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MetLife Foundation

MetLife Foundation Partners in Arts Education 2011-2012 Grantees

On behalf of MetLife Foundation, the National Guild for Community Arts Education awarded 12 grants totaling \$215,000 to the following members to support exemplary partnerships between public schools and nonprofit community arts education organizations during the 2011-2012 school year:

[92nd Street Y School of the Arts](#), New York, NY (Ceramics, Dance, Music, Theater)
92nd Street Y's *Schools Partnership Program* partners with public schools that have no arts curriculum, providing nearly 1,700 K-8th grade students with customized ceramics, dance, music, musical theatre, theatre, chorus, guitar and xylophone instruction. 92Y strives to foster students' basic arts concepts, skills and vocabulary; capacity to comment on the arts; understanding of historical and cultural contexts; individual creative and artistic voices; and confidence to explore self-expression. Students will perform their work in the community, and attend professional performances at 92nd Street Y and other venues.

[BAX/Brooklyn Arts Exchange](#), Brooklyn, NY (Dance, Theater)
BAX/Brooklyn Arts Exchange will continue and expand its partnership with three schools: BNS/PS 146, a district wide elementary school located in Carroll Gardens; PS 24, the Dual Language School for International Studies in Sunset Park, Brooklyn; and PS 115 located in Canarsie. A total of 275 K-5th graders will receive dance and theater instruction. The program builds students' technical and expressive skills through lessons that emphasize personal voice, communication and creativity. In addition, BAX will increase the capacity of each school by forming a consortium that will provide a forum for best practices, advocacy, professional development and parent involvement.

[Community Music Center of Boston](#), Boston, MA (Dance, Music)
Community Music Center of Boston (CMCB), now in its 101st year, is an accredited non-profit music school in Boston's multicultural South End that teaches more than 6,000 students each year. *Crescendo-Music from the Center* is a program to bring CMCB teaching artists into a cohort of nine Boston Public Schools, providing chorus, recorder, music literacy, performance, strings and/or dance instruction during the school day to more than 1,200 students in grades K-8.

[KID smART](#), New Orleans, LA (Media Arts, Theater)
KID smART and Bethune Elementary School in New Orleans will continue and expand their five-year arts integration partnership. A full-year resident teaching artist will co-plan and co-teach the theater arts and other core content with six Bethune teachers. KID smART will also provide intensive professional development for five teachers and will offer two full-faculty workshops. A total of 236 Bethune students in 1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th grades will participate.

[Living Arts](#), Detroit, MI (Dance, Literary Arts, Music, Theater, Visual Arts)
Through *El Arte Partners*, Living Arts and four of its partner Detroit public schools will engage 1,175 K-8th graders in outstanding sequential standards-based arts education which supports their English language arts, math, science and social studies learning. Teaching artists will collaborate with classroom teachers to engage and assess students in pantomime/theater, music, dance, visual arts, and poetry-performance. Trained artists and collaborating teachers will provide quality arts education specific to

their students' academic and developmental needs and help engage parents in their children's projects to support thriving arts-infused schools.

MacPhail Center for Music, Minneapolis, MI (Music)

MacPhail Center for Music's community partnerships with Jenny Lind Community School in Minneapolis and Randolph Heights Elementary School in St. Paul will serve 300 students who experience barriers to arts participations such as low income, high mobility and school budget cuts. MacPhail and its partner schools utilize limited financial resources to their fullest potential through innovative program design and curriculum that builds essential life skills and reinforces academic learning through music. MacPhail will provide individual violin lessons to all third graders at Jenny Lind and general music to all students in grades 3-6 at Randolph Heights.

Mark DeGarmo & Dancers/Dynamic Forms Inc., New York, NY (Dance)

Mark DeGarmo & Dancers/Dynamic Forms Inc. will design and implement *Partnerships in Literacy through Dance & Creativity* with PS 142-Amalia Castro School in Lower East Side, Manhattan. In its 10th year, the program serves 400 K-5th graders, integrating PS 142's barrier-free community of special education students, students with special needs, and general education students. This interdisciplinary program connects the art of dance with themes and topics from other disciplines, i.e., social studies, language arts, math, science, technology, physical education, and the arts (music, theater, and visual arts). The curriculum uses kinesthetic learning methods to develop dance and creativity skills while engaging learners with themes studied outside of dance class.

Progressive Arts Alliance, Cleveland, OH (Film, Literary Arts, Media Arts, Visual Arts)

Progressive Arts Alliance's *Arts-Integrated Partnerships* at George Washington Carver and Orchard Schools will allow professional teaching artists to collaborate with K-8th grade teachers to create dynamic residencies that integrate the arts with non-arts curricula and meet academic standards in the arts and other subjects. Professional development sessions and Parent Engagement Nights will occur each semester at each school. A total of 825 students will participate in multidisciplinary arts activities that enhance each school's STEM-focused curriculum and problem-based learning strategy. Each semester at each school will conclude with a community performance/exhibition to showcase students' work.

Spiral Q Puppet Theater, Philadelphia, PA (Music, Movement, Puppetry, Visual Arts)

Spiral Q Puppet Theater will create school-wide partnerships with two of its closest neighboring public elementary schools, introducing more than 600 K-8th graders to a range of disciplines through the production of community parades. Students work collaboratively in groups under the guidance of teaching artists and classroom teachers as they synthesize and integrate classroom learning and autobiographical peer-to-peer learning into symbols, flags, banners and giant puppets. The partnership builds on a history of successful project collaboration between the two schools and creates excellent opportunities for classroom teachers to learn how to use arts learning to synthesize and excite their core curriculum objectives.

WritersCorps, San Francisco, CA (Literary Arts)

WritersCorps will partner with four public schools in San Francisco to provide a creative writing program to 500 6-12th graders. The program pairs four teaching artists with classroom teachers to help students develop original poetry, short stories and plays. Students will engage in reading literary works, writing, editing, and performance. They also will work towards a site project, such as an anthology, CD or chapbook, and have the opportunity to perform at readings and events to share their achievements with their communities.

Young Dancers in Repertory, Brooklyn, NY (Dance, Visual Arts)

Young Dancers in Repertory will continue and deepen its partnership with PS 149, the Danny Kaye School, in East New York, Brooklyn. The program will integrate dance, visual art, literacy and global studies for 500 K-3rd graders. Twenty-four teachers, the arts coordinator, visual arts teacher and librarian will participate in extensive professional development, co-teaching, planning and evaluation. The entire student body, close to 800 students, and more than 1500 family members and residents will enjoy dance performances on-site at PS149, and two performances at local community based centers.

Zephyr Dance, Chicago, IL (Dance)

Zephyr Project M2 is a collaborative partnership between Zephyr Dance and Oscar Mayer Elementary School to create a sustainable long-term curriculum for dance education taught with math standards. *Zephyr Project M2* applies the choreographic process to math learning in grades 1-4, giving 240 students the opportunity to use their creativity and imagination to find multiple solutions to problems. *Zephyr Project M2* develops students' creative skills and technique in dance, while increasing teacher understanding of applying the arts in the classroom, thereby deepening both the art and the academic experience.