



Young Audiences

Sun

of Greater Cleveland

Summer 2005

Young Audiences of Greater Cleveland enriches the lives of children and promotes creative learning by uniting arts and education.

Making Art Work *on Shaker Square*

Creative energy was abundant June 13-24 thanks to *ArtWorks*, Cleveland's first ever arts-based employment program presented by YAGC and Forest City Enterprises. Sixty high school students from Cleveland, Cleveland Heights, Bedford, Chagrin Falls, Solon, Shaker Heights, Euclid and Garfield Heights were paid to work alongside professional artists and create visual and performing art through music, theater, dance, visual art and photography.

The opening event took place on Sunday, June 12 as an opportunity for students and their families to come together, learn more about the program and meet with master artists.



Notable guests at the opening performance included Cleveland Mayor Jane Campbell, Shaker Heights Mayor Judith Rawson, YAGC Executive Director Marsha Dobrzynski and Ronald and Deborah Ratner of Forest City Enterprises (pictured above).

During the two-week program, apprentice artists worked under a tent on the South Lawn at Shaker Square. Master artists included musician Baba Jubal Harris, dancer Susana Evert, photographer Piet Van Lier, visual artists Hector Castellanos and Carol Adams, and drama instructor Dr. Scott Miller. Throughout the program the tent was open to the public so visitors could witness the artistic process in action.

The program offered students opportunities to study the arts while learning valuable employment skills such as teamwork, cooperation, leadership and responsibility. To further this goal, lunchtime roundtable discussions were held with local professionals who spoke on various ways in which skills in the arts are desirable in the workplace. Speakers included Robert Madison, architect; Kathy Coakley and Dennis Barrie of The Malrite Company; Amanda Grandel, art director at Marcus Thomas LLC; filmmaker Matthew T.; Jason Dove and Jorge Lacera from American Greetings; and Ioannis Yessios from Cleveland Institute of Art.

Students worked together within their chosen discipline and as a whole, combining their efforts to contribute to the "big picture." The musicians played for the dancers,



visual artists helped musicians embellish gourd instruments, dance students choreographed a script created by drama students and photography students documented the entire two-week event.

A culminating performance and exhibition of the teens' hard work took place on Friday, June 24th. Over 150 people attended the show on Shaker Square. The mural created during *ArtWorks*, *Faces of Cleveland*, will be on display in concourse D at the Cleveland Airport after July 27th.



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Letter from the Executive Director



Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! July is the beginning of a new year for Young Audiences and with it comes the opportunity to reflect on the past year and make resolutions for the next. I am pleased to report that 2004-2005 was a good year in spite

of the economic challenges that continue in school districts across the area. We are grateful that this generous community of individuals, corporations and foundations has increased its support for Young Audiences' arts education programming. On behalf of the 275,000 young people whose lives have been enhanced because of the arts, I extend a very warm thank you.

The successes of this year have had an impact on many. The completed evaluation of the Initiative for Cultural Arts in Education (ICARE) program (see the ICARE update in this newsletter) demonstrates the impact of the arts on Cleveland Municipal School District students but has implications for the broader education community in the country. We will release the entire report later in the summer and the complete report will be available online in August at www.yagc.org. A few highlights include: fourth grade students with two to six semesters of ICARE participation performed significantly higher than students with one semester of participation on Ohio Proficiency Tests in reading, writing, math, science and citizenship; 82% of teachers reported their students were more self-confident because of the program; and 84% of teachers reported that they gained a different perspective on their student's abilities because of the program.

With support from the Ford Foundation, Young Audiences has spearheaded a community-wide effort to ensure access to the arts for all students in the Cleveland Schools. The Cleveland Integrated Arts Collaborative is developing a long-range plan that will include the arts and cultural community working with CMSD to integrate arts experiences into the English Language Arts curriculum. We will be hearing more about this initiative in the months ahead.

June ended on another high note – ArtWorks on Shaker Square. Generous support from the community, especially Forest City Enterprises, gave sixty high school students from 7 school districts the opportunity to earn money to create art while learning valuable skills needed to secure and keep a job. Making art - music, dance, theater, and visual arts - became a credible vehicle for job training in our community. It was, for me, a chance to observe some of the best things about the arts – that capacity to instill in all a passion to learn, to take risks, to work together, to make mistakes and to succeed.

A few resolutions for 2005-2006:

- to ensure that more students have equal access to a quality arts education;
- to encourage creativity;
- to continue to carefully and responsibly steward the generous support provided to us; and
- to remain a creative and hard working organization—with a vision to make the arts an essential component of the education and development of school children throughout Northeast Ohio.

Warm regards,
Marsha Dobrzynski

On the Air

Classical music filled the halls of Louis Agassiz School on Cleveland's west side as 4th and 5th grade students completed a "Make Your Own Radio Show" residency in May and June.

The month-long program was modeled on From the Top, a weekly national radio show that features talented high school musicians from across the country. From the Top and Young Audiences, Inc. offer residency programs through local Young Audiences chapters in a joint effort to promote the creation and sustainability of classical music



programs in the basic arts education of K-12 students.

