights, gender-based violence, child protection, and sustainability. The project will be implemented by way of a four-wheel drive “ArtMobile” that will travel to IDP camps throughout the region where it will serve as a base from which to conduct classes and trainings.

**2010 International Children’s Art and Writing Exchange**  
Paintbrush Diplomacy, a non-profit organization dedicated to encouraging awareness of international issues and supporting children's causes, is hosting the 2010 international art exchange. This year’s theme, “Outside my Window,” encourages youth to submit artwork that gives young people in other communities and across national borders a view into the lives of youth living in different circumstances. Practitioners implementing programs across the world, including teachers in the classroom, are invited to have their students or participants join the exchange. For a modest fee, Paintbrush Diplomacy will send those interested in the exchange a diplomatic pouch with twelve to fifteen pieces of art along with descriptions of where they have come from, as well as information on how to get started on new artwork. Art produced can then be mailed back to Paintbrush Diplomacy, which will continue the exchange by sending the art to another exchange participant.

**VSO International/Asociación Kallpa – El Porvenir, Peru**  
VSO International, in association with Asociación Kallpa, is fostering youth development in the Peruvian city of El Porvenir by engaging and encouraging youth through artistic expression. The above website profiles a VSO volunteer’s work in using art and theater to develop life skills and get involved in the betterment of their community. Recent topics in youth art include life
planning, sexual education, and the environment. In one project, youth made and painted ten garbage cans to be placed throughout the city, and encouraged youth to take initiative to control the garbage problem in their community. According to one volunteer, “Now, it isn’t rare to see young children, youth and parents taking time to sweep up the street and deposit garbage into cans.” A cultural center is also being constructed, where space for workshops, dances, and other performances will be provided, along with a library and a study area.

**Uhuru Youth Center for African Arts**

http://www.freedomfrompoverty.org/WhatWeDo.htm

Based in Bagamoyo, Tanzania, the Uhuru (Freedom in Swahili) Youth Center for African Arts provides a safe place for local underprivileged youth to receive training in areas such as dancing, painting, and sculpting. In addition to helping youth express themselves creatively, arts training from the Youth Center helps prepare youth to take advantage of opportunities in the Tanzanian tourism sector, an industry that is central to Tanzania’s economy. The Youth Center also helps underprivileged youth pay for tuition and uniforms so they may attend school, teaches them methods in sustainable organic farming, encourages them to volunteer in the community, and offers paid positions at the center for exceptional youth. Currently, the Center is working to form a group of students who excel in the performing arts to go on tour in Tanzania and throughout the region, conducting entertaining and educational performances on topics important to youth in the area.

**Resources for Practitioners:**

**YouthARTS Toolkit**

http://www.americansforthearts.org/youtharts/howtouse.asp

Americans for the Arts, in coordination with a coalition of three American arts organizations, have produced the YouthARTS Toolkit, which draws on lessons learned and best practices from youth arts programs that encourage personal development for at-risk youth. Divided into four sections on the topics of Program Planning, Team Training, Evaluation, and Costs, Resources and Advocacy, the Toolkit provides a wealth of information for those interested in assisting disadvantaged and at-risk youth find their own voice and self-confidence through arts programs. Operating under the principle “Art Saves Lives,” the toolkit encourages practitioners and funders to contemplate the cost of implementing programs for at-risk youth alongside the potential costs of failing to implement them; namely the costs of counseling, incarceration, and other societal and human costs of juvenile delinquency. The full toolkit is available for download in PDF at the link above.

**Child Art Collective**

http://www.childartcollective.com/index.php

The Child Art Collective, a project of the International Society for Education Through Art (InSEA), was established after a library search revealed many references to books about youth and art, but few listings for collections of artwork done by youth. The Child Art Collective has established an online directory of youth art organized by medium, country, child age, and collection name. The Directory also enables youth to submit their own works, and allows those in the field of art education to identify other practitioners who share their interests.

**Youth Arts Forum – “Uniting the Youth of the World Through the Arts”**

http://www.youth-arts-forum.com/about.html

Talented youth from around the world are invited to submit their artwork to the Youth Arts Forum. This New York City-based group reviews all submissions, frames or otherwise arranges
to exhibit the best works, and displays submissions online at youth-arts-forum.com. Youth can also choose to put their works up for sale, and 10% of any proceeds are donated to local and international organizations that help children in the areas of disease control and education. Youth Arts Forum also blogs regularly on youth and art education.

Looking for YOUR input: We would like to hear from you! YCoP welcomes ideas, resources, and best practices on effective youth programs and youth participation. We would also like to encourage nominations of other youth practitioners or youth leaders to participate in the YCoP Links listserv. Hit “reply” to send information and feedback to YCoP Links.

To unsubscribe from the list, users should send an e-mail to listserv@info.usaid.gov with only “unsubscribe youthcop” in the body of the e-mail. (No signatures please).

Mission of YCoP: The Youth Community of Practice provides a forum for professionals and practitioners at USAID and its partner organizations to gather, consolidate, archive, disseminate and exchange information, knowledge, ideas and best practices, particularly related to the incorporation of youth participation in USAID development projects. The Youth Community of Practice is an informal body of volunteer members, reached through a global list serve and Washington-based chapter. Both the list serve and DC chapter forums include USAID staff, youth practitioners outside of the Agency, and youth themselves. It is jointly sponsored by the office of education in the bureau of Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade (EGAT) at USAID and the Education Quality Improvement Program3 (EQUIP3), and implemented by the Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC).

Disclaimer: The information and opinions expressed in the materials provided through YCoP Links or posted by listserv participants is not official U.S. Government information and does not necessarily represent the views or positions of the U.S. Agency for International Development, the U.S. Government or EQUIP3. For a copy of the guidelines and/or charter, put the request in the subject line of the email and send to: youthcop@lists.info.usaid.gov. Participants should be aware that the list is public and not private communication. When participants voluntarily disclose personal information on a list serve, that information can be collected and used by others and may result in unsolicited messages from other people.