

Confucius Institute at Troy University

Organizes Art Educators China Trip

From May 13 to May 24, 2012, Confucius Institute at Troy University (CIT) organized Art Educators China Trip. The Trip was co-sponsored by Troy University and Confucius Institute Headquarters, Beijing, China, organized by CIT. As one of the cultural programs launched by CIT, the trip made it possible for Alabama artists and educators to feel China at a great distance.

The nine art educators in the trip are from all walks of life in Alabama. They are either working for real arts by painting, or managing a museum, or working at universities or schools, doing the art teaching or helping the students know the art in the world.

The art educators China Trip was highlighted in three parts:

1. City visits

In the trip, educators visited Shanghai, Suzhou, Xi'an and Beijing.

Shanghai is a global city, with influence in commerce, culture, finance, media, fashion, technology, and transport. It is a major financial center and the busiest container port in the world. It has been described as the "showpiece" of the booming economy of mainland China.

Often dubbed the "Venice of China", Suzhou has over 2,500 years of rich history, and relics of the past are abundant to this day. The city's canals, stone bridges, pagodas, and meticulously designed gardens have contributed to its status as one of the top tourist attractions in China.



到达北京八达岭长城

On Great Wall in Beijing

As one of the oldest cities in China, with more than 3,100 years of history, Xi'an is one of the Four Great Ancient Capitals of China, having held the position under 13 important dynasties in Chinese history; Xi'an is also the eastern terminus of the Silk Road and home to the Terracotta Army.

Beijing is one of the Four Great Ancient Capitals of China, and it has been the political center of China for centuries. The city is renowned for its opulent palaces, temples, and huge stone walls and gates, and its art treasures and universities have made it a center of culture and art in China.

Alabama art educators were astounded by the diverse features of those cities, they not only enjoyed the sightseeing but also had a great fun in exploring the city by tasting the local food and trying to communicate with local people.

2. Academic exchange (**Suzhou University**,
Communication University of China)

The art educators visited two universities in China, Suzhou University (Suzhou, Jiangsu Province), and Communication University of China (Beijing).

Dr. Maryjo Cochran, Dean of College of Communication and Fine Arts at Troy University, respectively with Dean of Fine Arts, College of Suzhou University and Vice Chancellor of Communication University of China, discussed about the further possibilities of building a lasting relationship in education.

The partnership with Suzhou University could start with students that are new to teacher education (end of sophomore year); they will be allowed to participate in a cultural experience to China for 10-12 days. Toward the end of their teaching courses but before internship is allowed to participate in an immersion experience at Suzhou University for 3-6 weeks in the summer. Troy University part would like for the students to experience local secondary or elementary schools while participating in basic language or technology design courses in Suzhou.

With Communication University of China, Troy University would cooperate in using online resources to develop and share ideas, presentations, short films, animation, or commercial development. Troy could provide opportunities across the State of Alabama in museums and galleries as well as exposure to various technologies. Troy University is encouraging students at CUC who speak English to take the Master Level Online courses.

The two universities in China responded the cooperation positively; they expressed their willing to adopt specific procedures in future to make all the arts students benefit from the cooperation.

3. Pure art appreciation (Huo Baozhu workshop, Xi'an Tang Museum, Beijing Capital Museum, Hanban Headquarters)

Besides appreciating the city features and communicating with university authorities, the pure art appreciation, for art educators, were visiting a bronze sculpture workshop, museums as well as Confucius Institute Headquarters.

In the bronze sculpture workshop in Xi'an, Shannxi Province, the art educators were shown all the procedures of making a bronze sculpture. As Art bronzes today are cast using the very same process as that of ancient times. The high cost of a bronze sculpture is due to the many hours of hands-on-labor involved. After that, the art educators were taken to an exhibition hall where a lot of delicate Chinese culture featured art bronzes could took their breath away.

In museum visits in Xi'an and Beijing, the art educators appreciated Chinese ancient paintings, sculptures, porcelains and any other things that Chinese history could leave for today and future. Beside standing and looking, they were offered chances to sit and practice brush calligraphy in Tang Dynasty Art Museum. With the excitement of holding the brush with ink in their first time, they wrote down some simple Chinese characters and would like to take them home to show off.

The visit to Confucius Institute Headquarters benefited the group a lot. They were introduced the Confucius Institute development in the world, the characteristic art in Chinese history as well as all kinds of textbooks. The art group also enjoyed the zodiac animals they belonged to according to the year they were born.

The China Trip builds a bridge for the appreciation, inspiration and friendship between Alabama artists and Chinese people. Dr. Xu, Director of Confucius Institute at Troy University is busying with another China Trip, for more American People to get to know China.

特洛伊大学孔子学院

成功组织阿拉巴马州艺术家教育家中国之旅

5月13日至5月24日，阿拉巴马州艺术家教育家在中国进行了为期12天的参观访问。此次中国行是特洛伊大学孔子学院文化项目之一，由中国汉办总部和美国特洛伊大学联合资助，由特洛伊大学孔子学院组织和协助的，目的是为了阿拉巴马州艺术家和教育家亲身走进中国，感受中国。

艺术家们游览了四个中国著名的城市，国际化都市---上海，“中国威尼斯”的苏州，古城西安，首都北京。艺术家们在不同特色的城市之间流连忘返，他们不仅惊叹于城市风光和区域景致的独特，而且享受着地方食品的美味和与当地人交流的乐趣。

艺术教育代表团访问了中国国内两所比较著名的大学，苏州大学和中国传媒大学。

除了城市游览和学术交流外，特洛伊孔子学院特意为阿拉巴马州艺术家团安排了一系列具有中国文化特色的艺术活动。包括参观陕西元坤雕塑艺术有限公司，参观中国唐代博物馆和首都博物馆，以及参观北京孔子学院总部。阿拉巴马州艺术家教育家中国行只是孔子学院文化项目之一，之后会有更多的活动让更多的美国人了解中国。



艺术家代表团参观国家汉办

Artist Group Visiting Hanban



艺术家代表团在上海

Artist Group in Shanghai



艺术家团参观陕西元坤雕塑艺术公司

Artist Group visiting Yuan Kun Sculpture Art Company in Xi'an