

## **Summary of 2013 Affiliate Development Fund Proposals – Project Descriptions**

### **Arts Partners, Wichita, KS**

#### **Stem Learning through the Arts Research and Evaluation Project**

Many leaders in business and in education recognize that the arts, when integrated with STEM subjects, increase the development of skills deemed necessary for our workforce to thrive in the global economy. These skills include creativity, innovation, critical thinking, problem solving, communication, and collaboration. STEM is an important area of emphasis to our area schools and businesses. Arts Partners has experience in providing STEM Learning through the Arts programming to Wichita area students. Arts Partners has been developing and presenting STEM Learning through the Arts programs since 2006. Examples include a kinetic sculpture residency called Three-Legged Stool that integrates visual art and the creation of a closed circuit to power the sculpture and aligns with the 4th and 5th grade science and art standards or Science of Silly Hats that integrates geometry, math and kinetic art for 1st and 2nd grades. 31% of our programs last year had a STEM focus, a clear indication that schools are embracing this area of learning. As a result, we received \$20,000 from Spirit AeroSystems and the Lattner Family Foundation this year to provide in-depth professional development for 12 of our teaching artists to help them use Common Core State Standards and the four elements of YA's Signature Core Services to develop and present new STEM-related residencies. We have received a great deal of anecdotal evidence from teachers and teaching artists about how engaged and excited students are during these residencies and how this new learning stick with them far beyond the classroom. We believe the next logical step is to use a third-party evaluator to test our theory " that students are more engaged and interested in STEM subjects when the arts are used in significant, deliberate ways by teaching artists. We also belief that teachers will have greater support for arts integrated STEM programs as a result of their participation in this project.

### **Gateway to the Arts, Pittsburgh, PA**

#### **Over Hill, Over Dale: Evaluating the development of a Cadre of Rural Teaching Artists In Western PA.**

Gateway to the Arts service area includes 15 counties of western Pennsylvania, however, our residency work takes place mainly in Pittsburgh and Allegheny Co., due to the ability of our teaching artists, also based in Pittsburgh and nearby suburbs, to travel to outlying counties. Gateway seeks to identify up to 10 teaching artists (mentee TAs) from the rural counties of Fayette and Washington who are interested in expanding their skills in arts integration that addresses the Common Core English Language Arts standards, to participate in our Teaching Artist Learning Lab TALL/Arts to the Core eight-month professional development program, currently being piloted in Allegheny County. Gateway has received funds from the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation to replicate this program in the southern counties, with a goal of creating a cadre of rural teaching artists through our TALL professional learning community PLC). With funds from the YA Affiliate Development Fund, Gateway will evaluate the effectiveness of this program at achieving our goals and documenting the work. The evaluator will be an essential part of the partnership, attending partner meetings, attending the PLCs, observing the classrooms, and interviewing participants. The TALL/Arts to the Core program is led by three mentor TAs, under the supervision of Gateway's Director of Education, who provide an 8-month curriculum consisting of monthly PLCs, demonstration classroom residencies that

the mentee TAs observe, and mentor the mentee TAs in lesson plan development, best practices in presenting quality arts integration residencies, and delivery of pilot residencies in classrooms.

### **Young Audiences of Louisiana**

#### **Young Audiences Charter School: A New Model for Learning through the Arts**

YALA has established itself as a leader in the field of after school and summer programs and is one of only six organizations in the state to receive an exemplary rating from the Louisiana Department of Education. With close to ten years of experience in providing arts integrated classes, academic instruction, tutoring, and life skills instruction, YALA has developed the capacity and expertise to establish the first arts integrated Young Audiences Charter School (YACS) using established YA programs.

YACS will be an open-admissions elementary school in Jefferson Parish whose mission is to successfully prepare students for high school as well as lay the foundation for life-long learning by providing an innovative academic environment that emphasizes a rigorously integrated curriculum with differentiated instruction in and through the arts. The school will leverage its highly regarded and research-based YA programs and core beliefs to establish and support a culture of high expectations, collaboration and creativity.

YALA has engaged two highly qualified individuals to lead the school. Both have strong academic credentials as well as expertise in and appreciation for the arts. YALA is seeking funding to enable us hire a Curriculum Specialist with a background in the arts to ensure fidelity to the YA model.

### **Young Audiences of Northern California**

#### **Teaching Arts Professional Development**

YANC proposes a partnership with Young Audiences, Inc. to pilot innovative strategies for on-boarding teaching artists to the Signature Core Programs approach and for equipping TAs to assess their own work in keeping with the SCP approach. The Signature Core Programs approach has attracted the interest of the Clarence E. Heller Charitable Foundation, a Bay Area funder dedicated to the support and advancement of teaching artistry. YANC has been awarded a \$20,000 grant from the Clarence E. Heller Foundation to support the pilot of a comprehensive and innovative system of professional development that combines one-on-one mentorship, small group collaborative exchange, and large group training to elevate the practice of our teaching artists through the SCP approach. \$25,000 in complementary funds from the Affiliate Development Fund will allow us to pilot this approach and contribute the lessons learned and best practices from this pilot to the network. YANC has benefited greatly from the work of other network affiliates developing and launching the Signature Core Programs approach and from the communication channels strengthened by the network in recent years that have allowed for the sharing of this knowledge. We look forward to contributing wisdom that will help the SCP approach flourish in the network, both with regard to on-boarding TAs to the SCP approach and equipping artists to assess student outcomes as mandated by the approach. The program described in this proposal directly addresses goal #2 of our new strategic plan (leverage artists as partners)--a plan developed with past support from the Affiliate Development Fund.

**Young Audiences of Western New York  
Buffalo, New York  
Most at Risk Out-Of-School Time Programming**

YA-WNY will develop an out-of-school time program, and will build agency capacity and structures so that these programs will be successful, sustainable and meet the needs of high risk youth. YA-WNY has increasingly become the preferred provider of arts education services for those youth most at risk. Since 2003, YA-WNY has served youth at an in-patient drug treatment facility for adolescents, a shelter for runaway and homeless youth, and individuals with developmental disabilities. In 2011 we began a major partnership with the Erie County Youth Detention Center (ECYDC). In early 2012, YA-WNY relocated its offices to the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Central Library (BECPL). For the first time, this allowed YA-WNY to design and pilot a summer youth program (vs. being the enrichment component of another agency) with funding secured through Erie County Youth Services. An exciting and timely development for 2013, BECPL is rebuilding the second floor to be a "cultural hub" with YA-WNY being an anchor resident. This will allow us to design a studio space to best fit the needs of this program model. As a result of our work with the ECYDC and initial success with the summer program, Erie County's departments of Youth Services, Probation, and Mental Health have asked to work with YA-WNY to create a program to be offered at BECPL and through other County contracted vendors serving youth at risk. This County "team" works together in a systems integration approach; since 2004 they have seen significant decreases in the amount of time young people spend in residential treatment facilities. This team views partnerships with community and family providers, such as YA-WNY, as instrumental in the prevention of risky behavior and the reduction of recidivism among this population. Erie County will be allocating resources to this initiative; however, YA-WNY will require additional funds in order to build the staff structure and fundraising model to support this program.