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D.C. STEAM+ Professional Development Conference Opens Dialogue on Arts Education, Advocacy, and Global Engagement

July 28th to 30th, 2017 in Washington, D.C., hosted by [J Rêve International](#). Program aims to foster collaboration between interdisciplinary artists, programmers, policy makers and educators on issues relating to development, learning and the implementation of arts education.

WASHINGTON, D.C. May 15, 2017 -- The [J Rêve International](#) STEAM+ program champions arts education as a critical part of the learning process. To further that goal, the organization is hosting the STEAM+ Professional Development Program for multidisciplinary educators, artists and cultural programmers from July 28th to 30th, 2017, at Pepco Edison Place Gallery, 702 8th Street Northwest, LL2, in Washington, D.C.

J Rêve's educational programs span the globe, reaching students from Senegal, France, India, Dubai, Haiti, Mozambique to the US. The organization's STEAM+ initiative emphasizes the importance of education beyond Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). The added "A" and plus sign represent how adding arts to education enriches students in any discipline.

"Art is disappearing from the classroom even though studies show arts integration helps students succeed in school and in life," says Jacqueline Cofield, founder of J Rêve. "We've organized the STEAM+ Professional Development Program as a hands-on conference where participants will collaborate to produce tangible steps towards incorporating interdisciplinary arts into education."

According to research compiled by the University of Florida, students who engage in art programs perform better on math tasks. For instance, students who took music appreciation scored [61 points higher](#) on their SAT verbal section than their peers. Yet the same study says art in the classroom has [declined by 20%](#).

In March 2017, Cofield was [invited to the U.S. Department of Education](#) to attend "Full STEAM Ahead: Educational Summit on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics," a program of the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African Americans. The department will host participants in the July conference for a tour and a discussion on STEAM education.

J Rêve International brings together artists, educators, programmers, students, and advocates who are passionate about the role that arts and creativity play in education and our lives globally. J Rêve International cultivates creativity by educating and equipping current and future leaders with skills, experiences, network and knowledge necessary to be meaningfully creative.

RESOURCES

STEAM+ Conference Website: jrevesteam.com

J Rêve International website: jreveinternational.com

Conference Registration: [Eventbrite](#)

Conference Information Package: [PDF](#)

Bios of Conference Speakers and Hosts: [Word and JPG](#)

Access High-Resolution Photos of J Rêve students around the world: [Google Drive](#)

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