

Commission on Media

As the twenty-first Century begins, we see rapid, large scale changes in the electronic media available to the public for everyday use. At the same time creative teachers are enriching instruction by mixing traditional media, such as drawing and construction, with the use of new media forms and instruments. NCTE has the responsibility to make all teachers aware of these changes and the opportunities they offer for improved instruction.

Charge

- *To advise the [NCTE Executive Committee](#) regarding issues relating to media and 21st Century Learning that need to be addressed by NCTE policy or through public policy advocacy measures.*
- *Through the Executive Director's office, to advise the staff regarding ways to gather digital images of effective teaching practices involving multi-modal literacies. These images shall represent a range of practices and a range of educational levels and settings, including a substantial number of high-needs schools.*

The goal of this project shall be to:

- 1. Help teachers understand the value, possibilities, pedagogies, and constraints of multi-modal literacies.*
 - 2. Support advocacy work with school and system administrators, boards, and other educational policy makers.*
- *To develop guidelines for evaluating various types of multi-modal literacy projects.*
 - *To inform the Long-Range Planning Subcommittee of the Executive Committee regarding possibilities for future expansion of media use to enhance ELA instruction and to identify current and future obstacles to the expanded use of media.*
 - *To enrich the [NCTE Annual Convention](#) program by proposing sessions or demonstrations that will expand members' knowledge of ways that emerging media can be used to extend and enhance ELA instruction.*

What major actions or projects have been completed by your group pursuant to your charge since July 1, 2009?

Establishment of New Media Gallery at Annual Conventions

The idea for a New Media Gallery was brainstormed at the 2006 Nashville conference by Commission members and started in a small fashion at the 2007 New York conference. The Gallery was conceptualized as paralleling the Film Festival which has been running for many years at the convention on Saturdays. It was thought that there was a need for a gallery that would go beyond film and showcase teachers and students who are working with new media in innovative ways to critically analyze and create. Since Nashville, we have actively solicited nominations of teachers to present in the Gallery who are promoting critical literacy, while also expanding their repertoire of texts to include such new media as podcasting, blogging, videomaking, web publishing, and text messaging, to name a few examples.

We were able to establish a very small New Media Gallery on Friday at the New York conference, in an area close to the kiosks where participants could check their email. In our meeting at the New York conference, we debriefed how our first attempt at the New Media Gallery went, and how we wanted to improve it for the San Antonio conference. With the help of Jacqui Joseph-Biddle, we secured a location for the Gallery in 2008 that was equipped with an Internet connection, an LCD projector, and a screen. We had a similar setup and even better room placement in 2009 in Philadelphia. The room accommodated 100 people, and we were able to present well-known new media educators and proponents of new literacies in education, including Chris Lehman, principal of Philadelphia's Science Leadership Academy, one of the leaders of the new media movement; Renee Hobbs and her team of researchers at Temple's Media Education Lab; and Alan Miller, Director of the News Literacy Project.

Continuing of Film Festival

Longtime Commission member Mary Christel informed the Commission that the San Antonio conference would be the last Film Festival that she would curate. Our Commission is pleased to report that Mary left the festival in the

capable hands of Louis Mazza and Jane Nickerson who were curators of the 2009 Film Festival which became an even richer experience with more appearances from filmmakers and more films shown.

Media Literacy Award

Along with the Assembly on Media, the Commission sponsors a Media Literacy Award. We have just finished the fifth annual nomination/award process and have determined a winner, Elizabeth Boeser of Bloomington, Minnesota. She will be presented with her award in Orlando during her session within the New Media Gallery.

What projects, initiatives, or studies are “in progress” at this time?

As discussed above, the Media Commission will continue to work

- To continue to seek to be leaders within NCTE in the area of media literacy and new literacies in general
- To refine and perhaps expand the New Media Gallery for annual conventions in the future
- To continue to improve and expand the Film Festival
- To continue to sponsor the Media Literacy Award
- To begin the transition to a “Collaborative” structure as the Commission on Media will cease to exist after the 2010 convention.

Strategic Governance: Over the past few years, the NCTE Executive Committee has established outcomes and priorities relating to these key topics in our field [Closing the Achievement Gap](#), [NCTE and International Involvement](#), [Reading Research](#), [21st Century Literacies](#), and [Attracting, Supporting, and Advancing Early Career Educators](#). Currently, they are working on performance assessment of teachers and student learning. Does your group have research findings or suggestions to contribute that are relevant to on-going work on these strategic governance topics?

William Kist, Director