



Young
Audiences
Arts for
Learning
Maryland

Young Audiences/Arts for Learning

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PRESS RELEASE

National Endowment for the Arts Fully Funds the Efforts of Maryland's Teaching Artist Institute

*More than 100 Maryland artists and educators from around the world
will work in unison to find creative ways to ensure our youth's
success in and out of the classroom*

BALTIMORE, MD – On April 30, 2009 the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) announced that Young Audiences/Arts for Learning (YA), a non-profit arts-in-education organization based in Maryland, would receive \$25,000 under the NEA's *Learning in the Arts* category to support the work of YA's Teaching Artist Institute (TAI).

TAI is a partnership between YA, Arts Education in Maryland Schools (AEMS) Alliance, and the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC). "Our hope is, as a result of TAI, teaching artists in Maryland will be empowered to help address the diverse needs of our schools and communities," explained Stacie Sanders, Executive Director of YA. "This support from the NEA is thoroughly appreciated and needed in a time where we are all looking for ways to capture the attention and build upon the imagination of our youth for their success."

NEA's *Learning in the Arts* grant supports projects that provide in-depth knowledge, skills, and understanding of the arts to children and youth in schools and communities. Through the *Learning in the Arts* category, the NEA funded 210 projects out of 506 eligible applications.

The award received for TAI will provide hands on training to 20 Maryland artists on Designing Arts Integrated Residencies this summer. Also due to this funding, TAI partners are excited to provide TAI artists with an opportunity to collaborate with Anne Arundel County Public School educators during a week long symposium. The conference is part of AACPS' teacher summer institute: *Building 21st Century Schools through Arts Integration in Anne Arundel County*. By partnering with AACPS, teaching artists and educators will have the unique opportunity to learn and work side by side during a week long intensive professional development retreat. The partners have also planned for a special "arts integration camp" scheduled for the following week in which some of the teaching artists and teacher teams will field test their work with 6th and 7th graders. The retreat will be

held at Wiley E. Bates Middle School and the Maryland Hall for Creative Arts from July 26th to July 31st. The student "arts integration camp," entitled *Imagination Vacation* will be held August 3rd – 7th.

During the symposium, more than 70 AACPS educators, 22 teaching artists, and a delegation of 21 educators from Mississippi, Alabama and Milan, Italy, will work in groups to delve into the concepts of arts integration—developing and writing their own arts integrated lesson plans to unveil to their students in the fall.

Each evening of the symposium will feature free artistic performances from musical group Nada Brahma, DishiBem Traditional Contemporary Dance Group, and theatrical performances by Jaehn Clare for participants, their families, and the community at large.

To date, over 100 Maryland artists and educators have participated in TAI, which have resulted in more than 40 schools infusing their curriculum with the arts, and providing students with more opportunities to imagine and create. This is just one area in which YA, along with its partners, are working to address a growing concern among citizens who, in a recent poll conducted by Lake Research Partners, voiced a desire for a much more engaging and broadened education for students. The majority of voters (88%) believe that an education in and through the arts is essential to developing the capacities of the imagination that empower students to develop the skills to fulfill their dreams and to meet the demands of the 21st century. To see the full report, visit www.theimagination.net.

"The lessons were framed around Peace-making and conflict, and the work that the students did reflected a much deeper understanding of the concepts. We had some very powerful moments that I feel will be life-changing for my students. I was so pleased!" Commented Laura Louise Groo, TAI Teacher Partner from Southern Middle School, AACPS during her partnership with a TAI graduate.

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. Other TAI funders in the current fiscal year include the Dana Foundation, the Maryland State Arts Council, and the Kennedy Center with other foundations pending.

For more information on TAI or YA, please contact Adenike Akintilo at 410-837-7577 or adenike@yamd.org.

About Young Audiences/Arts for Learning

Founded in 1950, The Maryland Chapter of Young Audiences/ Arts for Learning (YA) is a nonprofit organization that transforms the lives and education of our youth through the arts by connecting educators, professional artists, and communities. We provide artistically excellent programs, expertise, and resources to ensure opportunities for more than 200,000 students across the state of Maryland.

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