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An Initiative of The Massachusetts



YOUTH REACH



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YOUTHREACH

*An Initiative of
The Massachusetts Cultural Council*

July 1995

Massachusetts Cultural Council

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The Massachusetts Cultural Council is a state agency established to promote excellence, access, education, and diversity in the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences in order to improve the quality of life for all Massachusetts residents and to contribute to the economic vitality of our communities.

The Massachusetts Cultural Council receives an annual appropriation from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, as well as support from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. The Council is governed by a board of nineteen citizens appointed by the Governor.

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THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

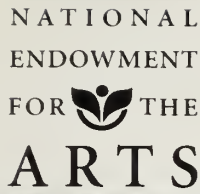
The alienation and dysfunction of a growing number of young people is one of the most pressing issues we face in society today. Almost daily, we are bombarded by images of lost youth as the media capture in vivid detail the impact of truancy, drug abuse, and violent crime. In the face of such threats, our challenge is to engage youth in constructive pursuits, providing them with the skills necessary to enhance their own lives as well as the strength of their communities.

The Massachusetts Cultural Council's YouthReach Initiative demonstrates the power of the arts to transform young people's lives. In fifteen rural and urban communities across Massachusetts, young men and women are using the arts as an alternative way to deal with frustration, anger, and isolation. Through the arts, participants develop valuable new skills, celebrate their cultural traditions, and discover their own promise.

The YouthReach Initiative offers hope to youth across the Commonwealth and stands as a model of effective investment in the next generation.



William F. Weld
GOVERNOR



One of the central challenges of our times is to reclaim and rebuild our communities so that they become healthier places for adults and children alike. Our towns and cities should be safe havens where young people can flourish and grow. Time after time, in a variety of settings, communities have shown how the arts can be a very potent tool in affirming the human spirit, providing enchantment rather than disillusionment, hope rather than despair.

We at the National Endowment for the Arts are proud to be a partner with the Massachusetts Cultural Council in the development of the YouthReach Initiative. By supporting diverse efforts in communities, we help people use quality arts experiences to nurture their children, particularly those who are struggling and in need. Those young people develop skills, dignity, and the opportunity to thrive intellectually and imaginatively.

YouthReach also embraces the idea of partnerships and coalitions. Community rebuilding is a long-term and intensive effort, and collaborations among local, state, and national partners are the way to get things done. By nurturing the arts for young people, we not only afford them the chance to distinguish themselves, we provide them with the very tools that may heal and restore communities— resilience, inventiveness, optimism, teamwork, joy. An effort like YouthReach, with its unusual constellation of 15 community-based approaches, celebrates the spirit of artistic creation, the buoyancy of youth, and the sense of possibility for community health.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Alexander". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Jane Alexander
CHAIRMAN

*"YouthReach is about nourishing
the souls of young people and
illuminating the dignity of their
experiences, and in so doing
we nourish the soul of
communities."*

INTRODUCTION



JOSIAH A. SPAULDING, JR.
Chairman
Massachusetts Cultural Council

Early in 1993 the Massachusetts Cultural Council convened some of the state's leading thinkers about community development and the needs of youth to talk about the role of the arts in these important arenas. From those discussions emerged a proposal to the National Endowment for the Arts to help fund communities in their work with young people at-risk. Launched in 1993 with a \$180,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and matching funds from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Cultural Council's YouthReach Initiative began in response to the growing needs of young people across the state struggling to meet the challenges before them.

At the heart of YouthReach is the belief that youth need to find creative ways to distinguish themselves and that communities need to incorporate the arts and culture in their rebuilding process. "To fully claim their place in the human scheme of things, young people need a sense of culture. They need to understand how the spiritual, artistic part of them connects them to their community," says Rose Austin, executive director of the Massachusetts Cultural Council. "Quality arts experiences are the most potent way to make that happen."

