

10<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY

2007  
*awards*



COMING UP  
TALLER  
YOUTH • ARTS  
HUMANITIES

COMING UP  
**TALLER**

# Acknowledgments

The participation of the following businesses, foundations, and organizations in supporting the 10th anniversary of the Coming Up Taller Awards has been indispensable.

Cherner Lincoln, Mercury, Isuzu, and Kia  
Elizabeth and Richard Dubin Foundation  
GMAC Financial Services  
Miller & Long Co., Inc.  
Members, President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities  
Ministry of Culture, People's Republic of China  
Surdna Foundation, Inc.  
The U.S.–Mexico Foundation for Culture, with special support from the Comex Group, Fundación Coca-Cola, and United Airlines  
Time Warner Inc.  
Vin and Caren Prothro Foundation

We recognize and appreciate all contributors listed on page 66 whose assistance enabled Coming Up Taller to reach its 10th anniversary.

## **GMAC FINANCIAL SERVICES**

## **TimeWarner**

With gratitude, the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities acknowledges GMAC Financial Services and Time Warner Inc. for their leadership commitment to arts and education. Their generous contributions play a significant role in the success of the Coming Up Taller program and make this publication possible.

Special thanks go to the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies for its partnership in coordinating the Coming Up Taller program.

The following individuals are central to the success of this initiative:

Carmen Boston, National Assembly of State Arts Agencies  
Wilsonia Cherry, National Endowment for the Humanities  
Candace Katz, President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities  
Marsha Semmel, Institute of Museum and Library Services  
Traci Slater-Rigaud, President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities  
Anthony Tighe, National Endowment for the Arts

Permission to copy, disseminate, or otherwise use information from this booklet is granted as long as appropriate acknowledgment is given.

Contact the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities for copies of this publication:

### **President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities**

1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Suite 526  
Washington, DC 20506

Phone: 202-682-5409

Fax: 202-682-5668

E-mail: [pcah@pcah.gov](mailto:pcah@pcah.gov)

URL: [www.cominguptaller.org](http://www.cominguptaller.org)  
[www.pcah.gov](http://www.pcah.gov)

## CREDITS

Writers: Carol Dana, Traci Slater-Rigaud

Editors: Jayson Hait, Traci Slater-Rigaud, Tidings Chan

Design: fuzion

Printing: Fannon

Coming Up Taller Logo Design: Time Warner Inc.

“There is no way to fast forward and know how the kids will look back on this, but I have seen the joy in their eyes and have heard it in their voices, and I have watched them take a bow and Come Up Taller.”

## WILLIE REALE

Founder, **The 52nd Street Project**, describing the impact of this theater program on youth living in Hell's Kitchen, a neighborhood in New York City

# a note from

## FIRST LADY LAURA BUSH

**Honorary Chairman**  
President's Committee on  
the Arts and the Humanities

Congratulations on the 10th anniversary of the  
Coming Up Taller Awards!

Shakespeare once said, "We know what we are but  
know not what we may become." The achievements of  
the 2007 award winners show that there is no limit to  
what our children can become.

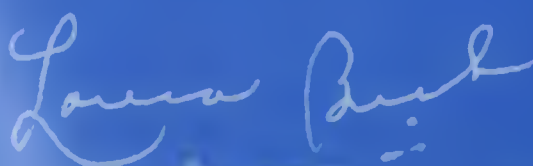
After-school programs provide opportunities for  
young people to express their creativity and experience  
new and exciting adventures. From retracing the steps  
of pioneers journeying west and exploring the history  
of the Renaissance for a production of *Macbeth*, to  
creating new visions of neighborhood life through  
street photography, these extraordinary programs  
enrich, inspire, and kindle the imagination of children  
across the nation.

For a decade, the Coming Up Taller Awards have  
recognized the nation's most exemplary after-school  
and out-of-school cultural programs. And behind  
every successful program are adult leaders who provide  
safe environments for youth to grow and learn.

I've seen firsthand during my travels for the  
President's Helping America's Youth Initiative the  
important role caring adults play in the lives of children.  
My thanks and admiration go to the adult leaders of  
each Coming Up Taller program for your dedication to  
helping America's children realize their full potential.

As Honorary Chair of the President's Committee on  
the Arts and the Humanities, I join the members of the  
Committee, the Institute of Museum and Library  
Services, the National Endowment for the Arts,  
and the National Endowment for the Humanities in  
celebrating this year's awardees and the decade of  
contributions Coming Up Taller programs have made  
to the United States and countries around the world.

With best wishes,



# a note from

## ADAIR MARGO

Chairman

President's Committee on  
the Arts and the Humanities

This is the 10th anniversary of the Coming Up Taller Awards, given annually to exemplary arts and humanities programs for children outside the regular school day. When we gather for these awards, we are reminded of why they are so appropriately named. As we watch the children sing, play instruments, and dance, we witness for ourselves how, when they take their final bow, they are Coming Up Taller.

It's encouraging to know that these programs are growing across the United States and in other countries, too. Children in the United States, Mexico, and China are all learning songs, dances, and how to play a guitar—or *erhu*. They learn their own traditions and those of other cultures, too. Our young performers remind us that it doesn't matter if they become professional artists or choose another road. Arts education is about creating whole human beings!

*Bienvenidos* to our friends from Mexico who are joining us at the White House for the fifth year. Also, 欢迎 to our friends from the People's Republic of China whom we met in their own country last June. Performances at the Shanghai Children's Palace will remain one of our lasting memories.

We are grateful to our partner cultural agencies—the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Humanities—who have made it a priority to reach out to other parts of the world with their outstanding programs. We also thank all of our contributors, especially GMAC, Time Warner, and the members of the President's Committee, for giving of themselves and their resources to make this program possible.

Adair Margo

# 10 YEARS

## 10 VOICES

“When the First Lady of our nation hands an award to a Coming Up Taller program, we all celebrate and validate the talent and hard work of the adults and young people in them and reaffirm the critical importance of the arts and humanities to how children live their lives and the attitudes, knowledge, and skills they carry forward into adulthood.”

Judith Weitz, Founding Coordinator, Coming Up Taller

“With Coming Up Taller programs, children look to the sky and see themselves in the universe. I think the energy and the mission of these programs reverberate all throughout the country and the world, ensuring that we leave a balanced footprint that says—Nothing moves forward without creativity.”

Debbie Allen, Emmy award-winning dancer, choreographer, actress, director, producer, and PCAH member

“Being a part of the Book Group at Family Focus means a lot to me because reading expands my mind and helps me to write—gives and shows me different points of view. Reading takes me to a different world.”

Cynthia Garcia, participant, Book Group Programs at Family Focus, 2005 Coming Up Taller Award winner

“Anyone who has watched a student film, listened to a high school jazz band, or seen the face of a teenager taking bows after performing in a play already knows what the arts can mean to a young person. The Coming Up Taller Awards shine a spotlight on some of the top youth arts programs from across the country. And in so doing, help us all see—and celebrate—the power of the arts to engage, energize, and encourage our youth and enrich our communities.”

Lisa M. Quiroz, Senior Vice President, Corporate Responsibility, Time Warner Inc.

“The Coming Up Taller Awards show us what excellence looks like. By shining a bright light on the nation’s best youth development arts programming, they illuminate what’s possible and inspire us to do more than we ever thought we could.”

Gigi Antoni, Executive Director, Big Thought

“There are a lot of choices for kids after school today, and most of them have little to do with homework. By giving these students access to a world of literature and dance and art, these terrific programs give them another choice, opening up their minds and offering them a window into a good, well-considered life.”

Anne-Imelda M. Radice, Director, Institute of Museum and Library Services

“Over the past 10 years, the Coming Up Taller Awards have turned a spotlight on the power of the arts to transform young lives. By providing training in the arts, these programs are not only awakening creativity and innovation, but also helping thousands of young people to develop into complete human beings capable of leading successful and productive lives in a free society.”

Dana Gioia, Chairman, National Endowment for the Arts

“The intellectual and emotional rewards of learning that come from reading and interpreting good books, from exploring one’s history and place in the world, and from developing new ways of understanding oneself and one’s larger community can and, certainly, should continue long after the school day or school year ends. In its 10-year history, Coming Up Taller has showcased models of excellence in out-of-school programs, thereby inspiring others to use innovative and creative ways to reach young people and to help them to attain such rewards.”

Bruce Cole, Chairman, National Endowment for the Humanities

“Coming Up Taller Awards have spotlighted and leveraged resources for programs that provide thousands of boys and girls with learning in the arts and humanities unavailable to them in any other way. The great impact of these awards and the programs they honor is reflected in sponsorship for an increasing number of them and the growing participation of other nations.”

Jonathan Katz, CEO, National Assembly of State Arts Agencies

“The organizations recognized by the Coming Up Taller Awards deliver hope wrapped in programs that help kids think, reason, understand, and engage through values of tolerance, compassion, hard work, and goal setting. We believe our nation’s future—our leaders, artists, writers, musicians, educators, and entrepreneurs—depends on the investment these excellent programs make in the lives and talents of our youth.”

Henry Moran, Executive Director, President’s Committee on the Arts and the Humanities

Below: Youthlight students Mikaela Aguirre (left) and Maya Salazar practice video composition techniques.



# DISCOVERY

## TRAILS PROGRAM

### ACCESSIBLE ARTS, INC.

1100 State Avenue  
Kansas City, KS 66102-4411

Phone: 913-281-1133  
Fax: 913-281-1515  
E-mail: [ecraig@accessiblearts.org](mailto:ecraig@accessiblearts.org)  
URL: [www.accessiblearts.org](http://www.accessiblearts.org)

*"Metaphorically, this program blazes a new trail of opportunity for the blind and visually impaired. Similar to the pioneers who trekked across challenging domains, the young women and men who complete this adventure demonstrate to themselves and the world how being different is not a barrier to success, but a motivation for achievement."*

*Arnie Abels, psychologist, University of Missouri at Kansas City, and member of the board of directors, Accessible Arts, Inc.*





Left: Josh Sisson repairs a wagon wheel at Shawnee Mission. Top: Trekkers climb Chimney Rock near Bayard, Nebraska. Below: The group follows Donner Party's aquatic path in Alcove Spring, Kansas.

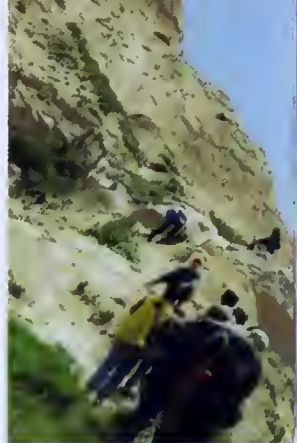
Every spring, a group of blind or visually impaired youth spends two weeks retracing the steps of pioneers who journeyed west. Through this program, called Discovery Trails, these teens and young adults are doing something pioneering themselves. They're confronting new situations and challenges and discovering personal strengths, courage, and abilities many did not know they possessed.

The group travels in a "wagon train," comprising several minivans, along portions of the Oregon or Santa Fe trails. To focus the group's experience, the organizers choose an eventful year from the mid-1800s and explore what actually happened to pioneers who ventured west during that year. Participants read excerpts from pioneer journals and meet with local historians and authors for additional insights into an area's history and geography. Along the way, these contemporary "pioneers" experience some of the challenges that their predecessors faced, such as hiking canyons, fording rivers, and repairing broken wagon wheels.

Accessible Arts, Inc., a Kansas City, Kansas, organization that promotes educational and arts activities for children with disabilities, sponsors Discovery Trails in partnership with the Kansas State School for the Blind. Several historians and artist-educators accompany the group, designing additional activities to engage the participants' imaginations and senses. Students might touch the names of pioneers carved into rock, plant flowers on a pioneer's grave, or sculpt miniature replicas of geological formations.

The group camps for the night along a portion of the trail, and everyone shares in the camp chores. Campfires are times for storytelling and improvisational drama, with the modern-day trekkers taking on the roles of pioneer figures and interpreting their historical contributions.

A professional videographer accompanies the group, recording the adventures and creating a video journal for participants to share with friends and family when they return. The organizers encourage the adventurers to give presentations about their trip to local school and civic groups. Such activities enable participants to share what they've learned, while challenging stereotypes about persons with disabilities. "Often, visually impaired teens are asked only about their blindness," points out Program Coordinator Eleanor Craig. "The trip gives them expertise in something else—the history and culture of pioneer times."



Photographers: Accessible Arts, Jeff Young

**FOCUS:** MULTIDISCIPLINARY  
**ANNUAL NUMBER PARTICIPATING:** 15–18  
**AGES:** 13–20  
**ANNUAL BUDGET:** \$65,000

# DREAMS

## CENTER FOR ARTS EDUCATION

### DREAMS OF WILMINGTON, INC.

515 Ann Street  
Wilmington, NC 28402

Phone: 910-772-1501  
Fax: 910-772-1504  
E-mail: [dreamsprogram@ec.rr.com](mailto:dreamsprogram@ec.rr.com)  
URL: [www.dreamswilmington.org](http://www.dreamswilmington.org)

*"We've seen a huge turnaround for the students because here are people saying, 'What you have to say matters. What you want to paint matters.' And, instead of identifying themselves as bad kids, a lot of these kids are now saying, 'I'm an artist.'"*

*Emily Colin, Associate Director, Dreams of Wilmington, Inc.*



Left: Brandon Mitchell and Matthew Kennedy paint a mural for a dialysis center. Top: Ebony DesChamps performs. Below: Adam Chandler's African dance at a spring showcase.

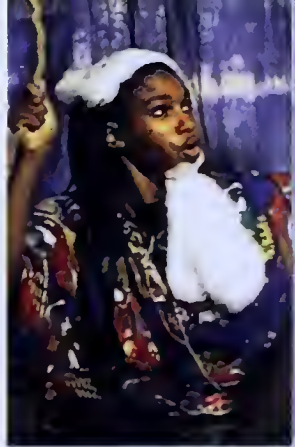
The way one participant describes it, the DREAMS Center for Arts Education provides "an escape route to my creative side." That is an apt portrayal of a program that reaches out to underserved students in Wilmington, North Carolina. Two social workers with backgrounds in the arts created DREAMS a decade ago. Today, the program not only provides a safe haven at sites around the city, but also an avenue to a broader sense of self and possibility.

This ambitious, multifaceted program offers free daytime, after-school, and summer classes in music, visual arts, literature, dance, and theater to more than 500 youth each week. Sessions take place at the organization's inner-city center, as well as at schools, recreation centers, public housing sites, and a county treatment facility for adjudicated youth.

Through classes such as African dance, drumming, and mask making, students connect with their cultural and artistic heritage. Theater classes offer opportunities to explore such issues as social justice, while learning presentation and collaboration skills. Students in mural painting classes expand artistic skills as they deepen their connections with the community, designing murals for a broad range of locations, from an elementary school to a dialysis center. Young poets, meanwhile, experience the pride of seeing their poems displayed on city buses, thanks to a partnership with the city transportation department.

