



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



THOMAS D. WATKINS, JR.
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

July 26, 2004

MEMORANDUM

TO State Board of Education

FROM Thomas D. Watkins Jr., Chairman
Tom Watkins

SUBJECT Presentation of the 2004 Report of the Joint Task Force on Creativity, Arts, and Cultural Education

The Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs and the Michigan Department of Education partnered in April 2004 to convene the Joint Task Force on Creativity, Arts and Cultural Education in Michigan. Dr. William Anderson, Director of the Michigan Department of History, Arts and Libraries, and I served as honorary chairs of the Joint Task Force that conducted its work within an expedited sixty-day timeframe.

The 2004 Report of the Task Force on Creativity, Arts and Cultural Education builds upon the many years of work in support of arts education by State Board members, Kathleen N. Straus and Eileen Lappin Weiser, who served on ArtServe Michigan. In addition, Mrs. Straus served on the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Study Group on the Lost Curriculum, and Mrs. Weiser served on the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs.

The Joint Task Force reached out to over 343 individuals involving over 120 persons in three public meetings and over 200 persons through a web survey. Higher education, PreK-12 teachers, arts and cultural institutions, libraries and museums were among those represented in the Task Force process

The 2004 Report of the Joint Task Force on Creativity, Arts and Cultural Education in Michigan provides the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs and the Michigan Department of Education with recommendations for:

- leveraging existing human, material and financial resources;
- creating collaborations across governmental and non-governmental sectors;
- strategic initiatives and projects.

The Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs secured Challenge America Grant funds from the National Endowment for the Arts to launch the work of the Task Force. In addition, the Joint Task Force partnered with many organizations to accomplish its work including the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth, Michigan Humanities Council, and ArtServe Michigan. Traverse Management Resources was contracted to facilitate the work of the Task Force and the Report. The 2004 Joint Task Force Report will continue to be shared with high priority schools and communities during the 2004-2005 school year.

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