The call went out to communities across the state in the fall of 1993 and more than 50 coalitions of arts organizations, business people, educators, artists, community workers, parents and young people responded. Under the guidance of Massachusetts Cultural Council program coordinator Anne Teschner, a selection panel that included two high school students reviewed those proposals and selected 15 projects that seemed most poised to reach youth in need. "We looked for efforts that not only had the potential to affect young people but that could be sustained by strong, multifaceted coalitions of dedicated community members. We wanted to reach those who might not otherwise have access to the arts: court-involved youth, young people isolated in rural settings, young Cambodians at risk of losing their culture, youth with disabilities, teenage gang members," explains Teschner.

Programs emerged across the state that reflected the full spectrum of the arts, from theater to dance, from the visual arts to video. Projects are underway in settings as diverse as a small town in western Massachusetts with a population of less than 1,500 to neighborhoods in some of the state's largest cities: Boston, Lynn, Fall River. All are offering young people the opportunity to see themselves as integral to their community and culture, many for the first time. Already more than 1,000 youth ranging in age from 9 to 19 have become involved in YouthReach programs. Six of these programs, that reflect a diversity of approaches and settings, are highlighted in this report.

Since their inception, these programs have grown and evolved — folding in new collaborators, expanding goals, adapting to the changing needs of the community, incorporating the vitality of youth. On the state level, new collaborations are underway as well. In 1994, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health became a partner in the YouthReach Initiative, recognizing the importance of the arts in building healthy communities for young people.

Teens involved with YouthReach are beginning to see that they have a place, that their ideas and perceptions matter, and that they can exercise control in their lives. The leap from controlling paint on a piece of paper or the space around them in a dance to seeing their lives as something they too can control is a powerful lesson they will not soon forget. The arts have the power to transform confusion, anger, or silence into something that can be shared, expanded, and absorbed.

"YouthReach is about nourishing the souls of young people and illuminating the dignity of their experiences, and in so doing we nourish the soul of communities," says Josiah A. Spaulding Jr., chairman of the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

RAWKIDS IN RAWSPACE

Creative Intervention

"RAW helps kids overcome the facade they present, that impression that everyone has to be a tough guy.

It gives them the opportunity to express themselves, to be motivated and to have hope."



PATRICK MCMANUS
Mayor
City of Lynn



Since 1988, artists and educators Mary Flannery and Kit Jenkins have been providing art therapy to adolescents under secure lockup in Massachusetts correctional facilities. But they wanted to put themselves out of a job. "We understood what happened to get a kid in lockup," Flannery says. "And we had an idea of what to do to keep them out."

From that idea, RAW (Raw Art Works) was born in Lynn, a northern coastal city plagued with high levels of substance abuse, school dropouts and in-school violence. RAW recruited 16 youth ages 15 to 17 — an age group most criminal justice sociologists consider the most critical for intervention — for the program, and with the help of the city, set them to work creating RAWSPACE, an arts workshop in a city-owned building.

The idea, says Flannery, was to give the youth ownership of the project. They made the space, and they made the rules for participation as RAWKIDS. Explains RAWKID Jen Thomas, "When I walked in here, I knew I would like it. This is where I can let out all my energy." She smiles. "I have a lot of energy — some negative, some good." Jen helped originate the group's motto: "No mistakes — just art."

Under the guidance of Flannery and Jenkins, RAW art tends to be vibrant and expressive, even explosive. For the "Bag Project" the young people created nearly life-size figures to illustrate how their inner feelings differ from how the world perceives them. The resulting exhibition was a major hit, with nearly 100 people at the opening. Says RAWKID Melissa Raye, "My family loved it. They were proud of me." Flannery explains that praise and pride are often novel for the teens in the program and that finding a positive route to attention through self-expression is changing the way they look at the world.

At the "Bag Project" opening, RAW encouraged visitors to write their comments on one wall. The anonymous comments bear testimony to the power of a vision. As one visitor wrote, perhaps a little awed, "I think my life would be different if there had been a RAW around when I was 16. It's great, great, great to be here now."

Lynn Mayor Patrick McManus is similarly enthusiastic about RAW. "RAW helps kids overcome the facade they present, that impression that everyone has to be a tough guy," he said. "It gives them the opportunity to express themselves, to be motivated and to have hope."

