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PRESS RELEASE

Arts Program at Baltimore City High School selected as a finalist for the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award

(BALTIMORE) - The President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities has recognized *Careers in the Arts*, an in-depth after-school arts partnership between Young Audiences and the Academy of College and Career Exploration (ACCE), as a finalist for the prestigious National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award.

This year, 471 nominated programs from across the country were reviewed by the committee. Of these programs, *Careers in the Arts* was one of 50 selected as a finalist and awarded a Certificate of Excellence.

According to the Committee, these awards recognize and support outstanding community arts and humanities programs that celebrate the creativity of America's youth and provide them with new learning opportunities and a chance to contribute to their communities. At the end of June, the Committee will announce the 12 award recipients, who will each receive a \$10,000 grant and an invitation to the White House awards ceremony hosted by First Lady Michelle Obama.

Careers in the Arts offers after-school extended learning to students at ACCE in several disciplines, ranging from African drumming and theatre for social change, to comic book illustration and ceramics. Classes are taught by six Young Audiences' professional teaching artists, who work with students three times per week for a total of 170 hours of instruction each year. The Mayor's Office of Employment Development and the Baltimore City Foundation partner with ACCE and Young Audiences to operate the program, while major funding is provided by The City of Baltimore—Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, The Baltimore City Council and the Family League of Baltimore.

This Thursday, May 12 at 5:00 pm, *Careers in the Arts* will hold its annual Spring Showcase to celebrate students' accomplishments during the year. Both the visual and performing arts will be highlighted through a gallery exhibition and performances. The event—located at ACCE in Hampden—is open to the public. #

WHAT: *Careers in the Arts* annual Spring Showcase

WHERE: ACCE, 1300 W 36th Street, Baltimore, MD 21211

WHEN: Thursday, May 12 at 5:00 pm

[Young Audiences/Arts for Learning](http://www.yamd.org) is America's oldest arts in education nonprofit, and the state's most utilized arts education resource. Founded in 1950, Young Audiences has been bringing the arts into the lives and education of Maryland's youth for over 60 years. Young Audiences envisions 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.

For more information or to schedule an interview, contact Michelle Clesse at 410.837.7577 or michelle@yamd.org.