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## PRESS RELEASE

### Taste the Arts VI: Reinventing the Future

Young Audiences/Arts for Learning of Maryland announces its annual fundraiser gala, Taste the Arts VI: Reinventing the Future, to be held Saturday, March 26, 2011 at the American Visionary Art Museum. Envision a future where every child has the chance to imagine, create, and discover their full potential through the arts. This annual event supports arts education programs for Maryland students and honors leaders in arts education.

**When:** Saturday, March 26, 2011  
7:00 pm – 11:00 pm

**Where:** American Visionary Art Museum  
800 Key Highway  
Baltimore, MD 21230

The event will feature food and drink from Baltimore's finest restaurants - some favorites from last year and some new. YA's world class performers will entertain over 400 guests throughout the evening. The program will also include both a live and silent auction, as well as an awards ceremony. Young Audiences is proud to announce the recipients of the following awards:

- **2011 Nina Collier Arts Champion Award : Mayo and Molly Shattuck**

Molly and Mayo Shattuck are some of Young Audience's most stalwart supporters. Ms. Shattuck, a mother of five and former Baltimore Ravens cheerleader, is a driving philanthropic force in the city of Baltimore who regularly advocates for the arts, education, and health causes for underprivileged city youth. She served on the Board of Directors for Young Audiences from 1994 to 1999. Mr. Shattuck is the Chairman, President and CEO of Constellation Energy. He is dedicated to educational causes and has served on the Board of Directors for the Walters Art Museum, the University of Maryland Baltimore County, The Gilman School, the Maryland Business Roundtable for Education, and Stanford University.

- **2011 Artist of the Year Award : Milkshake**

Milkshake is a rock band for kids and kids at heart, fronted by vocalist Lisa Mathews and guitarist Mikel Gehl. Their most recent album, "Great Day," was nominated for a 2010 Grammy Award for Best Children's Album, and they have been featured on Noggin, PBS Kids, Discovery Kids, and won several Parent's Choice Awards. Cookie Magazine says "Mathews and Gehl, both parents, know that good music doesn't require anything more than a catchy hook and an inviting chorus. To appeal to their audience, they don't dumb down the music - they just play it straight. The results are entirely enjoyable."

- **2011 Visionary School Award : Wiley H. Bates Middle School**

At a time when many schools and school districts are choosing to cut back on the arts, Bates Middle School is making a larger investment and remains committed to keeping quality visual arts, instrumental and vocal music, and dance teachers on staff. Arts integration is embraced and valued as a way to strengthen curricular connections, increase

student engagement, and enhance student learning. Artists and teachers work together to create natural, meaningful connections between art forms and curricular areas. Through their unique arts integrated Summer Bridge program “Imagination Vacation”, artists and teachers team-plan and team-teach incoming students to prepare them for their new school.

Providing staff with the infrastructure necessary for student success, teachers take part in extensive and on-going training in arts integration. The program at Bates Middle School is made possible by an exemplary and dedicated administration - Principal Dr. Diane Bragdon and Dr. Kevin Maxwell, superintendent for Anne Arundel County Schools.

Funds raised at this event will support our efforts to offer the highest quality arts education programs at the lowest possible cost, so that any child or school in Maryland, regardless of their resources, can experience the arts.

[Young Audiences/Arts for Learning](#) is America’s largest 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 with Stacie Sanders, Executive Director, Young Audiences/Arts for Learning, contact Michelle Clesse at 410.837.7577 or [michelle@yamd.org](mailto:michelle@yamd.org).

*Young Audiences/Arts for Learning Maryland Chapter 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](http://www.yamd.org).*

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