After introductory performances by YAGC roster artists Metropolitan Brass Quintet and Somerton Woodwind Trio, theater artist Jonathan Graham guided 4th and 5th grade Agassiz students through an exploration of Tchaikovsky's *Peter and the Wolf*, which specifically introduces classical music by connecting the sounds of the orchestral instruments



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ICARE Update

ICARE, the Initiative for Cultural Arts in Education, is a program of Young Audiences of Greater Cleveland that supports long-term, arts-focused partnerships between the Cleveland Municipal School District and the Northeast Ohio cultural arts community.

Graduating Partners Honored

Teachers, principals and artists representing all 15 ICARE partnerships gathered at the Bratenahl Professional Development Center on May 16 to share information and celebrate the achievements of four partnerships that completed the ICARE funding cycle this spring. The team from **Corlett Elementary School** presented some of the highlights of their four-year partnership with **Roots of American Music**, **Western Reserve Historical Society** and **Young Audiences** in which music and visual art were integrated with the social studies curriculum for grades K-5. The other graduating partnerships include: **Charles Dickens Elementary School** with **Thea Bowman Center**, **Giddings Elementary School** with **GroundWorks DanceTheatre** and the **Option School at Margaret Ireland** with **Young Audiences**.



Students at Giddings Elementary work in small groups to solve a choreographic problems.



3rd graders at Denison Elementary School perform jazz melodies on percussion instruments.



Kindergarten students at Corlett Elementary experienced visual arts and music activities during a "Fun on the Family Farm" unit this year.



Musician J.T. Lynch conducts the jazz band at Charles Dickens Elementary School as part of the "Learning through Jazz" partnership."

ICARE Receives National Funding Support

After visiting **Oliver Hazard Perry Elementary School** and observing an arts integrated workshop with dancer **Tom Evert**, The Hearst Foundation, Inc. of New York City, approved a grant in the amount of \$50,000 towards operating support of the ICARE program for the 2004-2005 academic year. YAGC is the fourth Young Audiences chapter to be awarded a significant grant from this national foundation.

The National Endowment for the Arts also recently approved a grant in the amount of \$35,000 toward the support of two ICARE partnerships for 2005-2006: **Forest Hill Parkway Academy** with **Roots of American Music** and **Denison Elementary School** with **Art House**. These two partnerships both integrate popular music and culture with social studies and language arts curricula.

Celebrating the Brightest Stars in Arts Education

On March 2nd, YAGC celebrated the achievements of a number of Northeast Ohio's brightest stars in education at the 2005 Arts Educator Awards in the English Oak Room at Tower City.

In addition to honoring the achievements of **Colleen Porter, Jim Bycznski, and Alice Backus**, the program highlighted the accomplishments of Theater Works, a three-year partnership among Key Foundation, YAGC, and East High School. This program made possible a "for-credit" drama course at the High School, which had been unable to fund a theater program for many years.



YAGC board member and AEA Selection Committee Chair Rosemary Weltman and her husband Harry enjoyed the evening.

Featured speaker Margot Copeland, VP and Chair of the Key Foundation, discussed her views on the importance of arts education for Northeast Ohio children and the role that corporations can play in

supporting meaningful arts programs like Theater Works. Theatre artist Sean Booker and eight of his East High School drama students performed short personal skits created from the real-life experiences of two student-actors.



Past AEA winner Judith Ryder expresses herself as one of Jonathan Graham's "students" at the event.

YAGC roster artist Jonathan Graham also demonstrated an activity he uses in his own in-school theatre programs, and 10 audience volunteers became his enthusiastic "students" for the night.

"It was a wonderful opportunity to recognize and thank the people on whom YAGC depends to make in-school arts programs and experiences succeed," said YAGC Executive Director Marsha Dobrzynski. "From teachers



YAGC Executive Director Marsha Dobrzynski chats with Cleveland Institute of Art's David Deming.

to artists to funders, Young Audiences could not accomplish its mission without partnerships and individuals like those we recognized during this year's Arts Educator Awards."



Students from East High School's TheaterWorks program celebrate with their teacher, YAGC artist Sean Booker (far left), Key Foundation Chair Margot Copeland (second from right), and Key Corp Vice-Chair Tom Stevens (far right).

2005 Arts Educator Award Recipients ★

Alice Backus

Primary Educator ★

Music Teacher,

Alexander Graham Bell Elementary

★ **Jim Bycznski**

Secondary Educator

Visual Art Teacher,

Berea High School ★

★ **Colleen Porter**

Arts Education Champion

Director of Education,

Playhouse Square Center ★

★ **Special thanks to Forest City Enterprises,**
lead sponsor of the 2005 Arts Educator Awards.



