

THERE IS ENOUGH CREATIVITY IN THE CULTURAL SECTOR ...



LET'S PUT IT IN EDUCATION!

One of the famous twenty-first-century skills which students need to succeed in their careers in the Information Age – besides critical thinking, collaboration, social skills and communication – is creativity. Creativity is an elastic term. In the rhetoric of politicians and experts, it is often conceived as the fundamental source of economic growth to fulfill the expectations of the current marketplace. This instrumentalization of creativity stands in contrast to its broader potential to allow people to live an interesting and satisfying personal life. More is coming already – besides testing worldwide mathematics, science and literacy skills of 15 year old students, in 2021 the OECD will take its PISA program international assessments into a new phase by gathering data on young people's creative thinking skills. These skills are defined as the competence to engage productively in the generation, evaluation and improvement of ideas, that can result in original and effective solutions, advancers in knowledge and impactful

expressions of imagination. We are naturally curious about the results, but we should not wait on them to take action: Teaching for creativity involves teaching creatively. A lot of schools remain in the grip of the educational academic world, their pedagogic umbrella organizations, labor unions and politics in general – they are using too less their freedom to make content decisions for themselves and to work more interdisciplinarily. Teacher training academies mainly deliver over-theoreticized students who are experts in their subjects but without real world experiences and with not enough Fingerspitzengefühl for an artistic way of teaching and for being a creative role model. Therefore, a broad public debate about the overloaded content of the curriculum would be necessary and perhaps the cultural sector should not only stand up to entertain their public again but also to cooperate more with schools and to support them in their search to stimulate the creative skills of future generations.

"Creativity has an important role to play in truly transformational education and can create the conditions where children and teachers flourish and thrive. When you bring a creative, cultural and aesthetic understanding of learning to the classroom you can create the sort of 'WOW Factor' where education itself becomes transformed into an artistic experience."
Professor Anne Bamford /
Strategic director of education and Culture /
City of London

"Japan changed its rote based learning system by removing 30% of the content in its curriculum to encourage deeper learning and added a greater emphasis on creativity."
Andreas Schleicher / German data scientist and
head of the education division at the OECD

"Ruimte voor meditatie, filosofie, taal, esthetiek, kunst en verwondering is er in onze scholen nog nauwelijks."
Jonathan Holslag / Professor VUB

"Creativity is a habit. The problem is that schools sometimes treat it as a bad habit."
Dr. Robert Sternberg /
Cornell College of Human Ecology

"It would never occur to me to consider art as a subject apart from any other in the curriculum. Art education increases in value to the degree that it is related to the whole academic picture. I see art education as a kind of thing that threads its way through every facet of academic work."
Charles Eames / Designer, Architect, Film Maker

"It is not about fitting the arts into the curriculum, but weaving them into the curriculum as a natural part of how the content is presented and assessed. The arts must be thought of as a foundation, the supporting structure that carries the importance of learning. The key is not to teach more than what is already required, but instead teach the requirements through various lenses of art."
Kelly Hrenko / Asst. Professors of Art Education

"At the birth of the word 'art', it was a verb that meant to 'put things together.'
It was not a product but a process."
Eric Booth / 'The father of the teaching artists'

"Ik zie een belangrijke rol voor het onderwijs, dat zich zou moeten toespitsen op creativiteit."
Anne-Mie van Kerckhoven / Artist

"Inspiration is not the exclusive privilege of poets or artists generally. There is, has been always be a certain group of people whom inspiration visits. It's made up of all those who've consciously chosen their calling and do their job with love and imagination. It may include doctors, teachers, gardeners – and I could list a hundred more professions. Their work becomes one continuous adventure as long as they manage to keep discovering new challenges in it. Difficulties and setbacks never quell their curiosity. A swarm of new questions emerges from every problem they solve. Whatever inspiration is, it's born from a continuous "I don't know."
Wisława Szymborska / Polish Poet

"A society must assume that it is stable, but the artist must know, and he must let us know, that there is nothing stable under heaven." – James Baldwin