

THE PRINCIPAL REASON

My name is Noel Paul Stookey (yes, the one who used to sing with PETER, PAUL and MARY) and I'm hoping the purposeful misuse of the word in the title above has caught your eye long enough for me to bring attention to the importance of your completing the Maine Arts Education 2016 Census.

As educators equipped to understand and facilitate the value of the arts in education, you are the prime directors. And not just as administrators, but as visionaries who recognize how the arts uniquely encourage a personal desire for education.

For me music has been a doorway to understanding relationships of all kinds; from mathematical to social - from the intricacies of technology to the metaphorical abstracts of the sung word. I am certain your perception (and subsequent knowledge) of the world around you has been similarly formed and tempered through engagement with the arts.

Because the arts are an expression of our reaction to the world around us, it is imperative that we attempt to quantify its value in education so that we may better judge the degree to which it might guide us and inspire us. As an appointed Champion for the Maine Arts Education 2016 Census, I encourage you to 'pay forward' your thankfulness by completing the survey immediately!

It's the principle reason I'm writing you today...

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Noel Paul Stookey". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a prominent initial "N" and "P".

Noel Paul Stookey