

Title of Session: ArtsSites - Peace Tiles & World AIDS Day

Moderator: BJ Berquist

Guest Speaker: Lars Hasselblad Torres

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BjB cheers...welcome to the Tapped In community, Lars!

DenaF joined the room.

DenaF: Art, huh?

BjB: Hi, Dena. Yep

DenaF: I am not a certified Art teacher, but I am at an alternative school that has no one certified in art. I am the honorary Art teacher.

DenaF: I could use all the help in the world'

DenaF: the

BjB: that's how I started too, Dena

DenaF: I would love to get certified in Art now, but I am not sure what all it would entail.

LarsHa joined the room.

BjB: a lot! I finally got certified in El Ed'

EmilyW joined the room.

BjB: Hi, Em

DenaF: I just made mosaics, gargoyles, portraits, caricatures, and pop art with my students

BjB: Yay, Lars is here!!!

DenaF: really...a lot

EmilyW waves hi

DenaF: hello all

LarsHa: yay, waves back -- hi!

LarsHa: Dena, sounds like you had a wonderful time today with gargoyles!

DenaF: yes...the girls were not that excited getting their hands dirty, but they turned out great!

LarsHa: funny, that used to work at a trade school and there were always boys and girls with an aversion to dirt under the nails

BjB: we usually start all discussions in Tapped In with introductions...

DenaF: especially when they are four inch paid for nails

DenaF: Oh...HI all

BjB: since we have such special treat in having Lars with us today, I'd appreciate it he could introduce himself

LarsHa: so ... hi everyone! I'm Lars and BJ invited me here to share some of what I'm up to at peace tiles and learn more about what's happening here!

DenaF: I am Dena Foster. I teach at Lady Pitts High School. I am new to art but really a history and English teacher

DenaF: I am not going to be teaching Art gain until term 4, but I need to start stockpiling information and ideas now

DenaF: what are peace tiles?

EmilyW: I am Emily, I design websites, I also enjoy art

BjB: I'm an art teacher in a male juvenile correctional facility in Pennsylvania

DenaF: PA? Wow...I did not realize that you were so far away...I thought everyone was here in Milwaukee

EmilyW: I am from TX

BjB: Tapped In has an international membership of over 18,000, Dena

LarsHa: well, it is a REAL treat to be here, always -- among teachers is always a privilege, as I consider myself to be a "teacher resource" this year, to contribute to

World AIDS Day (nourishing day to all!) I wanted to do something international, and that drew upon my ...

LarsHa: growing understanding of networks and passion for the arts and youth!

LarsHa: wow -- 18,000! very cool, BJ -- how can I reach them all at once heheh

LarsHa: BTW, am from Montpelier, Vermont

DenaF: Oh....shows how much I know.

EmilyW: Lars, how are you a "teacher resource"?

BjB: I love the word PASSION, Lars...it's what all educators must have

DenaF: I need resources...

BjB: . o O (to be effective)

DenaF: I am technologically challenged, but I am starting to catch on

LarsHa: okay, who is ready for the wow factor? if you'd just open a new browser window, I'd love to share a url with you and show you what more than 1,000 passionate young people have been involved with in preparation for this year's WAD celebrations ...

DenaF: show me already....

BjB: just type the url, Lars. It will be hyperlinked

DenaF: anxious enough already

LarsHa: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/peacetiles/sets/1112725/>

BjB: Dena, hold down the ctrl key when you click on the url

DenaF: thanks for the guidance....

LarsHa: let me know, and I'd be happy to respond to your questions about "what is" and anything else that comes up!

LarsHa: ...

DenaF: that is so amazing...I am tearing up...

LarsHa: !!

BjB: these are wonderful, Lars! I have a question...do you remember Blanket the World with Peace?

LarsHa: indeed!

BjB: that project has kind of stalled...but...

LarsHa: I remember one image in particular, a Mandela I think it was ... ?

DenaF: I have been to Africa, Asia, and Latin America. I have seen those smiling faces when life seems so grim...It really moves me.

LarsHa: I have some more goodies too, so just let me know the best way to proceed

BjB: what I'd really like to do with it...is take sites like yours and use those as the digital quilt squares

BjB: so the peace site is a collection of all kinds of peace activities...