Regardless of the medium, the program's goal is to use the arts to address the deeper psychological and social roots that underlie poverty, drug abuse, and crime. "Society has given up on a lot of these kids. They feel like they don't belong anywhere," explains Associate Director Emily Colin. "When they come here, they are viewed as young people who have something to offer. They feel a sense of connection, creation, imagination, validation. DREAMS is a place where they can receive recognition by doing something meaningful and positive. They don't have to act out to get another individual to pay attention."

DREAMS participants spend an average of 300 hours immersed in the arts each year. As a result, they perform better in school, are more confident, and are less likely to engage in delinquent behaviors. In an endorsement of the program's effectiveness, the University of North Carolina-Wilmington has even established a scholarship program specifically for DREAMS graduates.



Photographers: Emily Colin, DREAMS Center

**FOCUS:** MULTIDISCIPLINARY  
**ANNUAL NUMBER PARTICIPATING:** 580  
**AGES:** 8-17  
**ANNUAL BUDGET:** \$228,700

# JUNIOR DOCENT PROGRAM

## HUDSON RIVER MUSEUM

511 Warburton Avenue  
Yonkers, NY 10701

Phone: 914-963-4550  
Fax: 914-963-8558  
E-mail: [rkraus@hrm.org](mailto:rkraus@hrm.org)  
URL: [www.hrm.org](http://www.hrm.org)

*"We're given responsibility and have to be on task. The experiences and conversations you have with people are really helpful."*

*Junior Docent Program participant*



Left: Mariah Cameron describes the Philipse Manor Hall exhibition to her family. Top: Adolescent Access Art Club members display collages. Below: Cresse Cross-Beard and Nathalie Mejia lead a camp group.

To meet an urgent need for after-school activities for teens, the Hudson River Museum began working with the Yonkers Public School District to launch the Museum's Junior Docent Program in 1995. The program provides a worthwhile after-school and weekend destination for nearly 80 middle and high school students. It offers learning experiences that give these young people valuable new skills, improving both their personal and academic lives.

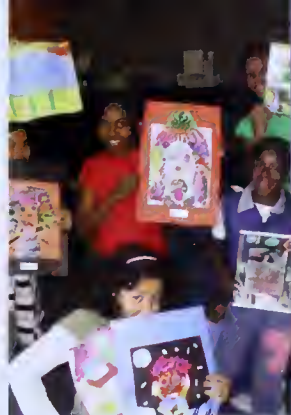
To prepare for their docent roles, students undergo an ongoing intensive training process. One afternoon a week after school, they work with curators to learn about the Museum's exhibitions, which focus on the art, history, and ecological environment of the region. The junior docents also meet with teaching artists to explore the media and techniques used in the paintings. In addition, participants' training includes field trips to local cultural institutions and role-playing exercises that teach them how to interact with visitors and respond to challenging situations.

Once trained, junior docents lead weekend tours and help run family-oriented, hands-on workshops linked to the exhibitions. In the summer, they work with the Museum's camp programs. Students who are 14 or older receive payment for their work. The Museum provides many participants with their first job experience.

"This is a source of great pride and sense of accomplishment for them, as the students are able to share all that they've learned about the art in the galleries and the history and cultural movements behind it," notes Rebecca Kraus, manager of youth and family programs. "Even more, the students hone their social, personal, and professional skills, gaining the self-confidence, maturity, and poise required to lead visitors of all ages."

One measure of the program's impact is its retention rate. Participants stay in the program an average of five years, spending more than 750 hours in arts, humanities, and science activities. The bonds that form among the program's diverse participants help to break down stereotypes, foster increased tolerance, and create a positive peer group, Kraus points out.

The responsibility, focus, and self-confidence that the students gain from the program also benefit them in their academic lives. To date, all participants who have stayed in the program through their senior year have completed high school and gone on to college.



Photographer: Hudson River Museum

**FOCUS:** MUSEUM

**ANNUAL NUMBER PARTICIPATING:** 75

**AGES:** 13-18

**ANNUAL BUDGET:** \$102,900

# LA PILITA

## YOUTH DOCENT PROGRAM

### LA PILITA ASSOCIATION

420 South Main Avenue  
Tucson, AZ 85701

Phone: 520-882-7454  
E-mail: [lapilita@qwest.net](mailto:lapilita@qwest.net)  
URL: [www.lapilita.com](http://www.lapilita.com)

"The first time I heard one of your fifth graders tell us the story of the El Tiradito shrine—struggling to get it just right—a warm glow came into my heart."

James E. Turner, historian, Arizona Historical Society



Left: Jacob Mejias welcomes visitors to the Museum. Top: Gabriel Lujan creates a birdhouse from a gourd. Below: Victoria Villanueva plants marigolds for use in an upcoming exhibition.



Visitors to La Pilita Museum in Tucson, Arizona, are often “surprised and charmed” when they see who will be leading their Museum tour, says Executive Director Carol Cribbet-Bell. That’s because this Museum, which celebrates and preserves the history of Barrio Viejo, one of the city’s oldest neighborhoods, has trained a cadre of elementary school children to lead site tours.

The Docent Program evolved out of a partnership with the nearby Carrillo Elementary School to provide after-school enrichment and community service opportunities for its students, some of whom come from lower-income families. The Museum has adult staff and volunteers, but no adult docents, and relies on youngsters for this service. “We have the philosophy that if you give children real-life work and real-life opportunities, that makes a difference in their lives,” Cribbet-Bell explains. “It translates into real learning.”

Plus, the colorful tales associated with the neighborhood mesmerize the young interpreters. They enjoy thrilling visitors with the lore surrounding El Tiradito. According to legend, a murder occurred at this historic site. El Tiradito has evolved into a shrine, where people believe that their wishes come true. The docents also eagerly recount stories of the Hohokam, Apache, and early pioneers associated with the area. These youngsters may recite the stories in their own way, “as long as they get the facts right,” Cribbet-Bell adds.

As part of their docent training, students visit the Museum four days a week after school and spend time learning about the exhibits and the area’s history. To earn the right to wear the blue “master docent” vest and cap, the youth must demonstrate their ability to present site tours, play roles in the Museum’s “Readers’ Theater” presentations, tend the Museum’s cactus garden, and even run the gift shop’s cash register.

Students are expected to log 50 to 100 service hours per year, during the three-year program. In the course of their work with the Museum, the youngsters develop greater self-confidence. In addition, as the participants learn more about the area’s history, they tend to form deeper cultural connections and express greater interest in their families’ roots. As one parent said of her son’s experience, “We have wonderful discussions about Tucson history. Our whole family has learned so much!”

Photographer: Carol Cribbet-Bell

**FOCUS:** MUSEUM

**ANNUAL NUMBER PARTICIPATING:** 18–25

**AGES:** 8–11

**ANNUAL BUDGET:** \$10,000

# PLAYWRIGHT MENTORING PROJECT

## BARRINGTON STAGE COMPANY, INC.

30 Union Street  
Pittsfield, MA 01201

Phone: 413-499-5446

Fax: 413-499-5447

E-mail: [nmeehan@barringtonstageco.org](mailto:nmeehan@barringtonstageco.org)

URL: [www.barringtonstageco.org](http://www.barringtonstageco.org)

“The artistic mentor created an environment where we were all comfortable talking about things that were bothering us. We all realized that a lot of the issues we are facing individually, we were also facing together.”

*A Playwright Mentoring Project participant*





Left: A trio of Playwright Mentoring Project students stage a rehearsal. Top: Members of the Lee Latino PMP Group. Below: A teen participant brings his original play, based on personal experience, to life.

Through Barrington Stage Company's groundbreaking Playwright Mentoring Project (PMP), the issues that trouble teens at home and school don't remain suppressed. Instead, during an intensive seven-month after-school program, the teens take difficult material from their personal lives and—with help from theater artists and mental health professionals—transform it into compelling dramas that express the truth of their lives.

Located in one of the poorest areas of Massachusetts, the Pittsfield-based Barrington Stage Company initiated the project as part of its commitment to use the tools of theater to create measurable change in the lives of area youth. Schools, guidance counselors, and human services agencies refer students to the program, which operates in five sites in Berkshire County. Many of the participants are struggling with such issues as substance abuse, family violence, teen pregnancy, and school failure.

An artistic mentor, a playwright, and peer mentors compose a team that guides the youth through a series of exercises to develop improvisation, storytelling, and conflict-resolution skills. As trust develops, participants begin to share incidents from their lives. Then, the teens work with the staff to craft selected stories into 45-minute plays that they perform for the community. A mental health counselor is available throughout the process to help participants deal with difficult issues that emerge during the sessions.

PMP provides the students with key elements that are often missing in their day-to-day lives: focus, discipline, and positive relationships with authority figures. The plays that they create out of their experiences also give them an opportunity to reexamine their options and find new approaches. For example, one teen commented: "It wasn't until we did the pregnancy scene that I understood what a bad idea it would be to have a baby as a teenager."

In addition, the public performances provide recognition and validation that are often missing in the teens' lives. "They always say, 'No one ever listens to me,'" remarks Nicole Mechan, director of development for the Barrington Stage Company. By helping the youth express themselves and experience the world differently, PMP can fuel their resolve to take on other challenges.

Surveys have found that after completing the program, teens attend school more regularly; increase their involvement in extracurricular activities; and take extra precautions to avoid risky, self-damaging behavior. Many who had planned to drop out have gone on to complete high school, and some have even won scholarships to prestigious universities.



Photographer: Barrington Stage Company

**FOCUS:** THEATER

**ANNUAL NUMBER PARTICIPATING:** 48

**AGES:** 14–18

**ANNUAL BUDGET:** \$90,298

# RICHMOND

## BOYS CHOIR

200 South Third Street  
Richmond, VA 23219

Phone: 804-788-6404  
Fax: 804-788-6413  
E-mail: [billy@richmondboyschoir.org](mailto:billy@richmondboyschoir.org)  
URL: [www.richmondboyschoir.org](http://www.richmondboyschoir.org)

*"The choir's program of musical, academic, and personal development is designed to help boys mature to men who are not only finely trained musicians, but also leaders and role models in our local and global communities."*

*Billy Dye, Artistic Director, Richmond Boys Choir*



Left: Spring concert gospel soloist Joel Walters.  
Top: An ensemble performance. Below: Carl  
McClatchie shares the history of the holiday carol  
*Silent Night* at a public library concert.

In Richmond, Virginia, the Richmond Boys Choir is helping youth avoid risky behavior by using music, performance opportunities, and academic support to open their eyes to a world of wider possibilities.

Students must pass an audition to become a member of the choir. In twice-weekly rehearsals and an intensive weeklong summer camp, the choir members learn to read music and study rhythm, pitch, and harmony. Although many joined the choir without any formal music training, they soon master a broad repertoire that includes everything from classical pieces and spirituals to Broadway tunes.

The high point for most of the participants is the opportunity to travel and perform with the award-winning choir, which presents up to 25 concerts each season in Richmond, as well as across Virginia and in nearby states. In addition to performing at church concerts and with symphonies and ballet companies, choir members have had the chance to appear with such celebrity artists as Al Jarreau, James Brown, The Temptations, and Wynton Marsalis. This year, they performed for Queen Elizabeth at the opening ceremonies of Jamestown's 400th anniversary.

Because choir members are serving as unofficial ambassadors for the city, they receive coaching in how to conduct themselves in a variety of settings. They've learned the protocol for greeting the Queen, proper table manners when dining at a formal banquet, and how to interact with diverse audiences at post-performance receptions. Furthermore, since choir members range in age from 7 to 17, the older choir members are asked to "adopt" younger members, giving them tips on music and deportment and even teaching them how to tie their ties.

The choir also stresses academics, offering weekly study/homework sessions to help students keep up their grades. Members must maintain at least a C+ average to perform with the choir.

Although only a portion of the choir members pursue music-related careers, they all learn skills that help them grow into well-rounded, responsible adults. The choir teaches teamwork, endurance, and patience and provides experience in successfully tackling difficult tasks.

"When we approach some of those more complicated works, they look at all of those pages and are overwhelmed at first," comments Artistic Director Billy Dye. "But then, when they get to the last measure, they realize, 'Oh my goodness, I did that!'" He adds, "I like to think we're preparing them for life."



Photographer: Addie Jones

**FOCUS:** MUSIC

**ANNUAL NUMBER PARTICIPATING:** 39–45

**AGES:** 7–17

**ANNUAL BUDGET:** \$169,000

# RITMO EN ACCIÓN

## YOUTH DANCE INITIATIVE

### HYDE SQUARE TASK FORCE

375 Centre Street  
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

Phone: 617-524-8303  
Fax: 617-524-2747  
E-mail: [claudio@hydesquare.org](mailto:claudio@hydesquare.org)  
URL: [www.hydesquare.org](http://www.hydesquare.org)

“The program staff seems to strike that difficult balance of loving support and rigorous expectations. The young participants are getting top-notch dance instruction, opportunities to perform across the city, the encouragement to take themselves seriously as leaders, and ongoing support in academic progress and overall development.”

H. Mark Smith, YouthReach Program Manager, Massachusetts Cultural Council



Left: Performers at the Hyde Square Task Force Annual Meeting. Top: Shaking it up during the Ritmo Cultural Showcase, May 2007. Below: Dance students strike a pose.

Dance might not be the first method many would think of to combat high crime, violence, and low student achievement in a tough inner-city neighborhood. But in Boston's Hyde/Jackson Square neighborhood—considered one of the most dangerous in the city—an innovative Latin dance program is proving a positive draw for children and teens, one with benefits that go beyond simply keeping youth off the streets.

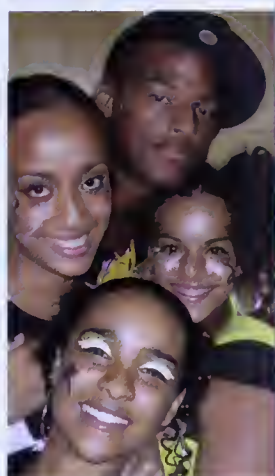
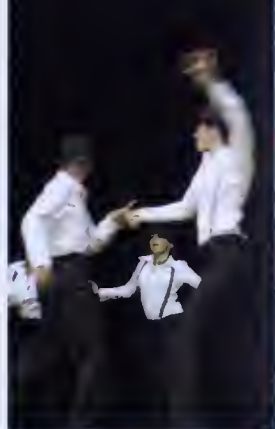
The Hyde Square Task Force (HSTF), a youth development organization, established the *Ritmo en Acción* ("Rhythm in Action") Youth Dance Initiative in 2001. Under this program, two of Boston's top professional Latin dancers, Burju Hurturk and Victor Perez, provide rigorous weekly instruction in Latin and contemporary dances to teens on an ongoing basis, at no charge. These students perform publicly at a variety of events in the Boston area. They have also received invitations to dance at the West Coast International Salsa Congress in Los Angeles and to showcase their skills in Paris.

