



Issue 1
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1 In the Spotlight

- Artist Educator Training Seminar
- ArtsReach Dance Studio
- Arts Education Showcase
- Stage One Partner Schools

2 Snapshots

3 On the Horizon

Arts Education Newsletter

In the Spotlight

Kentucky Center Artist Training Seminar Highlighted in National Publication

The Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts and the Association of Performing Arts Presenters are co-presenting a seminar for 15 artists who are interested in working in education settings. Funded by the Dana Foundation, the seminar was piloted in 2005 and is intended to serve as a national model. A \$50,000 grant from Dana is funding the second phase of this program. This program was featured in *Inside Arts*, a national publication.

The seminar provides a context for working in educational settings for artists who have little experience working in schools and other educational settings. The training consists of four components: a two-day intensive workshop where artists train with mentor artists and other educators; action labs in community centers and classrooms where artists teach under the tutelage of master artists; a final one-day seminar to deal with issues of educational materials, marketing and a variety of relevant topics. The seminar trainers are master artists who have extensive experience in both their art forms and in a variety of educational settings, classroom teachers and other arts education specialists.

Seminar participants receive training at a music workshop with musician and arts educator Greg Acker.



New Dance Instructors for ArtsReach

This fall the ArtsReach program hired two new instructors for the Dance Studio; Antoinette Crawford-Willis and Harlina Churn-Diallo. Both are dancers with vast knowledge and experience teaching in community center settings, as well as in schools and Universities across the state.

Harlina Churn-Diallo is Founder and Artistic Director of the Imani Dance and Drum Company, Kentucky's Premier African Dance Ensemble. She is a recipient of the Kentucky Arts Council, Al Smith Fellowship Award for choreography. She has studied dance in five countries in West Africa: Senegal, Mali, Ivory Coast, Togo and Gambia. She instructs West African and Modern Dance classes for the Health Science and Physical Education Department at the University of Louisville. She teaches African, modern, tap, ballet, salsa and liturgical dance. Harlina has studied with Joel Hall dancers in Chicago, Kathryn Durham in East St. Louis, ILL., Chossan West African Company in St. Louis, MI and the La'Nita Rockettes Dancers of Louisville, KY.

Antoinette Crawford-Willis has a background in classical ballet, jazz, modern, tap and West African Dance. She is President of the Board of Directors for the Kentucky Alliance for Arts Education, a state-wide arts education association that is an affiliate with the Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education in Washington, D.C. She is the Executive Director of Dance! Kentucky and in this capacity plans and facilitates Dance Festivals across the state. She is a member of the Arts Advisory Committee for the Kentucky Department of Education and serves on the Board of Directors for the Louisville Arts Council. Antoinette holds a Masters Degree in Dance Education and teaches Rhythms for Elementary Children for the Health Sciences and Physical Education Department at the University of Louisville.

Our ArtsReach dance sites this season will be Presbyterian Community Center, Chestnut Street YMCA, Lighthouse Community Center and Americana Community Center. Students will receive weekly dance instruction at no charge, and will have the opportunity not only to develop and hone their skills with professional dance instructors, but also to perform on the Bomhard stage in the Annual ArtsReach Showcase on May 12, 2007.

Kentucky Center Partners with KET and Center for Rural Development to Broadcast Arts Education Showcase on KET3

The Kentucky Center's long established statewide mission has taken on a technological twist. For over 20 years, The Kentucky Center has presented the Arts Education Showcases at sites across Kentucky, helping teachers to select qualified arts education programs for their schools through mini-performances and exhibits. As teachers are finding it harder to leave the classroom for these live daylong events, The Kentucky Center has partnered with the Center for Rural Development and KET to bring the Showcase into every public school in the Commonwealth on KET3, The Teachers' Channel. The Showcase on October 5 in Somerset was broadcast live, and has since been rebroadcast a couple of times giving teachers in all districts equal access to this valuable resource.