DenaF: I think I am going to use this idea and manipulate it

BjB: which also kind of works with the digital divide discussion

LarsHa: something like this?? <http://www.tighosting.com/tiles/rc1/>

EmilyW: who uploaded the pictures to flickr?

LarsHa: c'est moi

LarsHa: I received the tiles via post and scanned them before ...

LarsHa: sending them to their three international mural exhibition sites

LarsHa: in India, South Africa and Switzerland

EmilyW: who made these tiles? how were they made?

LarsHa: they went live in those locations today, WAD

LarsHa: great question, Emily! thanks for asking

DenaF: are they painted tiles, fabric quilting, cloth collages?

LarsHa: tiles were produced by more than 1000 children and youth in more than 35 locations in more than 15 countries spanning 4 continents

LarsHa: another great question Dena!

BjB: . o O (I told you Lars would be a special treat!)

DenaF: yippie for Lars

DenaF: off the subject a little....how about any input into photography?

LarsHa: tiles are made on 8" x 8" wood tiles using locally available materials with the sole instruction that they address children and youth's experiences with, concerns about, and hopes for other children affected by HIV.AIDS

LarsHa: thank you Dena! yippee for the 1,200+ children and local workshops organizers who did this of their sweat, love and tears

LarsHa: input to photography, great question!

DenaF: well you already got tears out of me

LarsHa: you're lovely Dena, thank you.

DenaF: I noticed great pictures on some of the tiles

BjB: is the project being continued for next year, Lars?

LarsHa: one professional photographer was involved in Uganda -- he helped to produce the "main" set tile, that says "education" -- that is boy who passed ...

LarsHa: I am also working with a group called orijiro to tie in peace tile workshops with coffee plantation children around the world ...

DenaF: DO you mean passed as in "see you in the after life"?

LarsHa: sadly, yes.

DenaF: Tears again....

LarsHa: many of the tiles you will see are memorabilia tiles, just not indicated as such -- many of the children who made these, like in Thailand, are living positive lives

DenaF: I do not think I am going to ever drink coffee again. I cannot stand thinking about children working in the fields

LarsHa: the connection to photography is weak still, but would love to find ways to strengthen that connection.

DenaF: it is expensive

LarsHa: well, you can always drink fair trade coffee!

DenaF: not exactly conducive to the environments in which Aids is prevalent

LarsHa: perhaps digital photography can mitigate high costs? maybe they could use disposable 35mm cameras too?

EmilyW: are you putting all the tiles on flickr?

DenaF: I was thinking about it, but with 800 bucks to last the entire year for three content areas....I am a little strained

LarsHa: true -- though not sure what the direct arrows are bt coffee plantations and aids -
- my off the record guess is that the incidences would be lower there ...

BjB: Dena, there are grants available

LarsHa: hi Emily -- I could only document 82 of them in time for WAD before they had to be shipped

EmilyW: oh ok

LarsHa: did you say grants, BJ ...

DenaF: I just never thought of writing a grant for art when I was so recently elected the art teacher

DenaF: point me in the right direction please

BjB nods. We had a guest here a couple months ago who told us about a grant for Olympus cameras...let me see if I can find the info

DenaF: eternally grateful

LarsHa: isn't there a website to help strapped teachers get matched with microdonors ... ?

BjB . o O (which, hopefully, hasn't expired)

BjB: yes, there is, Lars...I have that url somewhere also

LarsHa: okay, ready for the next url?

DenaF: I know nothing about teaching art other than what my mother, the artist, told via the long distance wires.

LarsHa: btw, did you see the mural/eCard maker?

DenaF: yes, please keep it coming Lars.

DenaF: What is that Lars?

LarsHa: that's why people like me and BJ exists -- and many others who have a passion for what you do

BjB: . http://www.toolfactory.com/olympus_contest/

DenaF: I failed art as a student, but I guess I am good enough to teach it now

LarsHa: <http://www.tighosting.com/tiles/rc1/>

BjB: <http://www.toolfactory.com/olympus>

LarsHa: impossible to fail art -- your teacher obviously didn't understand you as a person

BjB agrees with Lars

LarsHa: I have never believed that every person shares the same vision, and all possess unique ways to express visually what we :see: inside

DenaF: She told me to withdraw while I could still get a withdraw passing

LarsHa: she flunked a lesson in life

DenaF: Instead I majored in history and English and minored in art history

LarsHa: I hope you will carry that lesson and never encourage a student to follow suite

DenaF: her loss....