The performances promote a positive image of urban youth, while boosting the dancers' self-confidence and social skills. "Dance is about teamwork," explains former Ritmo dancer Chrismaldi Vasquez. "If you're mad at your partner that day, you still have to find a way to get along with them." Dancer Yaritza Pena has learned that mastering new skills is literally a step-by-step process that requires perseverance: "It takes a lot of patience to perfect every dance," she notes.

Performance is only part of the package. After receiving intensive training in dance instruction, the Ritmo teens go on to teach salsa, merengue, and other dances to elementary and middle school children in neighborhood schools and housing developments. The teaching component enhances the older students' leadership skills, while helping to combat inactivity and obesity among the younger participants. The teen dance instructors receive a weekly stipend for their work and learn such job-related skills as being punctual and turning in a time sheet.

Additionally, the program challenges its students to stay in school and to excel. Ritmo teens must maintain a C average in order to perform. To help participants keep their grades up, HSTF provides evening tutoring sessions with staff and volunteers. The program also matches 12th grade participants with mentors who guide them through the college selection and application processes.

The high expectations and support have helped Ritmo teens beat the odds: Since the program began in 2001, all participating seniors—currently about 15 a year—have gone on to college.



Photographers: Kara Delahunt, Mark L. Saperstein, Hyde Square Task Force

**FOCUS:** DANCE

**ANNUAL NUMBER PARTICIPATING:** 325

**AGES:** 6–18

**ANNUAL BUDGET:** \$225,500

# SITKA

## FINE ARTS CAMP

### ALASKA ARTS SOUTHEAST, INC.

PO Box 3086  
Sitka, AK 99835

Phone: 907-747-3085  
E-mail: [rschmidt@fineartscamp.org](mailto:rschmidt@fineartscamp.org)  
URL: [www.fineartscamp.org](http://www.fineartscamp.org)

"When I first came, I was shy, persecuted, and stomped on all my life. Then I took improv, and it pushed me out of my shyness. It helped my self-esteem go back to where it should have been."

Sitka Fine Arts Camp participant



Left: Sonic Boom class students in their final evening performance. Top: Finn Straley applies skills learned in clown theater class. Below: Sid Johnson strums his guitar.

Students who live in the small, remote towns and villages of Alaska often have little access to arts education and limited exposure to working artists. The Sitka Fine Arts Camp fills this void. For the past 32 years, this multidisciplinary arts camp has been providing students from across Alaska—and across the country—with opportunities to explore and strengthen their artistic skills through intensive classes in the arts.

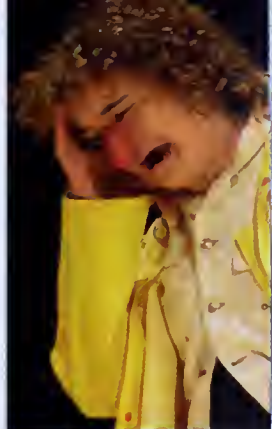
Based at a boarding high school in Sitka and led by an impressive faculty, the camp offers a one-week session for local elementary school students and two-week sessions for middle and high school students. Participants can choose from more than 60 different classes in music, visual arts, dance, writing, theater, Alaskan Native art, and art technology. The courses include everything from Shakespeare to Athabascan beadwork, clowning, and hip-hop dance.

Students take five 90-minute classes each day and attend live performances by faculty in the evenings. The sessions culminate in exhibitions of students' projects, as well as performances, all of which are open to the public.

Classes focus on the process as well as the product, and exercises foster group interaction, self-discipline, self-discovery, and creative risk-taking. "Camp gives me an opportunity to be more courageous, which stays with me when I go home," one camper remarked.

With one faculty member for every six students, there is ample opportunity for personal interaction with the teaching staff. Past faculty members have included a feature-film composer, an Emmy-nominated film animator, jazz recording soloists, and esteemed Alaskan Native artists.

During a session in 2004, for example, Alon Yavnai, a pianist with the renowned Paquito D'Rivera Jazz Quintet, tutored a self-taught 15-year-old keyboard player from an Alutiiq Eskimo village of fewer than 200 people. Although the teenager did not know how to read music, he had a flair for composing and had written a piece during the camp session. Yavnai invited the student to perform that new composition during his evening concert, before an audience of 300.



Photographers: Reber Stein, Sitka Fine Arts

**FOCUS:** MULTIDISCIPLINARY  
**ANNUAL NUMBER PARTICIPATING:** 400  
**AGES:** 5–18  
**ANNUAL BUDGET:** \$424,500

# SUMMER

## READS: SWARM

### PHILADELPHIA READS

1207 Chestnut Street, 6th Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Phone: 215-851-1723

Fax: 215-851-1953

E-mail: [ajacoby@gpuac.org](mailto:ajacoby@gpuac.org)

URL: [www.phila.gov/philareads](http://www.phila.gov/philareads)

"Art and literacy are intimately intertwined, using creativity as their base. Children create and interpret stories visually as they begin to read and write. Learning is improved through contact with the arts."

Judy Ringold, Director of Public Education, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts





Left: Reagan Thomas proudly displays her handmade book.

Top: Enthusiastic youngsters in the Community Women's Education Program.

Below: Dior Wilkins smiles with her puppet.

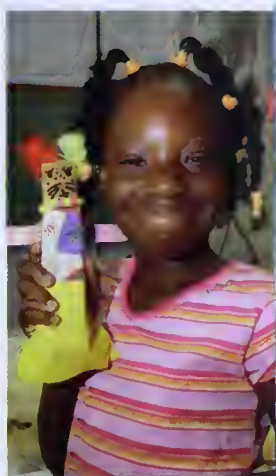
The ability to read can make a huge difference in a child's future. Research shows that children who read poorly by the end of the third grade are more likely to drop out of high school, abuse drugs, become pregnant in their teens, exhibit delinquent behavior, and lack meaningful employment. PHILADELPHIA READS, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving children's reading skills, offers a special summer reading program, called SWARM (Science, Writing, Art, Reading, Music). The program incorporates activities in art, music, and science to help teach literacy skills to children in first through third grades.

The organization integrates these disciplines into the curriculum to introduce children to science and the arts, while they are learning to read and write. As Adrienne Jacoby, executive director of PHILADELPHIA READS, explains, "Music and art reach a child's soul and make learning so much more interesting."

The SWARM program operates at 20 recreational camps in areas of Philadelphia that would otherwise provide fewer summer enrichment opportunities. It specifically targets children during the summer months, when educational gains can falter and when many children lack supervision.

The weekday literacy program typically runs about 20 hours a week, for six weeks. Each year, the curriculum focuses on a special theme, such as "Growing Peaceful Communities." Students read books and complete writing, music, art, and science activities relating to that theme. Artists from the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts (PAFA) and musicians from the Academy of Community Music (ACM) partner with PHILADELPHIA READS, preparing lesson plans and visiting the SWARM sites to offer hands-on art and music projects. In addition, the youngsters tour the PAFA museum and attend children's concerts at the Mann Music Center.

SWARM participants also learn about civic responsibility and U.S. history through a partnership among PHILADELPHIA READS, PennCORD, and the National Constitution Center. In addition, an arrangement with the Free Library of Philadelphia enables the children to obtain library cards and visit library branches. Another organization, Reading Is Fundamental, allows every camper to choose two books to start their own home library.



Photographer: Jules Vuotto

**FOCUS:** LITERACY

**ANNUAL NUMBER PARTICIPATING:** 2,200

**AGES:** 5-9

**ANNUAL BUDGET:** \$251,700

# THE LAB

## REEL WORKS TEEN FILMMAKING, INC.

357 Ninth Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11215

Phone: 718-768-7100 ext. 139  
E-mail: [thelab@reelworks.org](mailto:thelab@reelworks.org)  
URL: [www.reelworks.org](http://www.reelworks.org)

“Making my film made me realize that I was wasting my life. The Lab offered a place for me to be with intelligent peers with bright futures, something I’ve never had before.”

A graduate of The Lab



Left: Film mentor Jeremiah Alexis gives Niaz Mosharraf advice for a shoot. Top: Niaz Mosharraf in The Lab's editing room. Below: Jasmine Britton reviews and edits scenes from her movie.

What is it like to grow up with a mother who is a drug addict? How does a father's death affect a family? What challenges does a 16-year-old face when she becomes pregnant and decides to have the baby?

Many teens struggle with tough questions. However, through an intensive filmmaking program known as The Lab, students from Brooklyn, New York, are learning skills to turn the difficult raw material of their lives into riveting documentaries.

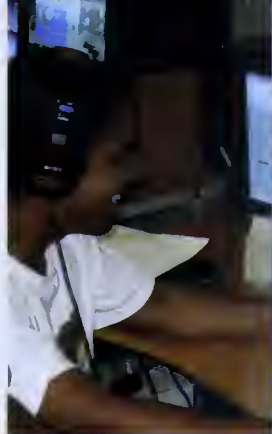
The free, semester-long program teaches the basics of filmmaking to a dozen students who meet once a week and on weekends at a local YMCA. What sets the program apart is that each teen is paired with a professional documentary filmmaker who helps the student choose a topic, shoot it, and shape the footage into a compelling personal story. Students also learn how to organize and express their thoughts in words.

In *Rules of Engagement*, for example, a Muslim teen tries to come to terms with his family's desire to select his future wife. In *Journey to the Unknown*, a Latina filmmaker follows two friends through their pregnancies, exploring their choices and changing levels of awareness. And, in *A Girl Like Me*, a young African-American filmmaker replicates a 1950s experiment, only to discover that African-American preschoolers still associate more positive attributes with white dolls than with black ones.

The filmmaking process can be especially empowering for at-risk teenagers. "The burdens of their lives often become odd assets within the context of The Lab because we're looking for the kids to tell stories," explains Executive Director John C. Williams. Through the filmmaking process, the teens are able to explore and make sense of their issues, while discovering that their "creative energy can be a greater force than their problems," Williams adds.

Group critiques help to strengthen participants' communication and critical-thinking skills. And, by teaching teens how to set goals, persevere, collaborate, and produce results, The Lab imparts essential skills that can help them through life.

The teens' films reach a wide audience and have been broadcast on PBS, MSNBC, HBO Family, and *Oprah*. One film won a national student Emmy, and others have gained recognition at film festivals. A growing number of the films are also being used in classrooms across the country to stimulate discussion on such important issues as race, identity, self-esteem, and personal choices. "It's a peer-to-peer message that kids really respond to. It's authentic, it's real, and it can't be faked," Williams asserts.



Photographer: Reel Works

**FOCUS:** MEDIA ARTS

**ANNUAL NUMBER PARTICIPATING:** 160

**AGES:** 15-19

**ANNUAL BUDGET:** \$142,880

# THE UNUSUAL SUSPECTS THEATRE COMPANY

10536 Culver Boulevard, Suite B  
Culver City, CA 90232

Phone: 310-558-3190

Fax: 310-558-3191

E-mail: [info@theunusalsuspects.org](mailto:info@theunusalsuspects.org)

URL: [www.theunusalsuspects.org](http://www.theunusalsuspects.org)

“While it is literally true that artists create art, it is equally true that art re-creates its artists. I cherish The Unusual Suspects as a company that truly realizes the theater’s potential to transform lives by helping young people find their voices, talents, and dignity.”

David Henry Hwang, playwright



Left: *Friends, Family & SB6* narrator transforms into a cat and a spy. Top: A scene from *These Shoes Are Made for Playing*. Below: *Burning Water, The Lengths We'll Go* rehearsal.

Among the young people who are most at risk for a life of crime or drugs are those who have already spent time in the juvenile corrections system. Statistics suggest that once they are released, many will end up back in institutions.

The Unusual Suspects Theatre Company, based in Culver City, California, attempts to break this vicious cycle by intervening before young people are permanently lost to a life of incarceration. One of the few programs of its kind in the nation, The Unusual Suspects offers intensive theater workshops to youth in the juvenile corrections and foster care systems.

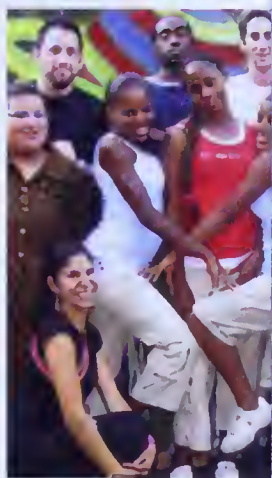
"Our goal is to help youth set and achieve positive goals and show them that—against all odds—they can develop the tools to make positive choices for their futures," explains Executive Director Sally Fairman.

During an intensive 12-week workshop, The Unusual Suspects brings together theater and film professionals—including some of Hollywood's top actors, writers, and directors—to develop participants' acting techniques and help them collaboratively write and produce an original play. These writing and acting sessions enable the young adults to improve their literacy and communication skills, fostering self-respect.

Often based on the participants' experiences, the plays provide a vehicle to further examine and resolve issues. The collaborative nature of theater encourages the teens to work closely with their peers—often from rival neighborhoods or gangs—and learn how to resolve conflicts without resorting to violence. Interacting with adult mentors gives young people the chance to experience authority figures in a more positive light.

The full-scale productions continue to shift perceptions. "I've never been to a performance where there hasn't been a standing ovation. And participants' transformation is palpable: You see the pride in the young people's faces. The kids are feeling accepted and are literally standing up taller," Fairman says. The audience sees the young people differently, as well—not as criminals or troubled youth, but as young people with skills and something important to say, she adds.

In fact, spurred by a new sense of possibilities, some participants have gone on to achieve previously unimagined goals, such as finishing high school and attending college. As one participant wrote, "You helped me believe in myself when I didn't, and I thank you a lot for that."



Photographer: Sally Fairman

**FOCUS:** THEATER

**ANNUAL NUMBER PARTICIPATING:** 250

**AGES:** 9–25

**ANNUAL BUDGET:** \$250,000

# WINGS

## PERFORMING ARTS

### LYNN MEADOWS DISCOVERY CENTER FOR CHILDREN

246 Dolan Avenue  
Gulfport, MS 39507

Phone: 228-897-6039

Fax: 228-248-0071

E-mail: [tshays777@aol.com](mailto:tshays777@aol.com)

URL: [www.lmdc.org](http://www.lmdc.org)

"Before I started doing theater, I was a very shy person. I talked very little and was not at all outgoing. Doing Lynn Meadows' WINGS program for two years has not only been fun, but it has also made me a better person! I am much more outgoing and can express myself in so many different ways."

A WINGS participant



Left: Nicolas Sumiel, Maura Worch, and Billie Sumiel in *The Tempest*. Top: Mimes Mallory Myers and Beth Cox. Below: Melissa Fowler with the Gulf Coast Symphony Orchestra, Beau Rivage Theatre.

