SummerVisionDC

Professional Learning in the Nation's Capital

July 16-19, 2019 | Washington, DC

SummerVision DC 2019: From *New Eyes* to Visual Fitness 4 All: Engaging Creativity & Insight®

Commemorating a decade of museum explorations as a professional learning community (PLC), SummerVision DC (SVDC) 2019 was held July 16-19, 2019. Thirty SVDC educators traveled to Washington, DC, from 20 states and Puerto Rico for an intensive museum boot camp experience in more than 8 art museums. Since 2010, 15 SummerVision sessions (14 in Washington, DC, and one at Crystal Bridges in Arkansas) have been experienced by over 350 visual arts and other educators representing K-12 and higher education, arts organizations, and museums. Using their summer breaks to gain new creative and reflective perspectives within an evolving profession, participants engaged in multidisciplinary arts connections as they experienced the rich offerings of the museums. This year, highlights included the installation *Lawn* at the National Building Museum and the exhibitions I Am… Contemporary Women Artists of Africa at the National Museum of African Art and The Warmth of Other Suns at The Phillips Collection.

Designed to help participants gain firsthand knowledge about how to use the museum as an educational resource, SummerVision DC 2019 provided educators with a rigorous expeditionary learning experience through on-site, object-specific explorations of artwork and behind-the-scenes examination of the museum itself as a work of art. The program, directed by Renee Sandell with Carole Henry, is guided by Henry's 2010 book *The Museum Experience: The Discovery of Meaning* and Sandell's Form+Theme+Context (FTC) Palette for Decoding Art and Museums as Works of Art. Using Marking & Mapping to link studio experience with critical response, participants visually documented the learning process in a portable studio with materials from SVDC sponsors Blick Art Materials, Chartpak, Derwent, and Sax School Specialty.

Museum educators led interactive tours and conducted activities that inspired SVDC participant experiences, expanding possibilities for the classroom and future museum visits. Many thanks to the many museum educators and their respective institutions for providing a memorable SVDC 2019 experience.

Please note that SummerVision DC will not be offered in 2020 as Sandell is redesigning the program with a focus on a new frame of reference, Visual Fitness 4 All.[1]

[1] https://visualfitness4all.com

What a meaningful, life-changing experience... I am moving forward, feeling creatively empowered and motivated, and actually spiritually uplifted!

—SVDC 2019 Participant

The tools were fantastic and much needed—not only to listen but to create and write in processing the vast amount of information. Taking time to collect thoughts bound the program together.

—SVDC 2019 Participant