

**Senator Sherrod Brown's Statement for the Record Recognizing the Week of March 24<sup>th</sup> as  
National Young Audiences Arts for Learning Week  
March 28, 2013**

NATIONAL YOUNG AUDIENCES WEEK

MR.BROWN. Mr./Madame President, Just over 60 years ago, the Young Audiences organization was founded with a mission to promote arts-integrated education. Each year the Young Audiences Arts for Learning impacts more than five million students in over 8,000 schools and communities. In honor of its commendable work around arts education, through its 30 affiliates across the United States, I am pleased to recognize the week of March 24, 2013 as National Young Audiences Arts for Learning Week.

I would especially like to highlight the work of the Young Audiences of Northeast Ohio (YANEO), which reaches more than 240,000 students across 18 counties in my home state. YANEO's 120 professional artists assist young Ohioans by teaching dance, theater, music, visual arts, literary, and media arts. Additionally, the Young Audiences Artworks in Cleveland successfully pairs Ohio teenagers with local artists to mentor students and provide them with college and career advice.

Art programs help keep students engaged in their schools and communities. Music and visual arts not only serve as a form of personal expression, but enable dynamic collaboration. Learning to dance, sing, and perform in front of a group can instill confidence in children. Learning to edit a film, record a song, or create a graphic design can provide individuals with an invaluable set of skills that are transferable to the workplace. Contributing to local communities through the arts – from outdoor murals to large theatrical performances – can offer young people a new sense of belonging, purpose, and achievement. The arts help to look at the world, and themselves, anew.

Including arts and music in a student's curriculum can also greatly improve his or her grasp of math and scientific problems. And it has been demonstrated that exposure to the arts endows children with insight, reason, and technical proficiency. Art education improves communication skills, academic achievement, encourages discipline, and discourages high risk behavior. Students' ability to innovate and utilize new technologies through arts activities will not only better prepare students for 21<sup>st</sup> century jobs, but is also key to our nation's competitiveness in the global economy.

I commend both the students who participate in Young Audiences and the hardworking parents, teachers, volunteers, and artists of Young Audiences who inspire future generations of artists and musician. Your passion and commitment should be celebrated.

Thank you, Mr./Madame President.