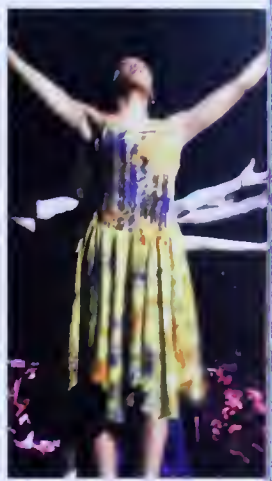
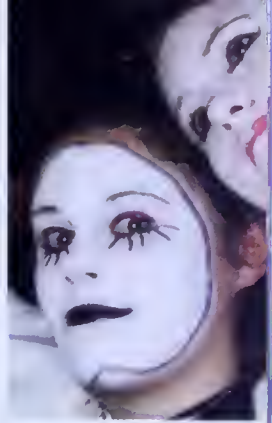
Theater programs typically teach acting, lighting, and costuming skills. The Lynn Meadows Discovery Center for Children, a nonprofit children's museum in Gulfport, Mississippi, views its performing arts program—called WINGS—more broadly. The Discovery Center uses WINGS as a vehicle for imparting life skills, like confidence and teamwork, that help participants “soar to new heights,” explains Program Director Tonya Hays. “What we often say is that a child doesn't join WINGS to become a Broadway star, but to become a better person.”

WINGS offers Gulf Coast elementary through high school students the chance to participate in theater productions that are presented at community sites or area schools. Students work closely with adult staff and volunteers, who offer encouragement and an occasional push to step out of their comfort zones, taking on new and more challenging roles and assignments. Through WINGS, youth also learn to collaborate with peers from different walks of life and communities.

Furthermore, the program promotes academic skills and learning in the humanities through assignments linked to the productions. Cast members of *Macbeth* researched Renaissance history and customs. Participants in *Fiddler on the Roof* attended a service at a local synagogue and discussed Jewish life and culture with the rabbi and members of the congregation. The crew of *Servant of Two Masters* designed costumes and selected appropriate music for this 18th-century commedia dell'arte production.

In addition to participating in productions, students can apply to become part of a core group of 80 middle and high school students. These teens meet in monthly workshops to explore theater topics in greater depth and discuss practical concerns, such as how to apply for a job or create a portfolio. To participate in the WINGS core group, students must agree to maintain their grades and take part in community service projects at animal shelters, soup kitchens, or senior centers. This latter requirement further promotes teamwork and a sense of community.

WINGS seeks out at-risk students, and in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, many of the youth in the program fall into that category. As evidence of WINGS' success, its productions have earned statewide recognition, and 100 percent of graduating seniors have gone on to college.



Photographers: Mary Anne Caldwell, Linda Saxon Nix

**FOCUS:** MUSEUM

**ANNUAL NUMBER PARTICIPATING:** 500

**AGES:** 6–18

**ANNUAL BUDGET:** \$100,000

# WORDS

@PLAY

## CHICAGO HUMANITIES FESTIVAL & CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT

500 North Dearborn Street, Suite 825  
Chicago, IL 60610

Phone: 312-661-1028


Fax: 312-661-1018

E-mail: [chf@chfestival.org](mailto:chf@chfestival.org)

URL: [www.chfestival.org](http://www.chfestival.org)

"Words@PLAY teaches children to express themselves individually and collectively, and it gives them the vitally important assurance that their words are heard and that they matter."

Stephen Young, Program Director, Poetry Foundation



I CAN FLY IN THE  
WIND AND DANCE ON IT  
by Alejandra Davis Square  
-AND-  
UNTITLED  
by OTIS PRUITT  
WEST PULLMAN



Left: A Words@PLAY participant introduces two poems. Top: Barrel of Monkeys performer with program participant. Below: Words@PLAY student during the creative process.

*Over the sun  
Through the sky  
Into the clouds  
Soaring. I fly.*

The poem above, by Otis Pruitt, an elementary school student from Chicago's West Pullman Park neighborhood, neatly illustrates what the Chicago Humanities Festival seeks to accomplish with its Words@PLAY project: to tap children's creativity, strengthen their powers of self-expression, and expand their sense of possibility through poetry.

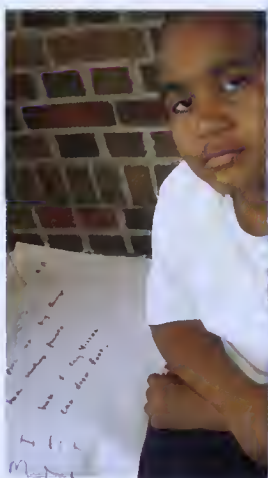
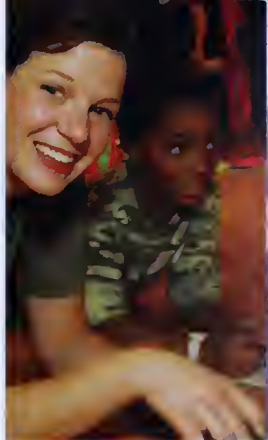
Words@PLAY, a joint program between the Chicago Park District and the Chicago Humanities Festival, is a 10-week after-school program offered at cultural centers in underserved Chicago neighborhoods. Teachers and professional poets lead the weekly 90-minute sessions that introduce elementary school children to great poets and different styles of poetry. With the help of engaging games and exercises, instructors also encourage the children to express their own thoughts and feelings through this art form.

Poetry is a perfect vehicle for the program's 8- to 12-year-old participants. Because poems are vivid and succinct, students don't necessarily need a large vocabulary or a long attention span to enjoy reading, studying, or writing poetry.

In addition, "as children listen to the poetry of their peers, they learn to better understand what others around them are feeling—their thoughts, viewpoints, challenges, concerns—and to celebrate both similarities and differences," points out Mary Kate Barley-Jenkins, director of education.

Workshop participants have an extra incentive to throw themselves into their writing assignments. At the annual fall Children's Humanities Festival, a professional theater company called Barrel of Monkeys presents a lively, humorous performance that features some of the youngsters' original poetry. The students themselves also have the chance to be in the spotlight, reciting their poems on stage for family and friends, at a separate event held at a Chicago Park District cultural center.

Children respond enthusiastically to the Words@PLAY experience. "It helps me express myself. It helps me see the creativity of others," one student commented. "We have fun, and we can let out our feelings," added another.



Photographers: Brian Lee, Chicago Humanities Festival

**FOCUS:** LITERATURE  
**ANNUAL NUMBER PARTICIPATING:** 153  
**AGES:** 8-12  
**ANNUAL BUDGET:** \$46,500

# YOUNG ARTISTS

## APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM AND DEBBIE ALLEN DANCE INSTITUTE

### IMAGINATION CELEBRATION FORT WORTH, INC.

1300 Gendy Street  
Fort Worth, TX 76107

Phone: 817-870-1141  
Fax: 817-336-7947  
E-mail: [imagine@icfw.org](mailto:imagine@icfw.org)  
URL: [www.icfw.org](http://www.icfw.org)

"As I learned under the mentoring artists,  
I was transformed from a young person with  
drawing skills to a young artist with a dream  
to become a professional artist."

*Sedrick Huckaby, former Young Artists Apprenticeship Program participant*



Left: Katelyn Branson and Jessica Oglesby rise and shine.  
Top: Performers Catherine Helm, Katy Sanford, and Lili Froehlich.  
Below: Artwork by Young Artists student R. Robledo.

Imagination Celebration Fort Worth, Inc., an organization that provides students with arts experiences linked to classroom learning, has been honored with a Coming Up Taller Award for two separate initiatives: the Young Artists Apprenticeship Program (YAAP) and the Debbie Allen Dance Institute (DADI). Although the programs involve different disciplines, what they have in common is a reliance on master artists who teach, inspire, and serve as role models for participants.

Launched in 1989, the Young Artists Apprenticeship Program is an intensive 25-week course in the visual arts, facilitated by a team of leading professional artists from across Texas. This highly competitive program bases admission on a portfolio review and recommendations from art teachers. Participants benefit from more in-depth artistic experiences than are available in their public schools, many of which are in underserved areas.

Each year, 30 to 40 high school students attend weekly sessions at the Fort Worth Community Arts Center, where they explore painting, sculpture, design, and drawing. The master artists work closely with these teens, strengthening students' technical skills and instilling confidence in their abilities, while providing them with a role model. Through group critiques, the youth also learn to express themselves tactfully and accept helpful criticism.

Nearly 100 percent of YAAP participants graduate from high school, and many go on to college. Imagination Celebration Executive Director Ginger Head-Gearheart attributes much of the program's success to the deep bond formed between the students and the master artists, most of whom donate their time. "One thing that's so beautiful is this deep caring," she says.

The Debbie Allen Dance Institute is an intensive workshop taught each summer by acclaimed dancer and choreographer Debbie Allen, along with a group of dancers from such prestigious companies as the Bolshoi Ballet and Alvin Ailey Dance Company.

The workshop spans two and a half weeks, and enrollment is open to students ages 7 to 21, from throughout Texas and other states, who demonstrate either a talent for dance or a strong desire to learn. A scholarship program that covers the tuition makes it possible for some students, who could not otherwise participate, to attend the workshop.

DADI students study a full spectrum of styles, from classical ballet, to jazz, tap, flamenco, hip-hop, and African dance. According to Head-Gearheart, the supportive and inspiring instruction, plus exposure to the range of dance forms, imparts a "freedom of spirit" to the participants' dancing. Many students also learn that they can perform movements they didn't realize were within their ability, she says. "They see that even though their legs hurt and their whole body is aching, they can rise up and shine."

**FOCUS:** VISUAL ARTS, DANCE

**ANNUAL NUMBER**

**PARTICIPATING:** YAAP, 30-40; DADI, 150-200

**AGES:** YAAP, 15-18; DADI, 7-21

**ANNUAL BUDGET:** \$90,000



Photographers: Anthony Crowley, Beth Dulle

# YOUTHLIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECT

## HAMPDEN FAMILY CENTER, INC.

1104 West 36th Street  
Baltimore, MD 21211

Phone: 410-467-8710

Fax: 410-243-3407

E-mail: [info@hampdenfamilycenter.org](mailto:info@hampdenfamilycenter.org)

URL: [www.hampdenfamilycenter.org](http://www.hampdenfamilycenter.org); [www.youthlightproject.org](http://www.youthlightproject.org)

“Through publication of photographs, inclusion in an exhibition, visits to local exhibits, and recognition as budding artists and photographers, Youthlight participants are being recognized for their talents, rather than as ‘at-risk’ kids.”

Marshall Clarke, Youthlight Director



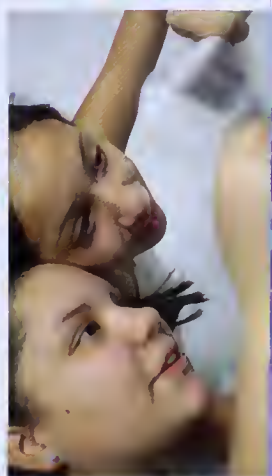
Left: Coray Cineferano positions a 4x5 view camera.  
Top: Janai Buck dries her B&W film after developing.  
Below: Mikaela Aguirre (top) and Savannah Sosa  
review negatives prior to printing their photos.

"Dreams come true, if you follow though," reads the billboard. It rises high above a low-income, inner-city neighborhood and features photos of children holding handmade signs listing such professions as pediatrician, cop, surgeon, and basketball player. Eye-catching and hip, the billboard looks as if a big-city advertising agency could have produced it. But, in fact, a group of Baltimore, Maryland, middle school students conceived, shot, and designed this message. The youth are part of the Youthlight Photography Project, an after-school photography and media literacy program.

Marshall Clarke, a Baltimore-based freelance photographer, developed the program. Through the medium of photography, Youthlight helps young people gain confidence in expressing themselves and in trusting their instincts, skills that help them combat negative influences in their lives.

Youthlight offers after-school sessions two days a week during the school year at centers in central and southwest Baltimore. There, the 30 participants, drawn from nearby middle schools, learn to compose and shoot pictures with a 35mm camera and to develop and print the black-and-white images.

Their photographs capture a wide variety of subjects, from graffiti-marked buildings, to tensions in a school hallway, to a blurred scene of children swinging. While some are playful and funny, others are poignant, and still others are disturbing. The images "document the complexities of their neighborhoods and their families and their longing to create and be something better," according to Clarke. Community centers, local galleries, and universities have displayed the students' photographs.



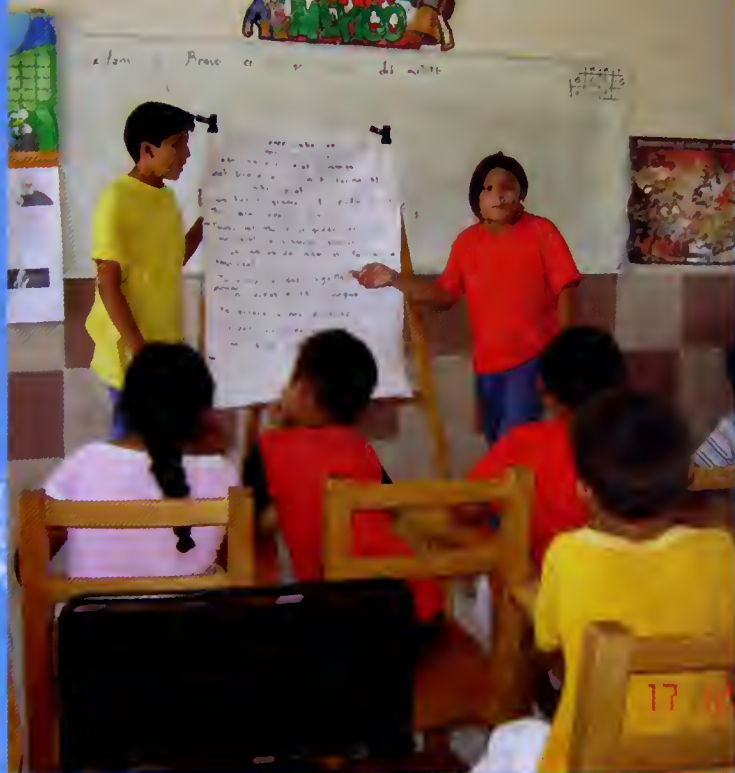
Photographer: Hampden Family Center

**FOCUS:** PHOTOGRAPHY, MEDIA ARTS  
**ANNUAL NUMBER PARTICIPATING:** 30  
**AGES:** 11-15  
**ANNUAL BUDGET:** \$57,900

Top: Students share lessons at the Cultural Center San Francisco Tzacalha. Below: Young *huapanguero* musicians rehearse before a performance.



Fundación Cultural México-Estados Unidos de América, A.C.  
U.S.- Mexico Foundation for Culture, Inc.



