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PRESS RELEASE

Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake visits Hilton Elementary for a Mural Unveiling and a Tour of Learning through the Arts: 16 new grants announced

Young Audiences/Arts for Learning hosted Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake and other community leaders at Hilton Elementary on **Friday, March 4, 2011, 10:00-11:00 am** to highlight the **Access for All Initiative**; a public/private partnership that supports expanding access to the arts in schools, particularly for students in low-income areas. Second and third-grade students unveiled a mural they created through the Access for All Initiative, which was formed to ensure equitable access to Baltimore's rich arts resources. It is jointly funded by the city government, the public school system, and a community of donors convened by Young Audiences/Arts for Learning. Young Audiences thanks Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake and Baltimore City Public Schools for recognizing and valuing the importance of the arts in our schools and ensuring that students of all socio-economic backgrounds have the opportunity to benefit from hands-on arts learning in their schools.

WHO: Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
Dr. Sonja Brookins Santelises, Baltimore City Public Schools Chief Academic Officer
Stacie Sanders Evans, Executive Director, Young Audiences/Arts for Learning
2nd and 3rd grade students of Hilton Elementary

WHERE: Hilton Elementary School - 3301 Carlisle Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21216-1837

WHAT: Mural unveiling, student-led tour of the mural-making and learning process
and announcement of 16 new *Access for All Initiative* grants

WHEN: Friday, March 4, 2011, 10:00-11:00 am

The Hilton Elementary second and third grade students led guests on a "Tour of Learning" which followed the learning process behind creating the mural. Students explained the different stages of the artist in residence program while demonstrating the art techniques they learned. This project was designed to teach and reinforce language arts and the science curriculum. By integrating arts learning with primary subjects, many different types of learners are engaged. Hilton Elementary teachers have noted improved vocabulary retention and recall by their students, proving that the arts are more than just a fun activity. Research shows that children who have arts experiences do better in school and are less likely to drop out.

The event ended with the official unveiling of the mosaic mural and an announcement of the 16 new Access for All grants to expand arts learning in Baltimore City Public Schools.

About the Access for All Initiative:

With community support, YA launched the Access for All Initiative in 2009 to provide high need Baltimore City Public Schools with arts programs. In addition to support from BCPS and the Baltimore Office of Promotions and The Arts,

generous donors help subsidize the cost of delivering the programs. This public/private partnership makes it possible to bring over 50 arts experiences this year alone to thousands of Baltimore inner city youth. By subsidizing the cost of professional artist programs, Access for All allows principals with limited resources to provide hands-on learning in the arts that supplement and enrich their curriculum.

Access for All Initiative Spring 2011 Award Recipients

The Academy for Career and College Exploration
Baltimore Montessori Public Charter Elementary School
Claremont High School
Dickey Hill Elementary/Middle School
Francis Scott Key Elementary/Middle School
Garrett Heights Elementary School
Hamilton Elementary School
Harlem Park Elementary/Middle School
Highlandtown Elementary/Middle School # 237
Hilton Elementary School
Lockerman Bundy Elementary School
Margaret Brent Elementary/Middle School
Mary E. Rodman Elementary School
New Era Academy
Samuel F. B. Morse Elementary School
Wolfe Street Academy

Access for All Initiative Key Partners and Supporters

The Alison Rose Tunis Fund of the Baltimore Community Foundation
Baltimore City Public Schools
Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts
The Goldsmith Family Foundation
The Louis B. II and Josephine L. Kohn Family Foundation Inc.
Maryland Community Investment Tax Credit Donors
Maryland State Arts Council
The Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation

About Young Audiences:

Young Audiences is the nation's largest arts education provider, started right here in Baltimore in 1950. We partner professional artists from all disciplines with schools throughout Maryland for hands-on arts learning experiences. We envision a Maryland where the arts are valued for their capacity to transform lives, and where every student is immersed in opportunities to imagine, to create and to realize their full potential through the arts.

Young Audiences/Arts for Learning is a non-profit organization devoted to enriching the lives and education of Maryland's youth through educational and culturally diverse arts programs. For more information, contact YA at 410.837.7577 or visit us on the web at www.yamd.org.

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