RAW resonates with Lynn youth and many others want to have similar experiences. Flannery, Jenkins and the RAWKIDS want to involve other youth, perhaps through evening programs and a collaboration with Warner Cable Company to produce public service announcements. The potential of the program is seemingly limited only by resources, but everyone involved is determined that "other kids can come here and do art for a purpose," says Flannery.

Celebrating Cultural Identity, Roots, **YOUTHREACH** *and Heritage*



"By giving these children a chance to learn what it means to be Cambodian, they will have a positive and strong sense of identity. Kids with a strong sense of identity are not as vulnerable to the risks that imperil children these days, like drugs and gangs, that prey on children who have no self-esteem."



IRENE PINSONNEAULT
Executive Director
Arts Unlimited



The youngest members of the Apsara Dance Troupe step solemnly in their richly colored long silk skirts to a tape recording of Cambodian folk music. They are performing the traditional Welcome Dance for members of the Fall River community who have come to a special presentation about Buddhist teachings and Cambodian culture by the Venerable Sengsavann Keobunta.

The 11-member dance troupe is part of YouthReach: Celebrating Cultural Identity, a program coordinated by Arts Unlimited of Fall River and Cambodian Community of Greater Fall River, Inc., to connect Cambodian refugee youth with their cultural heritage. Cambodians are the newest wave of immigrants in Fall River, a southeastern Massachusetts mill town that has absorbed successive waves of immigration for two centuries.

Cambodians now account for up to 15 percent of the population of some neighborhoods, but the children face a problem that previous generations of immigrants did not. As they struggle to find their way in American society, they lack a strong grounding in the culture and values of their native land because many of them grew up in refugee camps inside Thailand along the Cambodian border.

Celebrating Cultural Identity employs both the arts and spiritual guidance to help provide a cultural continuity that was disrupted in the camps. In addition to the dance troupe, which practices twice a week and performs throughout Fall River, other youth have painted a mural at the Angkor Plaza Community Center to depict daily life in Cambodia, and have participated in other visual arts programs. They have shared some of their newly acquired artistic skills with classmates in the public schools, thereby enhancing their self-esteem and group standing. As the project grows, it will draw from the rich Cambodian traditions of instrument-making, music, and shadow puppetry. In addition, says Irene Pinsonneault, executive director of Arts Unlimited, the program will expand from the Angkor Plaza Community Center to other community sites and public schools. She also anticipates expanding the age range of the participants to include more older students.

"By giving these children a chance to learn what it means to be Cambodian, they will have a positive and strong sense of identity," says Pinsonneault. "Kids with a strong sense of identity are not as vulnerable to the risks that imperil children these days, like drugs and gangs that prey on children who have no self-esteem."

Arts to Build Community
AREYTO COMMUNITY
ACTION INITIATIVE



"We don't see the arts as just something for the kids to do after school. The arts bring people together and raise the spirit in the community."



ALEX ALVEAR
Initiative Coordinator
Inquilinos Boricuas en Accion



Inquilinos Boricuas en Accion (IBA) is a nationally recognized community development agency serving the 3,000 residents of Villa Victoria, a largely Latino housing district in Boston's South End. One of the keys to IBA's success has been the agency's sponsorship of cultural programming in the 1970s through the mid-1980s. The arts vanished during a period of belt-tightening, but now they have returned through the Areyto Community Arts and Action Initiative.

More than half the residents of Villa Victoria are under the age of 18 and the Initiative provides direct services to these youth, in part to draw parents and other community members into participation in IBA programs.

YouthReach funding has expanded dance and music programming including a 12-member female folkloric dance troupe, Flor de Magda, named for the Puerto Rican commonwealth flower and led by Eduvina Figueroa. Students attend additional classes in folkloric dance, theater and Latin percussion. Percussion teacher Jorge Arce leads two drumming classes that teach not only the technical and artistic skills of drumming but also history and geography — with the drum as a link among peoples.

Instructor Celia Ayala is teaching the Bomba, a traditional Latino dance with West African roots. "I came from Puerto Rico, so I was born knowing how to move," she says. "But most of my students have no idea of the dances. They've never seen them and until they come here, they've never danced them."

