



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Proceedings Report

Examining the Intersection of



The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and
all its education outreach and efforts are guided by:

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Darrell M. Ayers, Vice President, Education

Special appreciation to Ambassador Jean Kennedy Smith
VSA Founder

Kennedy Center Office of VSA and Accessibility
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Proceeding Report
by Lynne B. Silverstein
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The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts has been involved for decades in unlocking doors to arts learning for millions of young people, families, and teachers. With its affiliate VSA, the Kennedy Center has been at the forefront of making arts education accessible to students with disabilities.

Recognizing the need to re-examine the changing demands and challenges of education in the 21st century for students with disabilities, the Kennedy Center and VSA invited a dynamic group of “thought leaders” to the Kennedy Center to explore the intersection of the separate but allied fields of arts education and special education and to make recommendations for a new national agenda that would result in the arts becoming an essential, ongoing part of the education of students with disabilities.

Forty-nine national leaders, representing a range of art forms and expertise, accepted the invitation to meet at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. on July 26-



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