

Professional Qualifications

for

Sharon Samuel's Reed

Sharon Samuels Reed

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Personal Arts Philosophy

As a living testimony to arts education, my goal as an arts educator and arts advocate is to provide equal access to the arts for all. My success is largely due to my learning in and through the arts. Whether it is through my music or the message that is conveyed in my music, I strive to tear down walls and build bridges between all people. I am excited about any opportunity to continue my work in leadership of and collaboration of elegant solution to arts integration and the impact on the total curriculum in schools.

Relevant Arts Responsibilities and Accomplishments

- Currently serving as the Project Outreach Liaison for the 21st Century Learning Center Grant, responsible for recruiting and developing teaching artists as we implement the arts integration model for educational reform in Peoria Public Schools
- Served as Independent Arts Consultant for Illinois Arts Council, responsible for administering the arts portion of the Arts and Foreign Language Grants Program through the Illinois State Board of Education , serving 14 schools
- Founder and Artistic Director of The Heritage Ensemble, celebrating African American history and culture through music, preserving the Negro spiritual as an art form, heightening awareness of the African American experience in this country to society
- Founder and Artistic Director of the Youth Heritage Ensemble of Central Illinois, teaching life survival skills through the arts, thus closing the achievement gap with underserved youth
- Highly sought after inspirational and motivational speaker, especially as it relates to "success against all odds"
- Highly sought after resource specialist in arts administration, arts advocacy, arts education, and program development:
 - serve the Illinois Arts Council as a grants reader for arts education programs
 - served on the steering committee of Illinois Arts Alliance producing ***Committing to Quality in Education: Arts at the Core, A Guidebook and Planning Tool***, a resource for strengthening arts education in schools as well as a call to action for all members of the school community
 - serve on Illinois Creates, developing arts assessment tools for use in schools

- served as Resource Specialist for **National Endowment for the Arts ELI Conferences I and II**, an innovative think tank for stakeholders in ensuring arts as a part of the core curriculum
- Director of Eastern Illinois University Show Choir Camp, responsible for hiring and coordinating choral and choreography staff, as well as recruiting middle and high school students from throughout the state of Illinois
- Board member on several arts related boards
- Retired Director of Fine Arts for Peoria Public Schools, where I was responsible for ensuring quality fine arts programming throughout the district, as well as establishing, nurturing, and maintaining community arts relationships
- Successfully articulated and advocated for the implementation of The Preparatory School for the Arts (Grades 9-12)
- Worked collaboratively with principal Taunya Jenkins and the staff at Roosevelt Magnet School for the Arts (Grades Pre-K-8) to develop a fine arts integrated curriculum, developing and implementing staff development workshops that resulted in the school's removal from the State of Illinois Watch List (That staff development currently serves as staff development for all staff who implement the district's summer school program.)
- Highly sought after producer of arts programming, recognized as an accomplished choral director producing award winning choirs at all skill levels
- Served on the selection committee for the **One State Together in the Arts**, a statewide arts conference designed to celebrate the arts and ensure the longevity of the arts for educational systems and practicing artists

Education

- Graduate of Bradley University with MA in Education Administration
- Graduate of Illinois State University with MA in Vocal Performance
- Additional graduate studies at Northern Illinois University
- Graduate of University of Arkansas, Pine Bluff (formerly Arkansas AM&N College) with BA in Music Education, emphasis in voice
- Ongoing advanced training throughout the state and region for arts integration and arts assessment, both as a provider and as a learning participant

Arts and Community Service Affiliations

- Active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc, a public service not-for-profit organization, where I chair the Arts and Letters Committee and serve on the Social Action and Program and Planning Committee
- Active member of the Lakeview Museum of Arts and Sciences Board of Directors, where I serve as Chairperson of the Education/Exhibition Committee
- Member of Development Committee for Lakeview Museum of Arts and Sciences
- Chairperson of Nominating Committee for Crittenton Centers, a child advocacy center
- Member of advisory team to State Education Agencies Directors of Arts Education (SEADAE), a professional development community of state department of education representatives for arts education
- Active member of Bethel United Methodist Church, serving as a Communion Steward
- Member of the Advisory Committee of The Prairie Center for the Arts

Recognitions/Awards

- Who's Who Among Teachers
- WHOI Golden Apple Award
- Peoria YWCA Arts Award
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum Major Award
- 25 Women in Leadership Award
- Pekin YWCA One Imperative Award
- Central Illinois Interfaith Alliance Service Award