In 2002, the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities joined with The U.S.–Mexico Foundation for Culture (also known as Cultural Contact), a nonprofit organization in Mexico City, to present Coming Up Taller Awards to two programs in Mexico dedicated to the nation's youth. Immediately, Cultural Contact was responsive to our goal: recognizing organizations that, through arts and humanities learning, provide children and youth with the opportunity to enhance their personal lives, communities, and futures. Consistent with the President's Committee's interest in promoting mutual international understanding through the arts and the humanities, we continue to honor exemplary youth programs from Mexico with Coming Up Taller Awards. We are grateful to Cultural Contact for identifying these leading programs and for supporting the Coming Up Taller Awards.

# CULTURAL CENTER SAN FRANCISCO TZACALHA

Hacienda San Francisco  
Dzindzantún, CP 97500  
Yucatán, MX

Phone: (011-52-991) 915-5341  
E-mail: [suenozarri@hotmail.com](mailto:suenozarri@hotmail.com); [isabel.ruz@hotmail.com](mailto:isabel.ruz@hotmail.com)  
URL: [www.tzcalha.com](http://www.tzcalha.com)

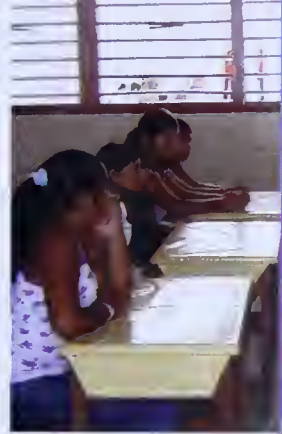
"Our immediate objective is to provide children and teenagers with artistic activities to aid in their development as individuals, family members, and members of the community. However, over the long term, it is our hope that the experience will also instill in participants the confidence to seek out better opportunities in their lives and improve their futures."

*Isabel Ruz, General Coordinator, Cultural Center San Francisco Tzcalha*





Left: Yizat il Kay Chorus member blows his trumpet.  
Top: A scene from music class. Below: Three  
choirs—Yobain, Dzilam de Bravo, and Dzilam  
Gonzalez—gather to sing.



The economy of Mexico's Yucatán state has experienced many ups and downs over the years, corresponding to the level of demand for henequen, a fiber used to make twine and rope. Despite a recent modest recovery, this region, which includes a large Mayan population, still faces many challenges.

Contributing to the area's stability and revitalization is the Cultural Center San Francisco Tzacalha, which occupies the Hacienda San Francisco. Within this complex of restored historic buildings, the area's children and teens are able to explore both artistic and vocational opportunities. The Cultural Center provides nearby and underserved communities with a space for creative arts activities, as well as training for jobs in pottery, carpentry, and other crafts.

One of the Center's proudest achievements is the establishment of four choirs, which serve more than 100 children and teenagers in the towns of Dzindzantún, Yobain, Dzilam Gonzalez, and Dzilam de Bravo. Participants study vocalization, scales, body movement, and musical interpretation. For many, this is their introduction to any type of musical training.

These students also learn a rich and diverse repertoire. Mayan and Spanish songs connect choir members with their own cultural heritage, while Latin, Italian, and French pieces expose them to other cultures and musical traditions.

The choirs have performed in the state capital of Merida, as well as in local schools, churches, public plazas, and theaters. One high point for participants was the invitation to sing *Carmina Burana*, a cantata based on medieval poems, with Yucatán's symphonic orchestra. The students' multilingual training and their diverse performance experiences nurture self-confidence and a respect for their own heritage, as well as those of other countries.

Photographer: Cultural Center San Francisco Tzacalha

**FOCUS:** MUSIC

**ANNUAL NUMBER PARTICIPATING:** 102

**AGES:** 7–16

**ANNUAL BUDGET:** \$8,181

# DEVELOPMENT

## PROGRAM OF HUAPANGUERO CHILDREN AND YOUTH OF QUERÉTARO

### INSTITUTO QUERETANO DE LA CULTURA Y LAS ARTES

Andador Venustiano Carranza 4  
Centro Histórico, CP 76000  
Santiago de Querétaro, MX

Phone: (011-52-442) 212-0255, 224-0570, and 214-2259

E-mail: [lucaduran@hotmail.com](mailto:lucaduran@hotmail.com)

URL: [www.culturaqueretaro.gob.mx](http://www.culturaqueretaro.gob.mx)

“We can say with certainty that the success of the program in Querétaro lies in the instructors, the *huapanguero* musicians of the region. In the words of musician and songwriter Guillermo Velazquez, these master musicians are ‘reconstructing the link between tradition and destiny.’”

*Junipero Cabrera Berrones, Director, Historical Museum of the Sierra Gorda*



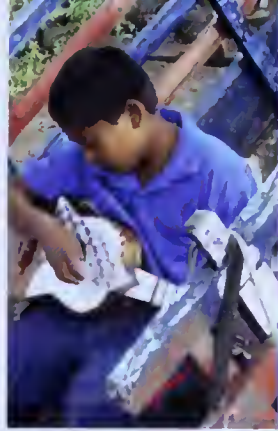
Left: A musician on her *quinta huapanguera* (large guitar). Top: A young *jarana huasteca* (small guitar) player. Below: Students come together to perform *huapanguero* music.

One of the most distinctive cultural traditions of Mexico's Huasteca region is the lively, rhythmic music and dance style known as *huapango*, or *son huasteco*. Instrumentalists playing the violin, *quinta huapanguera* (a large guitar), and *jarana huasteca* (a smaller guitar) typically perform this music, accompanied by singers and dancers. Weddings, baptisms, feasts honoring patron saints, and other religious celebrations often include the huapango. It always makes for a special occasion, providing a joyful sense of connection to the community.

In recent years, however, the region's cultural fabric had begun to unravel. More and more people were emigrating from this northeastern part of Mexico, and youngsters were no longer learning the traditional musical forms.


To address this situation, in 2002, the Instituto Queretano de la Cultura y las Artes launched a program to build a bridge between generations. The 13 master huapanguero musicians, from 11 towns in the region, teach young people how to play the instruments, sing the lyrics to the songs, and perform the dances. Nearly 100 children and young adults, ranging in age from 4 to 23, attend the workshops annually.

During its five years of operation, the program has nurtured an important connection between the area's elders and youth, while revitalizing an appreciation of the Huasteca region's musical heritage. Some of the more inspired participants have gone on to form huapanguero trios of their own, make recordings, and perform throughout the country.



Photographer: Instituto Queretano de la Cultura y las Artes

**FOCUS:** FOLK MUSIC AND TRADITIONAL ARTS  
**ANNUAL NUMBER PARTICIPATING:** 97  
**AGES:** 4-23  
**ANNUAL BUDGET:** \$16,363



Top: A lively performance by members of the China Welfare Institute Children's Palace dance program. Below: Young participants gather in the park to paint.

Ministry of Culture, People's Republic of China

中华人民共和国文化部



This year, the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities welcomes the inclusion of a youth arts learning program based in the People's Republic of China as a Coming Up Taller Award recipient. This award is consistent with the President's Committee's interest in seeking mutual international understanding through the arts and the humanities and follows up on the U.S. President's Committee's Delegation to the People's Republic of China in June 2007, which culminated in an Implementing Accord for Cultural Exchange 2007–2009 between our two countries.

The goals of international understanding are shared by the Honorable Sun Jiazheng, Minister of Culture of the People's Republic of China, who wrote, in referring to Dr. Martin Luther King's dreams for equality and harmony, "All of us today share the same dream with him, and we firmly believe that art and culture, as the greatest vehicle for human emotions, can best express our dreams." The Ministry of Culture further shares the vision of nurturing the cultural lives of young people so that they may develop their talents and understanding, express their creativity, grow as individuals, and give back to their communities. We are grateful to the Ministry for identifying a leading arts program for children and youth and for supporting the Coming Up Taller Awards.

# LITTLE COMPANION ART TROUPE

## CHINA WELFARE INSTITUTE CHILDREN'S PALACE (CWICP)

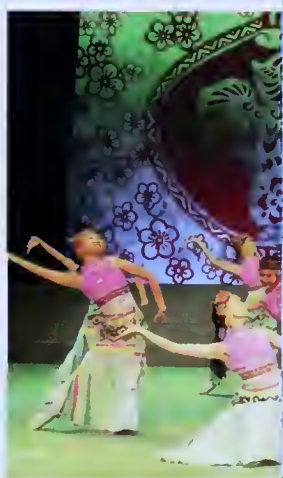
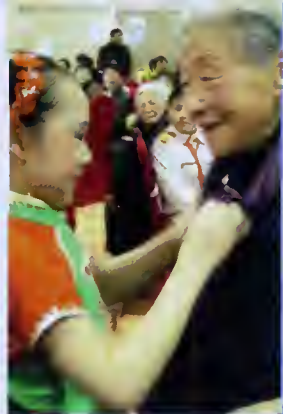
No. 64 Yan An Road  
Shanghai, PRC 200040

Phone: (011-86-216) 249-4116  
Fax: (011-86-216) 249-0661  
URL: <http://english.cwi.org.cn>

Founded in 1953 by Mme. Soong Ching Ling, the late Honorary Chairman of China, the China Welfare Institute Children's Palace in Shanghai was that country's first young people's after-school center.



Left: A young participant focuses on her piano performance. Top: Meeting the elderly at a local center. Below: Little Companions in their final pose, finish with a flourish.



Based on Mme. Soong Ching Ling's educational philosophy that the arts and humanities nourish and inspire creativity in children and thus benefit their whole lives, the Children's Palace offers more than 100 after-school cultural programs in the metropolitan area of Shanghai, especially for those who would not regularly have these opportunities during the school day. These exemplary programs, for children and teens, include dance, choir, orchestra, traditional musical instruments, traditional Chinese calligraphy, painting, drama, computer studies, environmental protection, mechanical model-making, photography, and more. In a supportive and exploratory environment, program participants express themselves through individual and group art-making sessions and develop artistic and perceptual abilities, creative problem-solving techniques, and critical-thinking skills.

A vital part of the Chinese government's nine-year compulsory education strategy, the Children's Palace provides students with easy access to affordable, high-quality art instruction and experiences. To date, nearly 6,000 youth have benefited from these opportunities, including migrant students from less urbanized regions of the country, since the Palace was established.

Among the numerous programs in the Children's Palace, the Little Companion Art Troupe is one of the best known. Its seven divisions offer instruction in dance, choir, drama, puppetry, keyboard instruments, orchestra, traditional Chinese musical instruments, calligraphy, and arts and crafts. Equally important, through the Little Companion Art Troupe's "Entering the Communities" project, the students reach out to the community through performances at hospitals, nurseries, and senior citizen care centers. In this way, the participants learn the importance of sharing their talents with others.

Recognized as one of the most popular youth-oriented art troupes nationwide, the Little Companion Art Troupe has performed in China at the 1999 Fortune Forum, the Ninth APEC Summit in Shanghai, the Celebration Gala for the return of Hong Kong and Macao to China, and Shanghai's successful bid for EXPO 2010. Internationally, the Troupe members have toured in more than 20 countries and have won praise as "China's Little Ambassadors" from many diverse audiences.

Photographer: China Welfare Institute Children's Palace

**FOCUS:** MULTIDISCIPLINARY  
**ANNUAL NUMBER PARTICIPATING:** 600  
**AGES:** 6-16  
**ANNUAL BUDGET:** \$65,000

# 2007 COMING UP TALLER SEMIFINALISTS

**After School Art Experiences  
and Summer Art Experience**  
Holualoa Foundation  
for Arts and Culture  
Holualoa, HI

**Art a la Carte**  
Federated Dorchester  
Neighborhood Houses  
Dorchester, MA

**Art and Media House**  
Latin American Youth Center  
Washington, DC

**ArtWorks**  
Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts  
Grand Rapids, MI

**Blunt Youth Radio Project**  
WMPG/Greater Portland Community Radio  
University of Southern Maine  
Portland, ME

**Borinquen Dance Theatre, Inc.**  
Rochester, NY

**Children's Visual Arts Classes**  
Locust Street Neighborhood  
Art Classes, Inc.  
Buffalo, NY

**City Dance Theatre**  
Cultural Arts Division of the City of Richmond  
Department of Parks, Recreation, and  
Community Facilities  
Richmond, VA

**Citywide Poets**  
InsideOut Literary Arts Project  
Detroit, MI

**Community MusicWorks**  
Providence, RI

**Crescendo Music Program**  
Academy of Community Music  
Fort Washington, PA

**Free Street Theater**  
Chicago, IL

**Girlstories Theatre and Workshops**  
Powerstories Theatre, Inc.  
Tampa, FL

**Hamilton Wings' SCORE**  
Hamilton Wings, Inc.  
Elgin, IL

**Intensive Community Program**  
Greater Boston Symphony Orchestra, Inc.  
Boston, MA

**Juxtaposition Arts, Inc.**  
Minneapolis, MN

**Learning Early Network**  
Bradford County Regional Arts Council  
Towanda, PA

**Life Arts**  
Children's Aid and Family Services, Inc.  
Paramus, NJ

**Mariachi Music Instruction Program**  
Hernandez Mariachi Heritage Society  
South El Monte, CA

**MoCo Arts Youth Programs**  
The Moving Company Dance Center  
Keene, NH

**Music Education and Performance**  
Oakland Youth Chorus  
Oakland, CA

**No Limits Theatre Group, Inc.**  
Culver City, CA

**Project Arts in Motion (AIM)**  
Creative Kids  
El Paso, TX

**Project Jericho**  
Clark State Community College  
Springfield, OH

**SEEDArts**  
SouthEast Effective Development  
(SEED)  
Seattle, WA

**Sphinx Preparatory Music Institute**  
Sphinx Organization, Inc.  
Detroit, MI

**Still Waters Youth Sinfo-Nia of  
Metropolitan Atlanta, Inc.**  
Atlanta, GA

**St. Louis Artworks**  
St. Louis, MO

**Summer Arts for Youth**  
Young Audiences of Indiana, Inc.  
Indianapolis, IN

**Teen and Multicultural Programs**  
Omaha Theater Company  
Omaha, NE

**The Theatre Lab School of the Dramatic Arts**  
Washington, DC

**Tiered Mentorship Program**  
Everett Dance Theatre  
Providence, RI

**Urban Voices**  
Global Action Project, Inc.  
New York, NY

**Word Journeys**  
Pima County Public Library  
Tucson, AZ

**Young Shakespeare Workshop**  
Seattle, WA



# 2007 COMING UP TALLER NATIONAL JURY

**Frannie Ashburn**

Director  
North Carolina Center for the Book  
Raleigh, NC

**Lynn D. Dierking**

Professor in Free-Choice Learning  
Oregon State University  
Corvallis, OR

**Janet Eilber**

Director, Arts Education  
Dana Foundation  
New York, NY

**Debra Eileen Evans**

Music Education Consultant  
New York, NY

**Jennifer Jeffries Thompson**

Historical Projects Consultant  
Montana Historical Society  
Helena, MT

**Anana Kambon**

National Director  
ACT-SO Program  
NAACP  
Baltimore, MD

**Celeste Miller**

Celeste Miller & Company  
Atlanta, GA

**Cary D. Wintz**

Professor, History Department  
Texas Southern University  
Houston, TX

## COMING UP TALLER

### APPLICATION REVIEWERS

**Sherilyn Brown**  
Director, Education  
Rhode Island State Council on the Arts  
Providence, RI

**Faye Flanagan**  
Project Director  
Prime Time Reading Time  
New Orleans, LA

**Ron Gallman**  
Director of Education Programs/  
Youth Orchestra  
San Francisco Symphony  
San Francisco, CA

**Robert L. Hall**  
Associate Head of Education and  
Visual Arts Specialist  
Anacostia Museum and Center for  
African American History and Culture  
Smithsonian Institution  
Washington, DC

**Andrew P. Jackson**  
Executive Director  
Langston Hughes Community Library  
and Cultural Center  
Queens Library  
Corona, NY

**Sandra Jackson-Dumont**  
Kayla Skinner Deputy Director of  
Education and Public Programs  
Seattle Art Museum  
Seattle, WA

**Mary Liniger**  
Arts in Education Coordinator  
DC Commission on the Arts &  
Humanities  
Washington, DC

**Allison Marshall**  
Director of Arts Learning  
Arizona Commission on the Arts  
Phoenix, AZ

**Varissa L. McMickens**  
Executive Director  
DC Arts and Humanities Education  
Collaborative  
Washington, DC

**Barbara Meyerson**  
Museum Consultant  
B. Meyerson Consulting, LLC  
Phoenix, AZ

**Robin Middleman**  
Arts Education Coordinator  
New Jersey State Council on the Arts  
Trenton, NJ

**Paula Phillips**  
Professor  
Master of Community Arts Program  
Maryland Institute College of Art  
Baltimore, MD

**Reshma Razvi**  
Program Manager  
California Humanities Council  
San Francisco, CA

**Alexandra Rogers Pittman**  
Associate Director of Development  
Raw Art Works  
Lynn, MA

**Darryl Roland**  
Artistic Director  
Cathedral Choir School of Delaware  
Wilmington, DE


**Martin J. Skomal**  
Director of Programs  
Nebraska Arts Council  
Omaha, NE

**Deborah Steinkopf**  
Associate Director  
Literature for All of Us  
Evanston, IL



Below: Sitka Fine Arts Camp student Henry DeCherney.

