



B I O G R A P H Y

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PATTY PETREY DEES, *Distance Learning Program Director*

Dees has over 15 years experience in non-profit arts education. Graduating from Queens University in 1993 with a Bachelor of Arts in Art History, Summa Cum Laude, she continued her studies at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in the Continuing Studies program taking courses in Museum Studies, Art History, and Japanese. Dees' career in non-profit arts education began in the Education Department at the Mint Museum of Art, Charlotte, North Carolina. Simultaneously Dees secured a position at Charlotte's Levine Museum of the New South in the Education Department in 1993 and became the Education Special Projects and Volunteer Coordinator. Dees left both positions and accepted a teaching position in Kitakyushu, Japan where she taught as an English language instructor for the California Language Institute from 1995-1996.

Dees founded the Center's videoconferencing program, Distance Learning, in 1998 by request of the Executive Director. The Center was one of the first arts agencies in the nation to provide arts education programming via videoconferencing. This program has accumulated accolades from across the country. It is a recipient of the 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009 Teachers' Choice Award for Best Content Provider in Fine Arts; 2008 CILC Pinnacle Award, 2008 Jim Henson Community Award; 2008 Tech Laureate Award: Microsoft Education Category. The program has served 46 states, 3 countries, and over 150,000 participants.

Notable academic achievements in this position involve: publications in the *Puppetry Journal* and Chapter IV of *Videoconferencing Technology in K-12 Instruction: Best Practices and Trends*; presentations at state, national and international conferences such as National Education and Computing Conference (2009- Model Lesson Category: *Arts Infusion Through Interactive Videoconferencing*), the Keystone Conference, Technology in Education Conference, and Elevate 2008: Educational Videoconferencing-- highlighting puppetry in education and arts infusion through videoconferencing.

Dees chaired the state of Georgia's videoconferencing K-12 Content Provider Resource Group from 1999-2003. Dees' career also involves serving on the Content Advisory Board for the Center for Interactive Learning Collaboration, a national non-profit K-12 educational videoconferencing agency, and Learning Enhancement Centers, a California based educational videoconferencing agency. Most recently, Dees was selected as an approved consultant for the Georgia Council for the Arts. Prior to this position, Dees served as Education Director for the Center.

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The Center for Puppetry Arts is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization and is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts; the Georgia Council for the Arts through the appropriations of the Georgia General Assembly (the Council is a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts); and contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations. Major funding for the Center is provided by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners under the guidance of the Fulton County Arts Council. Major support is provided by the City of Atlanta Bureau of Cultural Affairs. The Center is a constituent of TCG and member of the Atlanta Coalition of Performing Arts. The Center also serves as headquarters of UNIMA-USA.