EmilyW: I struggled in sculpture class, I withdrew on my own, and changed my major

DenaF: if they attempt it and follow the basic guidelines, they will never fail my class

LarsHa: crazy how these things work out when teachers are either too arrogant or stressed out

DenaF: I love sculpture, but I laugh at my own charcoal and pencil drawings

LarsHa: I laugh at 9/10 of what I produce!

BjB: this is the site I found for the organization that gets support for supplies for teachers
<http://www.donorschoose.org/>

DenaF: Yippie!!! You guys are making my night!

DenaF: no, my year!

LarsHa: 99 percent genius, 1 percent persistence -- some wise dude last century said that

LarsHa: oops I got that exactly BACKWARDS!

BjB grins

DenaF: very funny

LarsHa: thanks for the link, BJ -- that's it!

LarsHa: okay, so who saw the eCard maker? send one to a friend

BjB: that link is in the Hurricane Central group room, btw

DenaF: BJ...Lars...you are definitely a great resource

LarsHa smiles

DenaF: what about the ecards?

BjB: Dena, you will also find a wealth of resources in this group room

LarsHa: <http://www.tighosting.com/tiles/rc1/>

DenaF: I think I will add it to my favorites. I need all the resources I can find. You guys have been a great help.

LarsHa: there's a little button that should say :send: instead of :save: -- a few kinks, since this all started in April

LarsHa: sounds like we may be winding down. I have one last goodie ...

DenaF: great...thanks

DenaF: I need to go to sleep really soon

BjB . o O (you also might want to mention the blog, Lars)

LarsHa: if/when you feel like it, I encourage you to join <http://www.telecommunity.us/peacetiles> -- there, you can sign up your class or school to make peace tiles on any topic (insert espresso) and then SWAP them with other tile-making communities so you can begin your own in-school mural -- about peace, coffee, tea, child soldiers, anything you like!

DenaF: I teach all pregnant and parenting teens

DenaF: that is an amazing idea

LarsHa: how about the international topic of motherhood!

DenaF: thank you again

DenaF: hang onlet me email all this to myself at school...

LarsHa: you are all very welcome -- it has been an absolute pleasure

BjB: . o O (or parenting)

LarsHa smiles

BjB: Dena, you'll get a transcript of this discussion when you log out

BjB: one more resource from me...

LarsHa: Emily, any last questions?

BjB: www.backflip.com/members/BjBerquist

EmilyW: devarts is an organization right?

LarsHa: well, let's just say it wants to become one

LarsHa: right now an online network

EmilyW: ok

LarsHa: is that a wrap BJ, as they say in the biz?

EmilyW: I am real impressed with the website

DenaF: thanks again for everything

LarsHa: thank you Emily!

BjB hugs Lars. You are so wonderful to come and be a speaker, Lars!

DenaF: "Did you ever know that you're my hero?"

LarsHa: dena, you are absolutely welcome, and hugs all around!

DenaF: Thanks everyone.....

DenaF: squinches from me

BjB: now that you're a TI member, please join us when you have the time

LarsHa: right back atcha Dena

LarsHa: will do BJ -- and thank you for the invite -- TTFN!

BjB: And Dena, now that you know about the 'outside world' of Tapped In, do join in some of the other resources

LarsHa: g'night all -- its almost ten here -- hope to meet up again soon!

BjB waves goodnight to Lars. Thanks again

DenaF: chat again soon Lars

LarsHa left the room (signed off).

BjB: great, Dena. Arts and Literacy is a monthly discussion on using the arts across the curriculum

DenaF: I use Art in both my English and History classes for those that are more Kinethestically inclined

DenaF: sounds great

BjB waves goodnight

DenaF: tata for now.....enjoy the snow

BjB: did you like the discussion, Em?

EmilyW: yes

EmilyW: I learned about a new website

EmilyW: I am going to use in a case study on this other site I go to

BjB nods. Sounds cool

EmilyW: about nonprofit type orgs using technology

EmilyW: it's a good example how flickr and blogs were used

BjB nods.

EmilyW: ok time to go

EmilyW: glad I came