This bibliography is a compilation of local, national and international resources that address global issues that are important to me and inspire me. They include: sustainability, creativity, arts integration and the link between art and nature. I believe all these issues have a common thread and cannot exist without each other.

**Habitat for Artists [Web Site].** [http://www.habitatforartists.org](http://www.habitatforartists.org)

Habitat for Artists is a an artist run group that explores the nature of creativity, the role of the artist in our communities and how to create dialog with new audiences. The catalyst for these explorations and dialog are small 6 x 6, temporary, reusable studio spaces that the organization installs in a variety of locations within a community and then invites artists from the community to work in the studios and evolve different work practices, engaging with the public and posing questions relevant to sustainable practice. This concept is similar to the, “Temporary Contemporary” idea I described in a previous discussion post where an abandoned storefront is temporarily housed with rotating artwork. I stumbled upon Habitat for Artists through another organization called Ecoartspace, which is an international non-profit whose focus is on the intersection of art and ecology. I gravitate toward these types of organizations because of my own personal philosophies and practices of not using straight lines in my artwork which is supported by the fact that there are no true straight lines in nature. Nature and ecology have long been behind the majority of my artwork whether it be by use of actual objects of nature in collages such as sticks, leaves or sand, or more frequently through movement and patterns I observe in nature which translate onto canvas through various techniques and mediums.


Local meets global at Sustainable Gulf Coast Meetup. It is a public group based in Pensacola, Florida, open to all those interested in sustainable development, green building, alternative and renewable energy sources, recycling and reducing waste, global climate change, air and water
pollution issues, biodiversity and ecosystem health, organic living and environmental justice. This group will provide networking opportunities to meet other like-minded people in the Northwest Florida/Southwest Alabama area, and also facilitates informative lectures, seminars, book readings, and documentaries pertaining to environmental issues. What drew me to the group was the opportunity to participate in environmental community service activities and explore opportunities to learn, support and further enhance one's own role in the environmental movement through interaction and activism in my own community. The Sustainable Gulf Coast Meetup Group’s main purpose is to organize individuals to work with local groups and communities on projects and events that will provide access to empowerment in global environmental issues. I would recommend this group to anyone in the Gulf Coast area with an interest in community activism, environmental and sustainability issues and the enthusiasm for making a difference!


The Belmont Arts & Cultural Center provides educational and outreach activities and exhibitions in the historic Belmont-Devilliers community of Pensacola, Florida since 1999. What began as a revitalization of a community has evolved into an arts center where cultural and artistic activities give life to this unique community and with it enrich all those who experience the center. The Belmont Arts & Cultural Center is a multi-disciplinary working arts center that contributes to Pensacola's arts scene by exposing the work of local, regional, national, and international artists to the Greater Pensacola community. The Belmont Center partners with local groups serving the areas low income, developmentally disabled, and needy by providing special topical workshops as well as educational opportunities. This is a unique organization in our community housed in a historically significant neighborhood and is an important part of our cultural heritage.


Art in a Global Context (foa-flux) is a website that examines global and glocal processes and changes in the visual arts. Foa-flux is a platform for critical reflection, research, and action.
Specific topics such as: art practice, art theory, phenomenological studies, and interdisciplinary approaches are also addressed and examined. I find this site particularly relevant because it asks us to constantly re-evaluate our of given reference systems and examine their effect on art worldwide. Foa-flux collects, generates, and exchanges knowledge in accordance with the need for comparative studies and best practices. The platform is organized into different sections, each highlighting specific questions and aspects of the functions of art in today’s world. This resource is significant to artists and educators alike.