ArtsReach Dance Instructor Harlina Churn-Diallo teaches a class of pre-schoolers at the Chestnut Street YMCA.



ArtsReach Dance Instructor Antoinette Crawford-Willis teaches at St. Benedict Early Childhood Development Center.



Photo by Nancy Phelps

Stage One Partner Schools

Last year, Stage One began a new Partner School program. Partner Schools join with Stage One in providing comprehensive theatre arts education for their school's students. This comprehensive approach to theatre arts education is a three-pronged approach: the arts experience, the arts process and the arts instruction. In order to make drama a regular and normal part of student's daily learning, students need to understand and have access to all three of these components.

As Partner Schools, Coral Ridge Elementary and Phillis Wheatley Elementary each receive three hours of drama-related professional development for their faculty and staff, sixteen hours of in-school drama instruction with a professional theatre educator and 120 student matinee tickets to a Stage One Production. These opportunities are provided each year for three years at a substantially discounted price.

Stage One is excited to add Audubon Youth Development Center, Eisenhower Elementary, Buckner Elementary, Elisha Academy and Byck Elementary to the Partner School program for the 2006-2007 school year. To recognize these schools, each Partner School is presented with a framed certificate of partnership at a Stage One performance.

Snapshots

- Stage One is one of only two theatres for young audiences in the United States to have been awarded \$25,000 to participate in the National Endowment for the Arts Shakespeare in American Communities project grant. As part of this program, Stage One will team with the Kentucky Shakespeare Festival to enrich the understanding and use of Shakespeare in the classrooms of ten participating schools. Some of the experiences they will receive include attending Stage One's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, classroom workshops, professional development training, multiple resource materials and ten students will be selected to sit on the Director's Council assisting with the creation of the sound design for the production.
- In October, Debbie Shannon was invited to speak to the board of the Luther F. Carson Four Rivers Center in Paducah on the role of performing arts centers in education. They opened in 2004 and are looking to increase their arts education programming.
- As part of the ArtsReach Institute, fall art workshops are in full swing in 23 Louisville community centers. After September sessions, centers were able to choose between voice, visual art, dance or drama workshops for their center constituents.
- The ArtsReach Violin and Dance Studio play a prominent role in Art to Heart, a Kentucky Educational Television series (currently airing) about the importance of arts education in the lives of young children, which also provides parents and teachers with inspiring ideas for arts activities.



Stage One Actor Michael Tolfo presents a Partner School certificate after a performance.

On the Horizon

- As part of the Gheens Great Expectations concert and residency program, several of the world's most talented young classical musicians will perform and participate in community residencies this year. Gheens Great Expectations is a program of The Kentucky Center and the Fund for the Arts, sponsored by the Gheens Foundation. Here are some highlights of concerts and residency events coming up in January:
 - Saturday, January 13 at 3 PM – Soprano Laquita Mitchell will give a Master Class at St. Francis in the Fields. FREE.
 - Sunday, January 14 at 3 PM – Laquita Mitchell performs Samuel Barber's *Knoxville: Summer of 1915* with the Louisville Orchestra in a free Martin Luther King concert in Whitney Hall. FREE. For further information, go to www.louisvilleorchestra.org
 - Sunday, January 28 at 3 PM – a free All-Brahms concert featuring violinist Tai Murray, cellist Mihai Marica and the Louisville Orchestra conducted by Jorge Mester. This concert is a collaboration of The Louisville Orchestra, The Kentucky Center, the Gheens Foundation and the Fund for the Arts, in celebration of the Fund's 2007 Kickoff. FREE.

- In January the ArtsReach Institute will resume with weekly sessions exploring four art forms and grant writing skills. After writing a non-competitive grant each center will receive of a \$400.00 grant to implement an art project.

- Debbie Shannon and Jeffery Jamner will be presenting two sessions at the National Association of Performing Arts Presenters (APAP) national conference in New York City in January 2007. This is part of an ongoing partnership with APAP.

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