

February 2, 2007

MPS Partnership for the Arts moves forward ***\$1 million matching funds grant expanding arts programs***



The Milwaukee Board of School Directors had previously approved the allocation of \$1 million in public money to support arts education activities for the 2006-07 school year and summer 2007. The funds are now being released as dollar-for-dollar new resources are received from outside MPS to support projects or activities. The goal is to secure new and additional resources to support arts-related activities. The primary goals of the MPS Partnership for the arts are to expand arts-related experiences for Milwaukee's children and youth, increase the number of enriching activities that connect the arts to academic learning, and to strengthen existing and establish new community partnerships.

Thirty projects were approved by the Board of School Directors totaling approximately \$850,000 which will provide Arts education experiences for nearly 18,000 students in more than 95 Milwaukee Public Schools.

"We have recognized the importance of arts programs for our students," said Jennifer Morales, School Board member. "Thanks to the passion and commitment of our community partners we are able to expand arts programs."

"The MPS Partnership for the Arts will open doors for thousands of young people by providing unprecedented access to multidisciplinary arts education," said Cecilia Davis, Community Partnership Manager, Milwaukee Youth Arts Center. "We at the Milwaukee Youth Arts Center are thrilled about this testament to MPS's strong commitment to arts education."



A wide variety of arts education experiences will be provided to Milwaukee's children, including: instrumental music, visual art, children's theater, dance, ceramics, multicultural Arts, ballet, children's choir, poetry, stained glass, pre-college art classes, summer Arts camps, and

Arts programs, p. 2

more. Community arts partners include the Milwaukee Youth Arts Center, Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra, First Stage Children's Theater, Danceworks, Inc., Milwaukee Children's Choir, Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee, Arts @ Large, Inc., Wisconsin Conservatory of Music, Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design, Walker's Point Center for the Arts, UWM Peck School of Arts, H.G.A. Architects, Artists Working in Education, Milwaukee Public Theatre, Ko-Thi Dance Company, Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, Organic Arts Ltd., Milwaukee Ballet, Woodland Pattern Book Center, Our Next Generation, Inc., Piano Arts of Wisconsin, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Inc., and the YMCA of Metro Milwaukee, and other local artists.

The Milwaukee Board of School Directors approved the following six contracts with community arts partners at its meeting on February 1, 2007:

Milwaukee Youth Arts Center, \$150,000 – Approximately 500 students citywide will participate in Arts programs, including the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra (MYSO), String Orchestra Central, Steel Drum Program, introductory MYSO Progressions program, Latino Arts strings program, Festival City Symphony, First Stage Children's Theater, Milwaukee Youth Arts Center Arts Camp, Danceworks, Milwaukee Children's Choir, African American Children's Theatre, and the City Ballet Theatre. Program services will be conducted during the spring semester and summer of 2007.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee, \$129,188 – Approximately 2,300 students will be provided Arts education experiences at 22 sites, including 15 Community Learning Centers during the spring semester and summer of 2007. Programming will be conducted by art specialists at CLC sites, along with the involvement of professional artists from organizations such as the Milwaukee Public Theatre, Milwaukee Art Museum, Project Non-Violence, Urban Anthropology, Inc., and others. Another component of the project includes a week-long summer Arts camp for 125 children.

Arts @ Large, Inc., \$78,550 – This Arts equity project will provide services in a model designed to build an Arts-rich environment in MPS schools without art specialists or who have only 0.1 FTE art specialist. Approximately 2,000 students in four MPS schools will receive Arts education experiences through a variety of community Arts partners, integrating performing, visual, and literary Arts across the academic curriculum.

Wisconsin Conservatory of Music, \$70,000 – Approximately 630 students citywide will be provided Arts education experiences through four summer music programs: Saturday music centers, MPS middle school band camp; individual instruction scholarships, and summer music outreach programming. The program will be led by faculty from the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music.

Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design, \$60,000 – Approximately 173 students from 13 schools will have the opportunity to participate in MIAD's Saturday and summer pre-college programs to develop skills in art and design. The project supports the tuition, transportation, meals and supplies for students to study with professional artists and designers in a college setting.

Danceworks, Inc., \$60,000 – Approximately 1,000 students from 9 schools will participate in dance and Arts programs, which include school days off creative workshops and summer creative Arts camps. In addition, students citywide will participate in the Mad Hot Ballroom dance program.

A second application due date is set for March 15, 2007. Approximately \$150,000 will be available at that time. For more information contact Roseann St. Aubin, Director, Office of Communications and Public Affairs, at (414) 475-8237.

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Office of Communications and Public Affairs

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