Initiative Coordinator Alex Alvear points out, "A lot of kids experience cultural identity confusion even if their parents speak Spanish. These classes and programs give them something to look back to, to remind them of who they are." Moreover, studies show that strong cultural traditions tend to steer youth away from the life of the streets.

As IBA's youth program grows, older teens will evolve into peer leaders, serving as apprentices to the instructors and as mentors to younger participants. These peer leaders will receive training in leadership skills — a demonstrated technique for building a public-spirited alternative to gang involvement.

IBA's arts programming also helps build a cohesive community. "We don't see the arts as just something for the kids to do after school," says Alvear. "It's a way for us as an agency to have links to families and to the larger community. IBA is unique because arts and culture have always been recognized as a need parallel to human services and community development. The arts bring people together and raise the spirit in the community."

PAH! *Communication and Connection* DEAF YOUTH THEATER



"As willing as the students are to learn in the classroom, the advantages of having them learn from deaf role models and to develop skills that go untapped in a classroom setting are phenomenal."



KATY BURNS
Teacher

Horace Mann School for the
Deaf and Hard of Hearing



"It's time for deaf youth to be on stage, presenting their work to hearing audiences," says Jody Steiner, an interpreter of American Sign Language (ASL). "For so many years, deaf people have gone to the theater and been in the audience. That seemed halfway to me."

Steiner is project director of PAH! Deaf Youth Theater, a new program at Wheelock Family Theatre in Boston, a leader in theater access for populations often excluded from the arts. Working with the Horace Mann School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, the oldest public day school for the deaf in the nation, Wheelock established PAH! Deaf Youth Theater as a program for middle and high school students. ("PAH!" is an ASL exclamation that translates as "ta-da!")

The program is designed to fill a need for structured afterschool activities for youth who are often isolated by their deafness. Many traditional afterschool programs have not yet been able to accommodate the needs of these young people, so PAH! has been received enthusiastically. "The kids are hungry for connection, hungry for language," says Steiner. "They love acting. And we give them the tools to express themselves."

During the course of an afternoon, students might participate in group movement activities, storytelling and exercises to refine the subtleties of their language skills. The entire program is conducted in ASL — including training for back-stage and front-of-house duties. "The point is for the kids to feel successful. They need marketable skills and the confidence that comes from knowing how to get things done," says Steiner.