Photographer: Reber Stein

A photograph of a person in a yellow costume, possibly a theatrical mask or sculpture, against a purple background with a white map of Alaska. The person is wearing a yellow long-sleeved garment and a black skirt. The background is a purple wall with a white map of Alaska.

**COMING UP TALLER**  
**10-YEAR RETROSPECTIVE**  
**1998–2007**

Sitka Fine Arts Camp mask theater student. Photographer: Reber Stein



# COMING UP TALLER

## AWARDEES 1998–2007

### **Access to Theatre**

Partners™ for Youth with Disabilities  
Boston, MA

### **ACES—Achievement Through Community Service, Education, and Skill Building**

Please Touch Museum  
Philadelphia, PA

### **A Company of Girls, Inc.**

Portland, ME

### **After-School and Summertime Blues Camp**

Alabama Blues Project  
Tuscaloosa, AL

### **AileyCamp**

Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey  
Kansas City, MO

### **Albany Park Theater Project**

Chicago, IL

### **Angkor Dance Troupe**

Lowell, MA

### **Appalachian Media Institute**

Appalshop  
Whitesburg, KY

### **Aquarium on Wheels (AOW)**

National Aquarium in Baltimore, Inc.  
Baltimore, MD

### **Art at the Heart and Intervention Hope**

Southwest Arkansas Arts Council  
Hope, AR

### **Artists for Humanity**

South Boston, MA

### **Artists-in-Training, Education Department**

Opera Theatre of Saint Louis  
St. Louis, MO

### **Arts and Cultural Preservation Program and Youth/Elder Initiative**

Tohono O'odham Community Action  
Sells, AZ

### **Arts and Literacy Program**

Coalition for Hispanic Family Services  
Brooklyn, NY

### **Arts Apprenticeship Training Program**

Manchester Craftsmen's Guild  
Pittsburgh, PA

### **Arts-in-Education Program in Architecture and Design/Community Studies**

Henry Street Settlement  
New York, NY

### **Arts Street**

City and County of Denver  
Denver, CO

### **ARTSTARS**

LACER Afterschool Programs: Literacy,  
Arts, Culture, Education, and  
Recreation  
Hollywood, CA

### **AYE**

Cleo Parker Robinson Dance  
Denver, CO

### **Baltimore Urban Debate League, Inc.**

Baltimore, MD

### **Birmingham Cultural Alliance Partnership (B–CAP)**

Birmingham Civil Rights Institute  
Birmingham, AL

### **Book Group Programs at Family Focus**

Literature for All of Us  
Evanston, IL

### **Boys' Choir of Tallahassee**

Florida State University School of  
Social Work  
Tallahassee, FL

### **Castle Performing Arts Learning Center**

Department of Education: J.B. Castle  
High School  
Kaneohe, HI

### **Cathedral Choir School of Delaware**

Cathedral Community Services, Inc.  
Wilmington, DE

### **Chicago Children's Choir**

Chicago, IL

### **Children's Cultural Center La Vecindad**

Cuernavaca, Morelos, MX

### **Community Arts Partnership (CAP)**

California Institute of the Arts  
Valencia, CA

### **Community Music School, Inc.**

Raleigh, NC

### **Corcoran ArtReach**

Corcoran College of Art and Design  
Washington, DC

### **Coros MECED–Chimalli**

Instituto Tamaulipeco para  
la Cultura y las Artes  
Ciudad Victoria, Tamaulipas, MX

### **Creative Solutions Summer Program**

Big Thought (formerly Young  
Audiences of North Texas)  
Dallas, TX

### **Cultural Alternatives Division**

The Music and Arts Center for  
Humanity (MACH)  
Bridgeport, CT

**Cultural Center San Francisco Tzacalha**  
Yucatán, MX

**Dance—The Next Generation**  
Sarasota Ballet of Florida, Inc.  
Sarasota, FL

**DC WritersCorps**  
Washington, DC

**DC Youth Orchestra Program**  
Washington, DC

**Desarrollo Creativo**  
Vientos Culturales  
Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, MX

**Development Program of Huapanguero Children and Youth of Querétaro**  
Instituto Queretano de la Cultura y las Artes  
Santiago de Querétaro, MX

**Discovery Trails Program**  
Accessible Arts, Inc.  
Kansas City, KS

**Documentary Workshop**  
Educational Video Center, Inc.  
New York, NY

**DREAMS Center for Arts Education**  
Dreams of Wilmington, Inc.  
Wilmington, NC

**East Bay Center for the Performing Arts**  
Richmond, CA

**El Puente Arts and Cultural Center**  
El Puente  
Brooklyn, NY

**Fábrica de Artes y Oficios de Oriente**  
Iztapala, DF, MX

**Gallery 37**  
After School Matters  
Chicago, IL

**Gallup Performing Arts Academy**  
Gallup Area Arts Council  
Gallup, NM

**Great Basin Young Chautauquans**  
Nevada Humanities Committee  
Reno, NV

**Greater New Orleans Youth Orchestra**  
New Orleans, LA

**Hard Cover**  
Community Television Network (CTVN)  
Chicago, IL

**Hilltop Artists in Residence**  
Tacoma, WA

**ICP at The Point**  
International Center of Photography (ICP)  
New York, NY

**Inner-City Arts After School Program**  
Inner-City Arts  
Los Angeles, CA

**James E. Biggs Early Childhood Education Center**  
Covington, KY

**JAMS (Jobs in the Arts Make Sense)**  
Van Go Mobile Arts, Inc.  
Lawrence, KS

**Junior Docent Program**  
Hudson River Museum  
Yonkers, NY

**Kaleidoscope Preschool Arts Enrichment Program**  
Settlement Music School  
Philadelphia, PA

**La Chácará Children's Cultural Center**  
Instituto de Cultura de Campeche  
Campeche, Campeche, MX

**La Pilita Youth Docent Program**  
La Pilita Association  
Tucson, AZ

**Latino Outreach Program**  
Philadelphia Museum of Art  
Philadelphia, PA

**Learning through the Arts**  
The Village of Arts and Humanities  
Philadelphia, PA

**"Life Lines" Community Arts Project**  
SCO Family Services  
Brooklyn, NY

**Little Companion Art Troupe**  
China Welfare Institute  
Children's Palace (CWICP)  
Shanghai, PRC

**Los Cenzontles Mexican Arts Center**  
San Pablo, CA

**Margarita Septién Ludic Center**  
Colima, MX

**Marwen**  
Chicago, IL

**Mississippi Cultural Crossroads**  
Port Gibson, MS

**Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit**  
Detroit, MI

**Moving in the Spirit**  
IndepenDANCE, Inc.  
Atlanta, GA

**Mural Arts Program**  
Philadelphia Department of Recreation  
Philadelphia, PA

**Museum Ambassador Program**  
Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco  
San Francisco, CA

**Museum Team Afterschool Program**  
Brooklyn Children's Museum, Inc.  
Brooklyn, NY

**Nez Perce Culture Camp**

Nez Perce Tribe  
Lapwai, ID

**NORD/NOBA Center for Dance**

New Orleans Ballet Association  
New Orleans, LA

**Old Stories, New Voices**

Intercultural Youth Program  
Colorado Historical Society  
Denver, CO

**Orphan Girl Theatre**

Butte Center for the Performing Arts  
Butte, MT

**PAH! Deaf Youth Theatre**

Wheelock Family Theatre  
Boston, MA

**Peer Education Program**

Illusion Theater  
Minneapolis, MN

**Pillsbury House Theatre's  
Chicago Avenue Project**

Pillsbury United Communities  
Minneapolis, MN

**Playwright Mentoring Project**

Barrington Stage Company, Inc.  
Pittsfield, MA

**Pre-Professional Dance Program**

COCA—Center of Creative Arts  
St. Louis, MO

**Preschool Outreach Plus**

Rapides Parish Library  
Alexandria, LA

**Prime Time Family Reading Time**

Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities  
New Orleans, LA

**Programa de Atencion a  
Grupos Vulnerables**

Instituto Quintanarroense de la Cultura  
Chetumal, Quintana Roo, MX

**Project Image, Teen Images,  
and The Place Where I Live**

Boston Photo Collaborative  
Hyde Park, MA

**Project YIELD**

Museum of Children's Art (MOCHA)  
Oakland, CA

**Radio Arte WRTE 90.5 FM**

Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum  
Chicago, IL

**Radio Rookies**

WNYC Radio, Inc.  
New York, NY

**RAW Chiefs**

RAW Art Works, Inc.  
Lynn, MA

**Regent After School Program**

Whitney Museum of American Art  
New York, NY

**Richmond Boys Choir**

Richmond, VA

**Ritmo en Acción Youth Dance Initiative**

Hyde Square Task Force  
Jamaica Plain, MA

**Saint Joseph Ballet Company**

Santa Ana, CA

**SAY SÍ, San Antonio Youth YES!**

San Antonio, TX

**Shakespeare in the Courts**

Shakespeare & Company  
Lenox, MA

**ShakesPEERS**

Shakespeare Theatre Company  
Washington, DC

**Sitka Fine Arts Camp**

Alaska Arts Southeast, Inc.  
Sitka, AK

**Snow City Arts Foundation**

Chicago, IL

**Starfish Academy**

YMCA of Greater Charlotte  
Charlotte, NC

**Statewide Advanced Training Program**

National Dance Institute of New Mexico  
Santa Fe, NM

**Street-Level Youth Media**

Chicago, IL

**STudents At Risk—STAR**

Trollwood Performing Arts School  
Fargo, ND

**Studioworks**

Communities In Schools of New Jersey  
Newark, NJ

**Summer Reads: SWARM**

PHILADELPHIA READS  
Philadelphia, PA

**SWAT and Celebration Teams  
and Summer Institute**

National Dance Institute, Inc.  
New York, NY

**Talleres Comunitarios en las 8  
Regiones de Nuestro Estado**

Taller de Artes Plásticas Rufino  
Tamayo Instituto Oaxaqueño de las  
Culturas  
Oaxaca, MX

**Talleres Culturales en Zonas Marginadas**

Centro Municipal de Artes  
Mazatlan, Sinaloa, MX

**Teatro de la Rosa (1440 Experience)**

Latin Arts Association of Fort Worth  
Fort Worth, TX

**Teen Arts Council**

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston  
Boston, MA



**Teen Media Program**

The Community Art Center, Inc.  
Cambridge, MA

**The 52nd Street Project**

New York, NY

**The Art and Children Project**

Nogales, MX

**The ArtsLiteracy Project**

Brown University  
Providence, RI

**The Experimental Gallery**

The Children's Museum, Seattle  
Seattle, WA

**The Lab**

Reel Works Teen Filmmaking, Inc.  
Brooklyn, NY

**The New Voices Ensemble**

The People's Light & Theatre Company  
Malvern, PA

**The Saturday Outreach Program**

The Cooper Union for the  
Advancement of Science and Art  
New York, NY

**The School Project**

Inside Out Community Arts, Inc.  
Venice, CA

**The Unusual Suspects Theatre Company**

Culver City, CA

**Tlingit Language and Culture Program**

Sheldon Museum and Cultural Center, Inc.  
Haines, AK

**TRUCE**

Harlem Children's Zone, Inc.  
New York, NY

**Upward Bound and Talent Search**

Double Discovery Center  
at Columbia University  
New York, NY

**Urban Dance Collective**

Cleveland School of the Arts  
Cleveland, OH

**Urban smARTS**

Department of Arts and Cultural Affairs  
San Antonio, TX

**Vermont Council on the Humanities**

Montpelier, VT

**Will Power to Youth**

Shakespeare Festival/LA  
Los Angeles, CA

**Windham and New London****ConnCAP Programs**

Eastern Connecticut State University  
Willimantic, CT

**WINGS Performing Arts**

Lynn Meadows Discovery Center  
for Children  
Gulfport, MS

**Words@PLAY**

Chicago Humanities Festival  
& Chicago Park District  
Chicago, IL

**Write to Read: Youth Literacy  
at Juvenile Hall**

Alameda County Library  
Fremont, CA

**Young Artists Apprenticeship Program  
and Debbie Allen Dance Institute**

Imagination Celebration Fort Worth, Inc.  
Fort Worth, TX

**Young Artists at Work**

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts  
San Francisco, CA

**Young Aspirations/Young Artists, Inc.**

New Orleans, LA

**Young Musicians Program**

University of California (Regents)  
Berkeley, CA

**Young Strings**

Dallas Symphony Orchestra  
Dallas, TX

**Youth Communication**

New York, NY

**Youth Guide Development Program**

Multicultural Youth Tour of What's Now  
(MYTOWN)  
Boston, MA

**Youth in Focus**

Seattle, WA

**Youthlight Photography Project**

Hampden Family Center, Inc.  
Baltimore, MD

**Youth Noise Network**

Center for Documentary Studies  
Durham, NC

# COMING UP TALLER

## SEMIFINALISTS 1998–2007

This retrospective list includes all organizations that were semifinalists over the past 10 years of Coming Up Taller with the exception of those that went on to receive an award.

