

**Docent-made K-12 Tool Kit Project**  
**Carnegie Museum of Art**  
**Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**

**Strategic Shift in Museum Education :**

- Carnegie Museum of Art is shifting from a traditional structure that mainly supports art and visual art teachers to a structure that recognizes the ways in which our collection and ideas support educators and students of any discipline.
- We are learning how to mine our collections to be a resource for educators of any discipline. This practice is happening in multiple programs simultaneously, including the Educator Residency and the Tool Kits.

**Process for Assessing Teacher Needs/Wants:**

- In response to the pandemic's effect on the 2019-20 school year, CMOA Education staff facilitated two focus groups with teachers and administrators from partner school districts via Zoom in June 2020.

*Focus group questions:*

- Education staff asked the groups the following questions:
  - How did the end of the school year go?
  - How was the transition to remote learning? Successes? Obstacles? Takeaways?
  - Did your class participate in any virtual experiences led by a partner organization?
    - a. PA Department of Education Reopening Plan for 2020-21 school year: Schools are advised against field trips. Recommend virtual field trip planning.
  - 2020-21 Curriculum:
    - a. Do you imagine your curriculum changing to make up for lost instruction time this year?
    - b. Do you imagine your curriculum shifting to include the Black Lives Matter movement, removal of statues, cultural competencies, environmental issues, wellness and/or mental health?
  - Have you brought your students to CMOA before? If yes, for what experience? What elements of that experience are valuable enough to transfer to virtual programming?
  - What would you like to see in content for virtual experiences?
  - What parts of your curriculum can our virtual programming enhance?
  - We are considering a "menu" of options, including both synchronous and asynchronous offerings. What format do you anticipate as most effective with your students?
  - Consider an effective structure for CMOA student experiences:
    - a. What timing do you think would be the most effective?
    - b. What is the ideal ratio of conversation-based vs making-based time?
    - c. Would you prefer more passive resources (i.e. lesson plans and tools for engagement) or active resources, (i.e. videos, live discussion, etc.)?

Major findings from focus groups:

- Educators would welcome:
  - a. Asynchronous resources that can be shared with students when they are learning from home and are unable to login synchronously.
  - b. Short videos around 5 minutes long.
  - c. Prompts that connect to artworks.
  - d. Videos that highlight one artist per video.
  - e. Students wanted to see positive examples of Black Life (*This insight led to the “Black Life in Pittsburgh” Tool Kit*).
  - f. Interest in taking our Global Migration resources that CMOA created for Avonworth High School to the next level (*This suggestion led to creation of our “Migration” Tool Kit.*)
- When asked what elements of their prior CMOA experiences were valuable enough to transfer to virtual programming:
  - a. Teachers referenced our writing tours and the value of looking closely in a guided way (*This insight informed our “Looking & Learning” and “Art & Literacy” Tool Kits*).
  - b. They also commented about the value of our Art Engagement Methodology which we translated into the structure for dialogue in our videos.

***For additional information, contact Carnegie Museum of Art presenters at the 2022 National Docent Symposium:***

**Sue Cavanaugh** [smurz@zoominternet.net](mailto:smurz@zoominternet.net)

**Kathleen Green** [kgreen49@verizon.net](mailto:kgreen49@verizon.net)

**Diane Ramos** [ramos.diane@gmail.com](mailto:ramos.diane@gmail.com)

***Tool Kit videos, activities & resources are available to all educators, including docents, on a pay if you wish basis.***

***To register for access to Tool Kits, go to:***

***Learning – Carnegie Museum of Art (cmoa.org)***