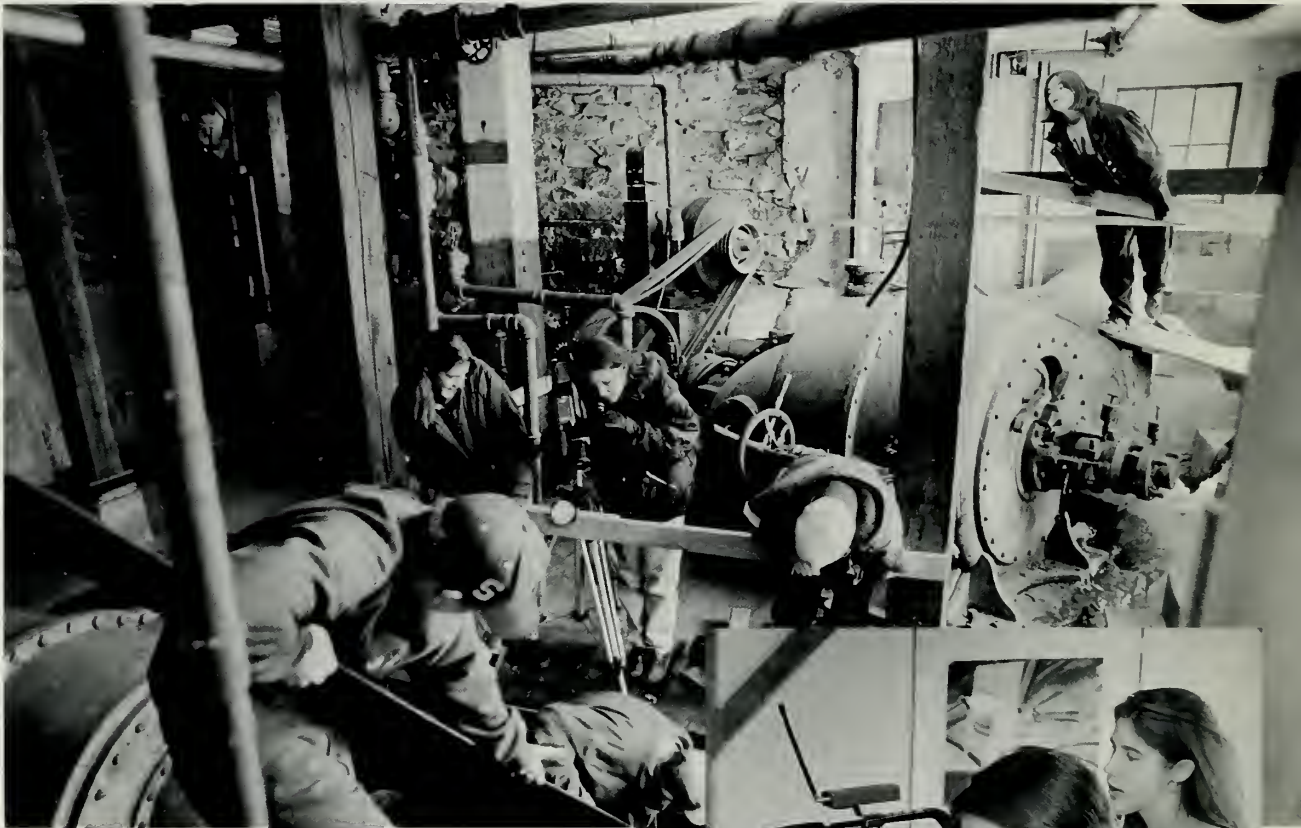
A crucial aspect of PAH! is the opportunity for students to learn from deaf adults who are especially articulate in ASL. Most deaf children come from families where parents and siblings do not sign, so their opportunities to develop language sophistication are limited.

Associate director and teacher Janis Cole, who is deaf, explains that ASL is a language of its own with many nuances and subtleties. "We're very visually oriented people. The learning process is different. We use space, we use our bodies. "

Horace Mann middle school teacher Katy Burns accompanies the students to all the PAH! activities and strongly supports the program. "As willing as the students are to learn in the classroom," she says, "the advantages of having them learn from deaf role models and to develop skills that go untapped in a classroom setting are phenomenal."

As PAH! continues, the program hopes to expand its mentoring aspect by having older students work with younger students, bringing more adults from the deaf community into the program as role models, and, ultimately, involving students from additional schools.

A Sense of Place MONTAGUE MILL PROJECT



"Watching TV is passive, but making TV about community issues is exactly the opposite. It's a process that integrates creativity, research and ideas, images and sound. These communications skills are what young people need to march into the 21st century."



ERNEST URVATER
Director
Montague Mill Project



Until the end of the 1950s, river-powered mills were the economic lifeblood of the rural village of Montague in western Massachusetts. Twenty-two mills once drew force from the Sawmill River — grinding grain, sawing timber, powering the looms of a textile industry. But the mill wheels ground to a halt and employment grew scarce. Montague's youth now come of age in an environment where families struggle for jobs and children struggle to find alternatives to the past. Troubled youth in the cities often garner the headlines, while the small numbers of disaffected rural youth make them seem comparatively invisible. But alienation flourishes as readily on back roads as on mean streets.

An irony is at work with the Montague Mill Project: One of the failed mills is providing an unprecedented learning opportunity for 270 youth in grades 7 and 8 of the Great Falls Middle School. The students are gaining an understanding of their collective past, in part through a technology that will clearly be part of their future.

As the community debates whether to rehabilitate one of its last river facilities, that mill has become the focus of a project to bring learning close to home. The interdisciplinary project serves as a springboard for these teens to explore their community's heritage by collecting oral histories of older family members who worked in the mills. "They're learning the power of their own stories and of the stories their relatives tell," says teacher Mary-Ann DeVita Palmieri. At the same time, students explore river science by studying water quality and analyzing fish habitats. They are also involved in the town's decision-making process as the community weighs options for rehabilitation of the mill.