**21st Century Scholars After-School Learning Centers**  
Fitchburg Public Schools  
Fitchburg, MA

**After School Art Experiences and Summer Art Experience**  
Holualoa Foundation for Arts and Culture  
Holualoa, HI

**ALPHA Teen Theatre**  
Alliance for the Progress of Hispanic Americans, Inc.  
Manchester, NH

**American Variety Theatre Company**  
Minneapolis, MN

**Arapaho Culture/Language Immersion Pre-School Project**  
Arapaho, WY

**Art After School**  
Mulvane Art Museum  
Topeka, KS

**Art a la Carte**  
Federated Dorchester  
Neighborhood Houses  
Dorchester, MA

**Art and Leadership Program for Girls**  
Georgia O'Keeffe Museum  
Santa Fe, NM

**Art and Media House**  
Latin American Youth Center  
Washington, DC

**Art-at-Work**  
Fulton County Arts Council  
Atlanta, GA

**Art Education Program—Cultural Awareness and Youth Artist Programs**  
Taller Puertorriqueño, Inc.  
Philadelphia, PA

**ArtReach**  
Indianapolis Art Center  
Indianapolis, IN

**Arts Academy Teen Arts**  
South Boston Neighborhood House  
Boston, MA

**ArtsConnection**  
Lane Arts Council  
Eugene, OR

**Arts in Common**  
Fitton Center for Creative Arts  
Hamilton, OH

**Arts In-Education**  
Point Breeze Performing Arts Center  
Philadelphia, PA

**Arts Outreach: Mentoring Through Photography/Mixed Media and Dance**  
Stonehill College, Inc.  
Easton, MA

**ArtsReach Louisville**  
The Kentucky Center for the Arts  
Endowment Fund, Inc.  
Louisville, KY

**Arts & Smarts**  
Patchwork Central, Inc.  
Evansville, IN

**Art Team**  
The Minneapolis Institute of Arts  
Minneapolis, MN

**ArtWorks**  
Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts  
Grand Rapids, MI

**ArtWorks!**  
Huntington Museum of Art, Inc.  
Huntington, WV

**ArtWORKS! for Youth**  
Tucson–Pima Arts Council  
Tucson, AZ

**Bard Course in the Humanities**  
The Door  
New York, NY

**BAVC Youth Programs**  
Bay Area Video Coalition  
San Francisco, CA

**Berklee City Music**  
Berklee College of Music  
Boston, MA

**Blunt Youth Radio Project**  
WMPG/Greater Portland Community Radio  
University of Southern Maine  
Portland, ME

**Borinquen Dance Theatre, Inc.**  
Rochester, NY

**Braille Institute**  
**Johnny Mercer Children's Choir**  
Braille Institute of America  
Los Angeles, CA

**Breakin' Curfew**  
The Neutral Zone  
Ann Arbor, MI

**CAT Youth Theatre**  
Creative Arts Team/New York University  
New York, NY

**Center for Creative Youth**  
Capitol Region Educational Council  
Middletown, CT

**Children of the Future**  
Greater Columbus Arts Council  
Columbus, OH

**Children's Visual Arts Classes**  
Locust Street Neighborhood Art  
Classes, Inc.  
Buffalo, NY

**Christina Cultural Arts Center, Inc.**  
Wilmington, DE

**City at Peace, Inc.**  
Washington, DC

**City Center Art**  
Space One Eleven  
Birmingham, AL

**City Dance Theatre**  
Cultural Arts Division  
of the City of Richmond  
Department of Parks, Recreation,  
and Community Facilities  
Richmond, VA

**Citywide Poets**  
InsideOut Literary Arts Project  
Detroit, MI

**Community-Based Arts Programming**  
Baltimore Clayworks, Inc.  
Baltimore, MD

**Community Connection**  
Indianapolis Museum of Art  
Indianapolis, IN

**Community Folklife Program and Positive  
Youth Troupe**  
Mind-Builders Creative Arts Center  
Bronx, NY

**Community Music Center**  
San Diego, CA

**Community MusicWorks**  
Providence, RI

**Community Youth Mural Program**  
City of Santa Fe Arts Commission  
Santa Fe, NM

**Court Youth Center**  
Mesilla Valley Youth Foundation  
Las Cruces, NM

**Coyote Junior High**  
Seattle, WA

**CreateNow**  
The Asian American Writers'  
Workshop, Inc.  
New York, NY

**Creative Communities**  
The Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra  
Providence, RI

**Crescendo Music Program**  
Academy of Community Music  
Fort Washington, PA

**Dance Program: Miss Monica's  
School of Dance**  
A Place Called Home  
Los Angeles, CA

**Dare to Dance**  
Ballet East Dance Theatre  
Austin, TX

**Deaf Access**  
Imagination Stage, Inc.  
Bethesda, MD

**Discover Theater Summer Camps**  
Junior Players Guild  
Dallas, TX

**Dramagirls**  
Redmoon Theater  
Chicago, IL

**DreamYard After School Arts Company**  
DreamYard Drama Project, Inc.  
New York, NY

**East of the River Boys and Girls Steel Band**  
Washington, DC

**Enriched Instrumental Instruction  
for Hmong Children**  
Lawrence Arts Academy  
Appleton, WI

**Expressive Arts**  
Tanager Place  
Cedar Rapids, IA

**Express Yourself, Inc.**  
Peabody, MA

**Family History Art Book Project**  
Atlanta Contemporary Art Center  
Atlanta, GA

**Film and Television Technology  
Center for Youth**  
Hollywood Entertainment Museum  
Los Angeles, CA

**Financial Aid Program/Music  
in the Community Initiative**  
Concord Community Music School  
Concord, NH

**Find Your Voice Literacy-Through-Theatre  
Program for Teens**  
Starfish Theatreworks, Inc.  
New York, NY

**FMA Teen Docent Program**  
The Fuller Museum of Art  
Brockton, MA

**Folklórico Mexicano**  
Aspen Santa Fe Ballet  
Aspen, CO

**Free Street Theater**  
Chicago, IL

**Future Stars/SMART Moves  
Players Programs**  
The Boys and Girls Club of Easton  
Easton, PA

**Girlstories Theatre and Workshops**  
Powerstories Theatre, Inc.  
Tampa, FL

**Global Artways**  
Salt Lake City Corporation  
Salt Lake City, UT

**Greater Newark Youth Orchestra**  
New Jersey Symphony Orchestra  
Newark, NJ

**Growing Stages: Theatre by and for Youth**  
Shenan Arts, Inc.  
Staunton, VA

**Hamilton Wings' SCORE**  
Hamilton Wings, Inc.  
Elgin, IL

**HANDS-ON**  
ZUMIX, Inc.  
East Boston, MA

**Harbor Conservatory for the Performing Arts**  
Boys and Girls Harbor, Inc.  
New York, NY

**Identity Bridge**  
Fort Wayne Dance Collective, Inc.  
Fort Wayne, IN

**Inner City Neighborhood Art House**  
Erie, PA

**Intensive Community Program**  
Greater Boston Symphony Orchestra, Inc.  
Boston, MA

**Investigating Where We Live**  
National Building Museum  
Washington, DC

**I Sing the Body Electric**  
Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Foundation  
Mattoon, IL

**John C. Cudahy Branch YMCA**  
**Visual Arts Program**  
YMCA of Metropolitan Milwaukee  
Milwaukee, WI

**Juxtaposition Arts, Inc.**  
Minneapolis, MN

**Kids First™ Art Education**  
Silicon Valley Children's Fund  
San Jose, CA

**Lake Street Theater Club**  
In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and  
Mask Theater  
Minneapolis, MN

**Learning Early Network**  
Bradford County Regional Arts Council  
Towanda, PA

**Levine School of Music**  
Southeast Site  
Washington, DC

**Life Arts**  
Children's Aid and Family Services, Inc.  
Paramus, NJ

**Living Stage Theatre Company**  
Arena Stage  
Washington, DC

**Make A Joyful Sound**  
Music Institute of Chicago  
Winnetka, IL

**Mariachi Music Instruction Program**  
Hernandez Mariachi Heritage Society  
South El Monte, CA

**Matrix Theatre Company: Young**  
**Playwrights Initiative**  
Matrix Theatre Company  
Detroit, MI

**Mayor's Youth Employment in the Arts**  
Kenosha, WI

**Media Works Project**  
Art Start, Inc.  
New York, NY

**Midnight Shakespeare**  
The San Francisco Shakespeare Festival  
San Francisco, CA

**MoCo Arts Youth Programs**  
The Moving Company Dance Center  
Keene, NH

**MOTHEREAD, Inc. and State**  
**MOTHEREAD/FATHEREAD Affiliates**  
Raleigh, NC

**Multicultural Education and Counseling**  
**through the Arts**  
Houston, TX

**Music Advancement Program (M.A.P.)**  
The Juilliard School  
New York, NY

**Music Education and Performance**  
Oakland Youth Chorus  
Oakland, CA

**Neighborhood Studios**  
Greater Hartford Arts Council, Inc.  
Hartford, CT

**Neighbors' Starpoint**  
The Children's Museum of Indianapolis  
Indianapolis, IN

**Newark Community School of the Arts**  
Newark, NJ

**New Urban Arts**  
Providence, RI

**No Limits Theatre Group, Inc.**  
Culver City, CA

**Our Piece of the Pie (OPP)**  
Southend Community Services  
Hartford, CT

**Phillis Wheatley Repertory Theatre for Youth**  
Phillis Wheatley Association  
Greenville, SC

**Positive Directions Through Dance**  
Dance Institute of Washington, Inc.  
Washington, DC

**Professional Television Youth Media**  
**Productions: Pro-TV**  
Downtown Community Television  
Center, Inc.  
New York, NY

**Progressive Afterschool Art Community Education (PACE) Program**  
Norton Museum of Art  
West Palm Beach, FL

**Project ABLE**  
Mill Street Loft, Inc.  
Poughkeepsie, NY

**Project Arts in Motion (AIM)**  
Creative Kids  
El Paso, TX

**Project Jericho**  
Clark State Community College  
Springfield, OH

**Project Shine After School Program**  
Tucson Unified School District  
Tucson, AZ

**Project STEP, Inc.**  
Boston, MA

**Purple Bamboo Children's Traditional Chinese Instrument Orchestra**  
Purple Silk Music Education Foundation  
San Francisco, CA

**Recasting the Circle: Encountering the Dimensions of Community**  
Center Stage Associates, Inc.  
Baltimore, MD

**Red Ladder Theatre Company**  
San Jose Repertory Theatre  
San Jose, CA

**Roosevelt Dancers**  
Indochinese Cultural and Service Center  
Tacoma, WA

**San Anto Cultural Arts, Inc.**  
San Antonio, TX

**Sankofa African Dance and Drum Company**  
Inner City Cultural League, Inc.  
Dover, DE

**Santa Fe Teen Arts Center**  
Warehouse 21  
Santa Fe, NM

**SEEDArts**  
SouthEast Effective Development (SEED)  
Seattle, WA

**Short Stop Youth Center**  
Directions for Youth & Families  
Columbus, OH

**Sitka Native Education Program**  
Sitka Tribe of Alaska  
Sitka, AK

**SmartArt**  
Center for Development and Learning  
Covington, LA

**SMARTS—Students Motivated by the Arts**  
Youngstown State University  
Youngstown, OH

**Songs of Hope Youth Leadership Development Program**  
Sounds of Hope, Ltd.  
St. Paul, MN

**Sphinx Preparatory Music Institute**  
Sphinx Organization, Inc.  
Detroit, MI

**Still Waters Youth Sinfo-Nia of Metropolitan Atlanta, Inc.**  
Atlanta, GA

**St. Louis Artworks**  
St. Louis, MO

**Strive Media Institute, Inc.**  
Milwaukee, WI

**Student Theatre Enrichment Program (STEP)**  
Cleveland Public Theatre  
Cleveland, OH

**Summer Arts and Leadership Camp**  
Women's Opportunity and Resource Development  
Missoula, MT

**Summer Arts for Youth**  
Young Audiences of Indiana, Inc.  
Indianapolis, IN

**Summer Writing Camp**  
National Book Foundation, Inc.  
New York, NY

**Sunburst Youth Theatre**  
The Public Theatre of Kentucky, Inc.  
Bowling Green, KY

**Synthesis Arts Workshop**  
United Action for Youth  
Iowa City, IA

**TADA! Resident Youth Ensemble**  
TADA! Theater and Dance Alliance, Inc.  
New York, NY

**Take Center Stage**  
Huntington Theatre Company, Inc.  
Boston, MA

**Techteens Internship Program**  
Children's Museum of Manhattan  
New York, NY

**Teen and Multicultural Programs**  
Omaha Theater Company  
Omaha, NE

**Teen Apprentice Program (TAP)**  
Worcester Center for Crafts  
Worcester, MA

**Teen Art Coalition**  
ArtWorks! Partners for the Arts and Community, Inc.  
New Bedford, MA

**The After-School Music Program**  
Mountain Top Music Center  
North Conway, NH

**The ARTiculate Employment Training Program**  
Washington Very Special Arts  
Washington, DC

**The Artists Collective, Inc.**  
Hartford, CT

**The CityKids Repertory Company**  
The CityKids Foundation, Inc.  
New York, NY

**The Comic Book Project**  
Teachers College, Columbia University  
New York, NY

**The Computer Clubhouse @  
The Computer Museum**  
Boston, MA

**The Dance Outreach Program**  
The Center of Contemporary Arts  
St. Louis, MO

**The Delphi Project Foundation**  
Philadelphia, PA

**The Harlem School of the Arts**  
New York, NY

**The Hip-Hop and Urban Music Project  
(Thump) by Ethos**  
Ethos Music Center  
Portland, OR

**The Kennedy Center/Dance Theatre of  
Harlem Community Dance Residency**  
Washington, DC

**The Kentucky Center Governor's  
School for the Arts**  
The Kentucky Center for the Arts  
Endowment Fund, Inc.  
Louisville, KY

**The LIFT Study Program**  
The Dance Ring, Inc./New York  
Theatre Ballet  
New York, NY

**The One Voice Arts Project**  
Monterey County Office for  
Employment Training  
Salinas, CA

**The Sitar Center After-School Arts Program**  
The Patricia M. Sitar Center for the Arts  
Washington, DC

**The Spot**  
Urban Peak  
Denver, CO

**The Theatre Lab School  
of the Dramatic Arts**  
Washington, DC

**Tiered Mentorship Program**  
Everett Dance Theatre  
Providence, RI

**Toddler Rock**  
Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Museum  
Cleveland, OH

**To Make The World A Better Place**  
New York, NY

**T-Shirt Theatre**  
Alliance for Drama Education  
Honolulu, HI

**Tuition-Free Conservatory/  
Preparatory Program**  
Merit School of Music  
Chicago, IL

**Urban Arts Training Program**  
Arts Council of New Orleans  
New Orleans, LA

**Urban Improv**  
Freelance Players, Inc.  
Jamaica Plain, MA

**Urban Missions**  
Columbia College Chicago  
Chicago, IL

**Urban Voices**  
Global Action Project, Inc.  
New York, NY

**West Virginia Dreamers/Bridge of Dreams**  
Step by Step, Inc.  
Harts, WV

**Word Journeys**  
Pima County Public Library  
Tucson, AZ

**Young Artist Apprenticeship Program (YAAP)**  
Blaffer Gallery, Art Museum of the  
University of Houston  
Houston, TX

**Young People's Chorus of New York City**  
New York, NY

**Young Shakespeare Workshop**  
Seattle, WA

**Youth Action Research Institute (YARI)**  
Institute for Community Research  
Hartford, CT

**YouthALIVE!**  
Children's Museum of Pittsburgh  
Pittsburgh, PA

**Youth Ensemble of Atlanta**  
Atlanta, GA

**Youth Mentorship Program**  
Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village  
Dearborn, MI

**Youth Theater Project**  
San Francisco Mime Troupe, Inc.  
San Francisco, CA

**YouthWorks**  
The Lied Discovery Children's Museum  
Las Vegas, NV



Below: China Welfare Institute Children's Palace dance program participants in performance.