Global Art Museum (GAM) [Web Site].  [http://www.globalartmuseum.de/site/about_us](http://www.globalartmuseum.de/site/about_us)

The Global Art Museum concept was initiated by Peter Weibel and Hans Belting in 2006 at ZKM | Center for Art and Media Karlsruhe. The project attempts to document the contested boundaries of today’s art world and spark a debate on how the globalization process changes the international art scene. This project is important because it recognizes globalization as the most important phenomenon in the history of recent art. The creators look to biennials and landmark exhibitions as what initiated the global turn in the art scene when the so-called New World Order removed Cold War restrictions and not only introduced international free trade with all its implications, and shifted the attention from a political conflict to new ideas of cosmopolitanism or multiculturalism post 1989. GAM serves as a resource for the documentation of the art world as well as offers educational courses, lectures, and publications.


Creative Leaps International is a consulting firm made of up learning specialists, performing artists, scientists, and renewal partners working in the corporate and educational world. This firm is unique because of their strategic and creative use of the arts within highly integrated learning environments. Topics routinely addressed include: diversity, wellness and creative problem-solving. Although this organization’s focus is on the performing arts, they use visual arts in many ways to motivate and entertain those they work with to connect to their own creativity. I would recommend this website to executives, artists and educators who are interested in exploring alternative and creative environments for learning.

Strauch-Nelson discusses the important early work done by Friedrich Froebel, the founder of the kindergarten and champion of art and nature study in schools. Froebel’s work was revolutionary in his time because he espoused the importance of harmony, balance, and unity on drawing as children’s native language and which is inextricably linked to writing. Strauch-Nelson’s article is important because it highlights the importance of reconnecting childhood with nature - a tall order in today’s technology-driven society! She makes several concrete suggestions on how art educators might accomplish this based on theory from Froebel and others such as J. W. Goethe. I enjoyed the simple concepts and “back to basics” approach to learning this article suggests and believe that despite its’ heavy reliance on 20th Century rhetoric, it is applicable to today’s modern discussion on global education strategies.

**Martin Prosperity Institute – Creativity for Prosperity; Art as Research [Web Site].**

[http://martinprosperity.org/art-mpi/](http://martinprosperity.org/art-mpi/)

The Martin Prosperity Institute (MPI) is the world’s leading think-tank on the role of sub-national factors – location, place and city-regions – in global economic prosperity. They take an integrated view of prosperity, looking beyond economic measures to include the importance of quality of place and the development of people’s creative potential. Their Creativity for Prosperity Project which includes an actual art collection employs multi-media art to stimulate ideas, research, and dialogue over the nexus of global creativity and prosperity. All artwork on view reflects topics of relevance such as the global city; internationalism as identity; the presence of music; and creativity as a driver of community. The collection serves to stimulate the work of the MPI’s researchers, students, clients and guests. I found this website interesting because of its super relevance to the larger discussion on integration of arts in mainstream educational curriculum as well as the STEM discussion. Full STEAM ahead!

Build a Bridge is a non-profit arts education and intervention organization located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, that engages the transformational power of the arts to bring hope and healing to children, families, and communities in the tough places in the world. They have both community programs and international programs. Of particular interest to me is their program, “Arts Relief and Development.” This program seeks to restore hope and healing to international communities affected by cultural and religious conflict, environmental catastrophe, poverty, illness, and social injustice. Areas where this program has been successfully implemented by Build a Bridge include Rwanda, Kenya, Haiti and other developing nations. There is a section on the website called, “ArtBlog,” that details stories of art educators and volunteers in the field that is very inspiring. The audience for this website is art educators, those seeking to volunteer, and anyone with an interest in multicultural issues in art programming and education.


Patrick Blanc is a scientist and a botanist and...an artist. He designs eco conscious architecture for public spaces, department stores and private living spaces all over the world. His vertical garden creations are more living paintings than gardens. They are composed of 3 distinct parts that work together: a metal frame, a PVC layer and felt. There is no soil involved. The plants’ roots adhere to the felt layer. The entire weight of these vertical garden are typically less than 30 kg per square meter which makes them feasible for any way without size limitation due to height. They are beautiful living creations to be enjoyed by all.