(l. to r.) Colleen Porter, Marsha Dobrzynski, Jim Bycznski, Alice Backus



Theater Works: A Student's Perspective

For the last three years, Young Audiences and Key Foundation have partnered to provide arts programming in drama to students at East High School through a program called Theater Works. Designed to introduce students to the wonderful world of drama through classical and contemporary texts and expose students to careers in the arts as well as equip them with skills transferable to the future workplace, Theater Works has reached and positively affected the lives of over 100 students. Young Audiences theater artist Sean Booker worked with students everyday to bring theater to life and used



East High School Junior and TheaterWorks participant Tylene Hockett

drama as a vehicle for self-expression to help bolster self-esteem, confidence and effective teamwork.

Recently at the Annual Arts Educator Awards, East High School student Tylene Hockett performed a dramatic monologue she wrote and staged. One of Theater Works brightest stars, Tylene is a straight-A student in the 11th grade with the aim of making her mark in the music industry. She plays the flute, is a vocalist, has a recording studio at her home and has future plans of attending Musictech College in St. Paul, Minnesota.

As part of the requirements for the Academy of Creative Expressions at East High, students have to take an elective in the arts. Why did you elect to take Theater Works?

Tylene: I was not really interested in Theater Works in the beginning since my background is in music. However, I've discovered that I like to act. Theater Works has been a good experience for me, something different from music. I learned about acting, stage positioning, voice projection, how to write and perform a script and the language of theater.

How has Theater Works influenced you?

Tylene: Theater Works is a good program to get into because it expands your imagination and helps you understand things about life. It also helps out with your school work too. It is easier to understand reading material if you act it out.

What did you like most about the program?

Tylene: My favorite part of the class is acting. Being on stage was my favorite part.

What did you like least about the program?

Tylene: There is a lot of practice involved. Working with a whole lot of people sometimes can be a bit aggravating, especially when people forget their lines and you have to go over it again and again.

How has Theater Works helped you in other academic areas?

Tylene: Writing has helped in my life as a whole. I enjoy writing. The experience will help develop my writing skills, help me write a movie script and has already helped me to write songs.

Could you tell me a little about the monologue you wrote and performed at Young Audiences' annual Arts Educator Awards?

Tylene: Writing is therapeutic for me. There are some things I want to get out. The monologue I wrote was very personal. It's about not appreciating my father when he was alive. It's about not having enough time with him. It is hard to get out deep feelings inside to tell other people. The AEA performance was exciting because it was the first time we performed in front of an audience.

What words of advice do you have for students entering into the world of theater?

Tylene: Don't think about what others will say. Feel confident in what you have to say and express it.



Swingtime! Cleveland Cabaret Raises over \$41,000 for Young Audiences

Young Audiences supporters jumped, jived, and wailed on Friday, April 8th at a swingin' version of the organization's annual Cleveland Cabaret benefit at the InterContinental Hotel. With entertainment from Get Hep Swing and Blue Lunch—along with great food and a smokin' silent auction—guests enjoyed a lively evening at this fantastic party in support of YAGC's arts education mission.

Many thanks to the following for their part in making Swingtime at the Cleveland Cabaret a rousing success:

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Blue Lunch saxophonist Tony Koussa sets the joint hoppin'.

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Cabaret co-chairs Margaret Krudy, Rosemary Gold and Cori Moore

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Marsha Dobrzynski and Diane Andrica

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On the Air from page 2...

and musical themes to characters in the story. Graham guided students through theater exercises to introduce them to creative expression of ideas and emotions. They used giant Bunraku puppets to tell the story of *Peter and the Wolf*, discovering gestures and movements that were appropriate to specific characters and action in the story.



Students then developed their own dramatic radio program based on the musical piece. They experimented with expressive speaking to portray different characters and wrote questions and answers for the characters, simulating

the live radio broadcast and interview format of the *From the Top* radio program. Auditions were held to fill the roles of speakers, puppeteers and dancers, and after several rehearsals the students performed the radio show for the entire student body.

On the same day, the school enjoyed a performance and discussion with JinJoo Cho, a Gilmour Academy student who has appeared on *From the Top* and studies violin at the Cleveland Institute of Music. Much to the delight of the Agassiz students, she played portions of *Peter and the Wolf*. The students' pride in their radio show performance and the excitement that filled the auditorium during Cho's performance mark the increase in access, visibility, and engagement with classical music that the residency program seeks to create.

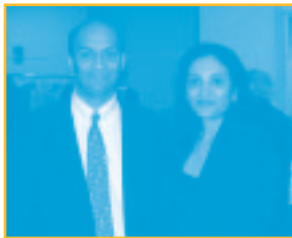


The "Make Your Own Radio Show" residency at Louis Agassiz was made possible through the generous support of Young Audiences, Inc. and the Ginn Foundation. To learn how you can create this residency experience in your school, please call YAGC.

Swingtime! Cleveland Cabaret

Silent Auction Contributors, continued...

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Parade the Circle



Children of all ages helped to "Weave a Masterpiece" with Young Audiences on June 11, at Parade the Circle.



The final piece was a fantastic spectacle of shapes and colors laced together.

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