Photographer: China Welfare Institute Children's Palace



# COMING UP TALLER

## NATIONAL JURY 1998–2007

The following experts were members of a Coming Up Taller National Jury between 1998 and 2007. Their titles reflect the positions they held at the time they served.

**Debbie Allen**  
Producer  
DreamWorks  
Los Angeles, CA

**Giselle Antoni**  
Executive Director  
Big Thought  
Dallas, TX

**Frannie Ashburn**  
Director  
North Carolina Center for the Book  
Raleigh, NC

**Jenny Atkinson**  
Senior Director, Education and The Arts  
Boys and Girls Clubs of America  
Atlanta, GA

**Peggy Barber**  
Partner and Principal  
Library Communication Strategies  
Chicago, IL

**Roger L. Bedard**  
Evelyn Smith Family Professor of Theatre  
Arizona State University  
Tempe, AZ

**Tomas J. Benitez**  
Director  
Self Help Graphics and Art, Inc.  
Los Angeles, CA

**Jill Berryman**  
Executive Director  
Sierra Arts Foundation  
Reno, NV

**Terry M. Blackhawk**  
Founder and Executive Director  
InsideOut Literary Arts Project  
Detroit, MI

**Wendy C. Blackwell**  
Director of Education  
National Children's Museum  
Washington, DC

**Arthur I. Blaustein**  
Professor  
Department of City and Regional Planning  
University of California at Berkeley  
Berkeley, CA

**Brett D. Bonda**  
Education Director  
Richmond Ballet  
Richmond, VA

**Shirley Brice Heath**  
Professor of English and Linguistics  
Stanford University  
Stanford, CA

**Bill Bulick**  
Founder  
Creative Planning Consultants  
Portland, OR

**Stanley A. Butler**  
Branch Manager, Walbrook Branch  
Enoch Pratt Free Library  
Baltimore, MD

**Norma E. Cantú**  
Professor of English  
Texas A&M International University  
Laredo, TX

**Isabel Carter Stewart**  
Executive Director  
Chicago Foundation for Women  
Chicago, IL

**Alexine Celement Jackson**  
National President  
YWCA of the USA  
Potomac, MD

**Libby Lai-Bun Chiu**  
Executive Director  
Urban Gateways  
Chicago, IL

**William Cleveland**  
Director  
Center for the Study of Art and  
Community  
Minneapolis, MN

**Sharon Combs**  
Vice President, National Alliances  
Nonprofit Finance Fund  
New York, NY

**William Cook**  
Chair  
Department of English  
Dartmouth College  
Hanover, NH

**J. Mark Davis**  
President  
Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation  
Atlanta, GA

**Lynn D. Dierking**  
Professor in Free-Choice Learning  
Oregon State University  
Corvallis, OR

**Allison Dillon**  
Managing Director  
Nashville Children's Theater  
Nashville, TN



**José Dominguez**  
Program Associate  
Young Playwrights' Theater  
Washington, DC

**Ben Donenberg**  
Artistic Director  
Shakespeare Festival/LA  
Los Angeles, CA

**Janet Eilber**  
Director, Arts Education  
Dana Foundation  
New York, NY

**Debra Eileen Evans**  
Music Education Consultant  
New York, NY

**Pat Farmer**  
Executive Director  
Allegro Foundation  
Charlotte, NC

**Douglas W. Foard**  
Adjunct Professor of History  
George Mason University  
Fairfax, VA

**Edward H. Friedman**  
Professor of Spanish and  
Comparative Literature  
Vanderbilt University  
Nashville, TN

**Anthony P. Frudakis**  
Sculptor, Associate Professor of Art  
Hillsdale College  
Hillsdale, MI

**Kathryn Gibson**  
Head of School  
The MacDuffie School  
Springfield, MA

**Mashunté Glass**  
Youth Jurist  
Atlanta, GA

**Sandra Haarsager**  
Interim Director  
Lionel Hampton Center  
University of Idaho  
Moscow, ID

**Robert L. Hall**  
Associate Head of Education and  
Visual Arts Specialist  
Anacostia Museum and Center for  
African American History and Culture  
Smithsonian Institution  
Washington, DC

**Ronnie Hartfield**  
Executive Director for  
Museum Education  
The Art Institute of Chicago  
Chicago, IL

**Luis Haza**  
Music Director and Conductor  
American Youth Philharmonic  
Orchestras  
Annandale, VA

**Grady Hillman**  
Poet  
Austin, TX

**Samuel Chuen-Tsung Hoi**  
Dean  
Corcoran College of Art and Design  
Washington, DC

**Johnny Irizarry**  
Program Specialist for Latino Studies  
Office of Curriculum Support  
School District of Philadelphia  
Philadelphia, PA

**Andrew P. Jackson**  
Executive Director  
Langston Hughes Community Library  
and Cultural Center  
Queens Library  
Corona, NY

**Homer Jackson**  
Artist and Teacher  
Philadelphia, PA

**Sandra Jackson-Dumont**  
Kayla Skinner Deputy Director of  
Education and Public Programs  
Seattle Art Museum  
Seattle, WA

**Jennifer Jeffries Thompson**  
Historical Projects Consultant  
Montana Historical Society  
Helena, MT

**Suzi Jones**  
Deputy Director  
Anchorage Museum of History and Art  
Anchorage, AK

**Anana Kambon**  
National Director  
ACT-SO Program  
NAACP  
Baltimore, MD

**Collette Lampkin**  
Youth Jurist  
Washington, DC

**Jeremy Chi-Ming Liu**  
Director of Community Programs  
Asian Community Development  
Corporation  
Boston, MA

**Abel Lopez**  
Associate Producing Director  
GALA Hispanic Theatre  
Washington, DC

**Mark Lutwak**  
Freelance Director  
Honolulu Theatre for Youth  
Honolulu, HI

**Barbara Jo Maier**  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Theatre  
Northern Arizona University  
Flagstaff, AZ

**R. Maria Marable-Bunch**  
Associate Director of Teacher Programs  
The Art Institute of Chicago  
Chicago, IL

**Lolita Mayadas**  
Englewood, NJ



**Tracey M. Weis**  
Associate Professor  
Department of History  
Millersville University  
Millersville, PA

**Karen White**  
Artist  
Karen White Studio  
Denver, CO

**Daniel J. Windham**  
President and CEO  
Kansas City Young Audiences Inc.  
Kansas City, MO

**Cary D. Wintz**  
Professor, History Department  
Texas Southern University  
Houston, TX

**Phillip Ying**  
Violist  
Ying Quartet  
Rochester, NY

**Nicole Yohalem**  
Program Director  
The Forum for Youth Investment  
Washington, DC

**Denise Zaccardi**  
Executive Director  
Community TV Network  
Chicago, IL

**Below: DREAMS Center student Ebony Dockery weaves a basket.**

Photographer: DREAMS Center



# COMING UP TALLER

## CONTRIBUTORS 1998–2007

The accomplishments of Coming Up Taller have been made possible through the generous support of the following:

Agnes Gund and Daniel Shapiro

Alice S. Kandell

American Express Company

American Photo

Ann Sheffer

Anncox Foundation, Inc.

Beth Singer Design, LLC

Betsy and Alan Cohn Foundation

Bill McCormick

BVK

Caren H. Prothro

Charles Butt

Charles Vincent Prothro Family Fund  
of The Dallas Foundation

Cherner Automotive, Arlene  
and Harvey Cherner

Cherner Lincoln, Mercury, Isuzu, and Kia

Cranium, Inc.

Curt Bradbury

Cynthia Friedman

David Henry Hwang

Don Coleman Advertising, Inc.

Donside

Dwain Wall

Earth Sciences & Technologies  
International, Inc.

Elizabeth and Richard Dubin Foundation

Everett L. Fly

First Book

Four Graphics

FranklinCovey

Global Tech Industries

GMAC Financial Services

Green Family Foundation

Hachette Filipacchi Magazines

Harold Williams Foundation

Harriet Mayor Fulbright Fund

H.E. Butt Grocery Company

Henry J. Kaufmann & Associates, Inc.

Howard A. Tullman

Image Graphics

Image Works

Institute for Civil Society

Institute of Museum and Library Services

Irene Y. Hirano

Istros Media Corporation

JoAnn McGrath

John and Lucia Mudd

John Brademas

Kristen Schmeelcke of Holland  
and Knight LLP

KSF Production Group, Inc.

Laura A. Winter

Lerone Bennett, Jr.

Loews Cineplex Entertainment

Madeleine Harris Bernson

Margaret Corbett Daly

Dr. Mark Epstein and Ms. Annella  
Hoerber

Martin E. Marty

MasterCard International

Members, President's Committee  
on the Arts and the Humanities

MetLife Foundation

Mid-Atlantic Printers, Ltd.

Miller & Long Co., Inc.

Ministry of Culture,  
People's Republic of China

Miriam and Gerry Birbach

National Assembly of State Arts Agencies  
National Endowment for the Arts  
National Endowment for the Humanities  
New York Stock Exchange, Inc.  
Noel Gould, Esq.  
Orlando.com  
Pellom & Navvab McDaniels  
Podesta Associates, Inc.  
Popular Photography  
Preview Travel  
Quebecor, USA  
Quincy Jones Productions, Inc.  
Raymond D. Nasher  
Recording Industry of America  
Reese Press  
Richard Rabinowitz  
Rita Moreno  
Robert and Joyce Menschel Family Foundation  
Robert T. and Ruby N. Priddy Donor Advised Fund, Wichita Falls Area Community Foundation  
Samsonite Company Stores  
Samsonite Corporation  
Mr. and Mrs. Sanford Slavin  
Sara Lee Foundation  
Semel Charitable Foundation  
S.H. & Helen R. Scheuer Family Foundation  
Shirley P. Wilhite  
Sony Online Entertainment  
Surdna Foundation  
Susan Barnes-Gelt  
Sylvia Major Trust  
The Chase Manhattan Foundation  
The Communications Consortium  
The Harman Family Foundation, Jane and Sidney Harman  
The Leonora Foundation  
The Rodgers and Hammerstein Organization  
The Rodgers Family Foundation, Inc.  
The Ruth C. and Charles S. Sharp Foundation, Inc.  
The U.S.–Mexico Foundation for Culture, with special support from Jumex, the Comex Group, Fundación Televisa, Fundación Coca-Cola, The Government of the State of Campeche, and United Airlines  
Thomas M. & Victoria A. O’Gara  
Time Warner Inc.  
Travelodge Franchise Systems, Inc.  
Universal Studios, Inc.  
U.S. Department of Education  
Vin and Caren Prothro Foundation  
Walter H. Shorenstein  
Westgate Resorts  
Whitmore Print and Imaging  
Widmeyer Communications, Inc.  
W. Robert Connor

# 2007 COMING UP TALLER

## FEDERAL CULTURAL AGENCY PROFILES

### **President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities**

1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Suite 526  
Washington, DC 20506  
Phone: 202-682-5409  
Fax: 202-682-5668  
E-mail: [pcah@pcah.gov](mailto:pcah@pcah.gov)  
URL: [www.pcah.gov](http://www.pcah.gov)

The President of the United States recognizes that the nation's cultural life contributes to the vibrancy of society and the strength of democracy. The President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities helps to incorporate the arts and humanities into White House objectives. It recognizes cultural excellence, engages in research, initiates special projects, and stimulates private funding. Areas of current focus include programs in youth arts and humanities learning; preservation and conservation; special events; and expansion of international cultural relations.

*First Lady Laura Bush, Honorary Chairman  
Adair Margo, Chairman  
Henry Moran, Executive Director*

### **Institute of Museum and Library Services**

1800 M Street, NW  
9th Floor  
Washington, DC 20036-5802  
Phone: 202-653-IMLS  
Fax: 202-653-4600  
E-mail: [imlsinfo@imls.gov](mailto:imlsinfo@imls.gov)  
URL: [www.imls.gov](http://www.imls.gov)

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 122,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The Institute's mission is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas. The Institute works at the national level and in coordination with state and local organizations to sustain heritage, culture, and knowledge; enhance learning and innovation; and support professional development.

*Anne-Imelda M. Radice, PhD, Director*

**National Endowment for the Arts**

1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20506  
Phone: 202-682-5400  
Fax: 202-682-5611  
E-mail: [webmgr@arts.endow.gov](mailto:webmgr@arts.endow.gov)  
URL: [www.arts.gov](http://www.arts.gov)

The National Endowment for the Arts is a public agency dedicated to supporting excellence in the arts, both new and established; bringing the arts to all Americans; and providing leadership in arts education. Established by Congress in 1965 as an independent agency of the federal government, the Endowment is the nation's largest annual funder of the arts, bringing great art to all 50 states, including rural areas, inner cities, and military bases.

*Dana Gioia, Chairman*

**National Endowment for the Humanities**

1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20506  
Phone: 202-606-8400  
Fax: 202-606-8240  
E-mail: [info@neh.gov](mailto:info@neh.gov)  
URL: [www.neh.gov](http://www.neh.gov)

Because democracy demands wisdom, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) serves and strengthens our Republic by promoting excellence in the humanities and conveying the lessons of history to all Americans. The Endowment accomplishes this mission by providing grants for high-quality humanities projects in four funding areas: preserving and providing access to cultural resources, education, research, and public programs.

*Bruce M. Cole, PhD, Chairman*

**Below: Nohely Vargas from Ritmo en Acción stomps in a performance at the Hyde Square Task Force Annual Meeting.**

Photographer: Kara Delahunt



