

**Putnam County School
Exhibition Committee
“Eyes of Shona”
November 17, 2010**

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the status of each Putnam school’s implementation of Shona into their curriculum in preparation for “Eyes of Shona,” the second annual student curated exhibition produced by MMoFA (Madison Museum of Fine Art) and scheduled for Feb 3, 2011. The exhibition follows the same format as the 2010 MMoFA -Putnam collaboration “South of Broadway: Paintings and Etchings by Alexander Z. Kruse.”

Each school gave a report beginning with Felicia at the Primary School. She introduced Shona to her students by presenting posters and photographs of Shona sculptures. The second graders at the Primary School have created sculptures using soap, Playdough, papier mache, and modeling clay. Holly has encouraged students to write about their sculptures using descriptive language. Dr. Harris has introduced the science concept through a discussion of the stone used in Shona sculptures. Mrs. Drawdy has introduced the county of Zimbabwe to her students and is reinforcing it with pictures and maps showing the location of the country.

At the Middle School, Shona has been introduced by Maryann Bruno to the students who are using wood to carve sculptures. Julie Wade will involve students as she begins to create a webpage for the Shona Collection including information, photographs, and pictures of Shona or students working on related topics.

At the High School, Paige has talked with J.R. Beckwith about a musical arrangement to play during the opening night of the gala exhibition. She will implement Shona into pottery allowing students to create sculptures. Seth Hines has already introduced a historical aspect of Shona and Zimbabwe to his students. Wendee Little has begun a literacy interpretation of Shona culture. Mrs. Newsome has approached Shona through a mathematical aspect emphasizing calculus. Jamie Stewart is using math concepts as students measure, weigh, etc. the Shona sculptures. Dr. Chapman is using the sculptures to involve science and geological aspects. Julie Deraney has already taught her students several South African chants and will work with J. R. to continue this approach via music. Julie Deraney will assist with the Shona theme by requiring the girls’ choir to wear black skirts or pants and white shirts or tops to the performance on opening night. She will work towards obtaining brightly colored fabric, Kinte cloth to drape around the girls in an effort to create costumes for the evening event. Julie D. will talk with Mrs. Ida Jackson about involving her students in a dance performance on opening night. Hopefully, Cathy Benton will be able to work on displays similar to the ones she created last year with the previous exhibit. Paige will create credit lines but needs information to allow her to complete this assignment. Science and mathematical information will be used in the credit lines.

For the gala evening, the Middle School will produce the Western Society-art, science, social studies, music, and culture of the late 1960's into which Shona sculpture was introduced by Frank McEwen. The High School will produce the ancient Great Zimbabwe City Stone Wall display. The Primary School will produce the animals and plants of Zimbabwe wall. And the Elementary School will produce the domestic wall of village huts. Everyone is eager to receive the Shona sculptures at their schools to create interest and excitement among faculty and students. Also, the question was posed about decorating and arranging the exhibits for opening night. Some conversation occurred about creating either a banner or mural on some of the walls. Or, perhaps cloth could be draped on the walls.

The refreshments at opening night will include red Hi-C Fruit Punch, peanut butter, and maybe sweet potato chips.