

Re: Public Affairs Grant Transfer Request

“Where do the Children Play?”

Abstract

This event brings together faculty, students, and community members to preview and discuss the PBS documentary “Where do the Children Play?” by Elizabeth Goodenough. The filmmaker will speak before the viewing and a discussion will follow led by the filmmaker and Missouri State university faculty member, Joanna Cemore (Childhood Education and Family Studies). There will be representatives from departments across the university, local, national, and international agencies and organizations with booths and information on how to get involved, give their input on the issues of children’s play.

Description of proposed activity/event

- A preview showing of the new PBS documentary titled “Where Do the Children Play?” by Elizabeth Goodenough, *before* it shows on PBS in April (set to air jointly with the Week of the young Child).
- I have spoken with the filmmaker, a faculty member, writer, and a passionate advocate for children’s play, and she would very much like to be a part of this event.
- The event would begin with me introducing the filmmaker.
 - My qualifications for this area of Public Affairs – I am an Assistant Professor in Childhood Education and Family Studies. I teach play as Development (Service-learning) and Outdoor Play, and research/write on play, and am an advocate for play. My advocacy occurs through the Discovery center (as their play consultant), my students’ course work, plus national and international work for the American Association for the Child’s Right to Play (Board Member – Outdoor Play Initiative), The Association for the Education of Young Children (local Board member and faculty advisor to the student group) and The Play, Policy, and Practice Forum of NAEYC (member).
- Elizabeth Goodenough would then give a talk to the attendees before the viewing of the documentary.
 - Elizabeth Goodenough has taught English and American literature since 1976 at Harvard College, Claremont McKenna College and the University of Michigan Residential College. A scholar and activist in the emerging field of children’s studies, she has published numerous articles on children’s literature and culture. She co-edited with Mark Heberle and Naomi Sokoloff *Infant Tongues: The Voice of the Child in Literature* (Wayne State University Press, 1994) and with Mitzi Myers a special issue of *The Lion and the Unicorn* on “Children’s Literature and Violence” (2000). Her other books include *Secret Spaces of Childhood* (University of Michigan Press, 2003), *Where do the Children Play: A Study Guide to the Film* (Michigan Television, 2007) and the forthcoming *A Place for Play* and *Under Fire: Childhood in the Shadow of War*. A Fellow of the Society for Values in Higher Education, she is an assistant editor of the *Michigan Quarterly Review* and editor of the Landscapes in Childhood series at Wayne State University Press.
- Following the film Elizabeth and I would facilitate a discussion among the viewers (including faculty, students, community leaders, parents, teachers, agency/organization representatives) on the topic of children’s play and what they just viewed.

- **Public affairs issues or topic to be addresses – from the Public Affairs Mission Definition**
- “must foster a community where all individuals are called upon to respond to Public Affairs issues”
 - Any and all departments are invited to participate in this event.
 - Through the discussion and information booths individuals will have an opportunity to contribute.
- “They are exposed to ethical and global issues; political and environmental, and technical concerns: and issues of human diversity.”
 - Play is a global issue. As a board (IPA) we were recently called on to put together ideas on how to make outdoor play structures for the poorest of the poor countries, war torn, seriously poverty stricken areas of the world for a report to the United Nations. The world recognizes children’s play as important but we must fight daily to retain the rights of children around the world to engage in play.
- “Scientific and social research are used to promote a healthy citizenry which is vital to stable and productive societies.”
 - There is an amazing wealth of research on the vital importance of play to children’s emotional well-being, health, physical development, and cognitive achievement. Yet, it continues to disappear, in spite of the research. Further dissemination of this information is needed to help our society be stable and productive.
- “Missouri State’s commitment to its statewide mission is reflected in campus lectures on public issues in which the community is invited to participate. The challenge presented by a focus on Public Affairs, however, is not just about what kind of curriculum, community service or public forums should be in place. It is about discovering solutions to the problems that all citizens face as members of a democratic society in a world shared by many.”
 - At the core of the reasoning for the pre-viewings of this documentary is to get communities talking about this issue and awareness that lack of children’s play is a serious issue that we are daily seeing the consequences of in our schools, communities, and prisons.

- **Objectives to be achieved and the significance relative to encouraging campus conversation on public affairs**
 - Awareness of the issue of diminishing children's play and the lack of spaces for children to play
 - Discussions about why this is important/detrimental to our society
 - Ultimately, ideas developed at this discussion can be brought to our local community for implementation and if used successfully as a model for other nations across the nation
 - To receive feedback from university and community people on their ideas and views on these topics to help in implementation of a national outdoor play initiative
 - This topic relates to current discussions in several areas of the university, whether addressing health and wellness, human development, psychology, recreation and leisure, sociology, and education.

- **Anticipated audience/participants**
 - Students and faculty from the College of Education, Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminology, Department of Psychology, Department of Recreation and Leisure, and the Department of Media, Journalism, and Film.
 - Community members such as parents, business owners, and teachers from the Springfield Public Schools and surrounding areas.
 - Community leaders from Parks and Recreation, Community partnership of the Ozarks, Ozark Association for the Education of Young Children
 - National/International leaders from the American Association for the Child's right to Play (IPA-USA) and The Association for the Study of Play (TASP).

- **Cross-disciplinary faculty, staff or student participation, if proposed**
 - As listed above, this topic spans several different departments and colleges on the Missouri State University campus. Contacts have been made with faculty and department heads from most of the department/colleges mentioned above and the response was that they would love to be involved. This would include encouragement of student attendance, information booths on their majors, and a representative who could speak during the discussion portion of the event.

- **Proposed use of grant funds**

- Hotel – (2 nights x 149.95) = 249.90
- Flight – (Detroit, MI – Springfield, MO) = 650.00
- Honoraria = 1000.00
- Plaster Student Union Theater = no fee
- Tables and chairs for information booths = no fee
- Rental of DVD projector = 45.00
- Rental of sound system = 55.00
- Labor charges = 15.00
- AV Tech (7.50 an hour x 3) = 22.50
- 3ft. by 8ft. Advertising Banner = no fee
- Flyers (advertising) 100 x .04 = 4.00
- Handouts (informational) = 500 x .065 = 32.50