



THE CENTER FOR ARTS EDUCATION

PARENTS AS ARTS PARTNERS PROGRAM

TIPS FOR DESIGNING A SUCCESSFUL PROGRAM

- **Request a copy of your school's master calendar.** The more you know about the school's calendar of events, the better you will be able to avoid conflicts and schedule your PAAP program around key activities to ensure maximum parent turn-out.
- Design activities for parents that **support the school's arts education goals.**
- To attract and involve parents with a range of interests and availability, offer a **variety of arts experiences throughout the year, varying the day of the week and the time of day.**
- Connect activities together **with a theme.** Choose and use a **"catchy" name.**
- In planning a series of events, consider designing activities that are self-contained **but related** so parents can attend just one session or all of the sessions.
- Choose art forms and activities that **reflect the culture(s) of the community.**
- Plan events that **bring parents, artists and school staff together** to participate in arts activities in informal, social settings where they can talk.
- Provide arts activities for parents to **participate alongside their child.**
- Offer activities appropriate **for a variety of ages and ability levels.** Remember, parents may need to leave and return to an activity to tend to a child. At family events, have parallel arts activities for parents and children. Provide time for sharing.
- Offer arts education activities that are **just for parents and provide child care for the duration of the event.**
- Offer arts activities for parents **similar to those students experience.**
- Give families **something to take away** that will encourage the arts beyond the experience with the school (i.e. books, arts supplies, art work).
- A note about ONE TIME EVENTS: Many find that such events take enormous planning time, are costly and often disappointingly low in attendance even with substantial recruitment efforts. To successfully build parent support, special events **must take place within a broader, long-term program.**

