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Imagining America

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New Articles on our Member Spotlight

Currently on our website's Member Spotlight, we're featuring three new articles by Imagining America consortium members!

Make More Music! Inspiring Musical Creativity through Accessible Afterschool Programming

By Tracy M. Parish, Public Engagement Coordinator, University of Illinois

It's 3:20 p.m. and the music wing of Urbana Middle School is filled with the sound of chatter, the clinking of instrument case latches, and the shuffling of music books as fifth and sixth grade students prepare for weekly small group lessons with instructors from the University of Illinois School of Music. Make More Music, an after-school enrichment program co-sponsored by Urbana School District 116 and the University of Illinois School of Music, makes supplemental music instruction available to all Urbana elementary and middle school students while providing Illinois undergraduate music education majors the opportunity to hone their content development and delivery skills with the guidance of master teachers in a real world context. Read more...
Collaborative Futures: A Roundtable on Publicly Active Graduate Education

By Amanda Gilvin, Mellon Five College Postdoctoral Fellow in African Art and Architecture, Mount Holyoke College; Sylvia Gale, Associate Director, Bonner Center for Civic Engagement, University of Richmond; and Mark Ocegueda, Humanities Out There Graduate Student Workshop Leader, University of California Irvine

The following exchange takes as its starting point the volume Collaborative Futures: Critical Reflections on Publicly Active Graduate Education, recently released by The Graduate Press of Syracuse University and edited by Amanda Gilvin, Georgia M. Roberts and Craig Martin. Collaborative Futures debuted at the Imagining America conference in October of 2012, and in addition to having already attained broad individual readership, it is being used in courses at Cornell University, Emory University, and the University of Washington-Bothell. Excerpts from the book are available online.

In this roundtable, we seek to build on the volume's orientation toward the future by challenging one another and readers of this exciting new journal to imagine more expansive futures of publicly active graduate students and graduate education. Contributors draw on their own experiences to answer two questions: "What difference does public engagement make to graduate education?" and "How can we make our futures more collaborative in graduate education in the arts and humanities? What suggestions do you have for students, departments, and institutions?" The group reaches consensus to advocate for institutional change implemented by a broad coalition of deans, graduate students, faculty members, undergraduate students, and partners outside of academia. Read more...

The Skä-noñh-Great Law of Peace Center as Collaborative Space at Onondaga Lake Park

By Philip P. Arnold, Religion, Native American Studies, Syracuse University; Director of Skä-noñh-Great Law of Peace Center (http://www.skanonhcenter.org)

As of January 1st 2013, the Onondaga Historical Association (OHA) took over management of the Onondaga County facility known as "Sainte Marie among the Iroquois" located on the eastern shore of Onondaga Lake. A new collaboration is currently planning to repurpose the facility into the Skä*noñh-Great Law of Peace Center. Skä*noñh, is an Onondaga welcoming greeting meaning "Peace" and "Wellness."

Onondaga Lake is one of the most important places in the accounts of the founding of the Haüdenosaunee, or "People of the Longhouse." More than 1000 years ago it was here that the Peacemaker, Hiawatha and the Tadadaho came together, through the help of Jigonsaseh, a woman, to establish what has been translated into English as "The Great Law of Peace." This is an ancient ceremonial process and social protocol, which helps orient human beings into respectful relationships with all beings, human and otherwise, who inhabit the natural world. The Longhouse is organized in to matrilineal clans who select their representatives in offices of Clanmother, Chief, and Faithkeeper. The Haüdenosaunee are a confederation of six different nations. The original Five Nations are, from East to West (left to right), the Seneca, Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida, and Mohawk. Below is a reproduction of the
Confederacy Wampum Belt, or Hiawantha Belt that depicts this relationship between the Five Nations. Onondaga is represented by the Tree of Peace in the middle, which is planted at the geographical Center, or heart, of the Haudenosaunee. Read more...