"Students do more than just learn about the river," says principal Roma V. Hansis. "They become writers, scientists, pollsters, historians, interviewers, engineers, TV camera technicians, designers and construction workers. As a result, they play an active role in the life of their community."

Whatever the activity, there's always a video camera rolling as students master the technical and artistic skills of documentary filmmaking by using video to capture their learning process. "We're dealing with a television generation, kids who watch TV for five to six hours every day," says Ernest Urvater, director of the Montague Mill Project. Working with Montague Community TV, students and professional teams will produce an hour-long documentary to air on WGBY, the Springfield public television broadcasting station. As the project continues, the students will progress from gathering video footage to learning the techniques of video editing, including the use of advanced computer systems.

These students are moving from being mere consumers of television to being able to articulate their world through video. Explains Urvater, "Watching TV is passive, but making TV about community issues is exactly the opposite. It's a process that integrates creativity, research and ideas, images and sound. These communications skills are what young people need to march into the 21st century."

Knitting Community Efforts HOLYOKE YOUTHREACH

"Without this building, I would be out on the street doing Lord knows what."



MARGARITA DE JESUS
Program Participant



For more than five years, El Arco Iris has been offering arts programs in the Skinner Center, a community facility for Latino residents of South Holyoke — and there's no doubt the programs have been important. As one young participant observed, "Without this building, I would be out on the street doing Lord knows what." Now, with the coordinated efforts of the Holyoke YouthReach program — spearheaded by Greater Holyoke, Inc., an economic revitalization group — the city's youth have broader arts opportunities throughout the city.

A former industrial dynamo, Holyoke is now plagued with severe long-term unemployment. Half its Latino youth fail to complete school and the city's teen pregnancy rates are triple the state average. While a number of organizations have stepped forward to offer youth programs in the arts, YouthReach unites these efforts with new focus and concentration.

"YouthReach allows us to take some brave leaps to expand," explains Lorna Kepes, director of El Arco Iris — a joint program of the community development corporation, Nueva Esperanza, and the Holyoke Teen Pregnancy Coalition. With YouthReach support, El Arco Iris has increased the number and variety of classes at the Skinner Center, making them more visible in the community. As a result, the classes are at full capacity, serving 50 to 60 children ages 9 to 19 at any one time. Recent additions to the program have included a class in ceramics and separate visual arts classes for preteen and teenage youth. Every few months the center has showcase exhibitions to bring community recognition to the youthful artists.

El Arco Iris has joined forces with The Children's Museum and The Canal Gallery to offer expanded arts opportunities in new parts of the city as well. In many cases, participation in these other programs marks these children's first acquaintance with institutions outside their own neighborhood. The Canal Gallery offers workshops in sculpture, drawing, and painting in a professional studio for students who want to develop their artistic talents in a setting that emphasizes art as a vocation. Programs at The Children's Museum stress the performing arts, including workshops in the construction of traditional musical instruments.

This strong community collaboration is rounded out by the involvement of the city's business development organization. "YouthReach is important to us because creating a city that is good for young people is good for economic development, too. Businesses relocate and stay in communities where all kinds of opportunities exist, including artistic ones," says Lynn Vennell of Greater Holyoke, Inc. Holyoke YouthReach ultimately knits together community resources — opening doors for youth around the city and guiding them to programs best suited to their skills, their needs, and their aspirations.

As the program continues, Holyoke YouthReach seeks to expand the geographic base of its collaborators to provide new programming in even more areas of the city and further expand the horizons for its young beneficiaries.

PROGRAM DIRECTORY

A total of 15 Massachusetts programs are funded by the YouthReach Initiative. Each was chosen because of the strength and quality of its in-depth arts and cultural activities; its ability to reach young people in need; and the capacity of the community collaborations supporting the effort. These programs, that collectively impact more than 1,000 young people, are described below along with collaborators and co-funders.

ARTS IN PROGRESS, INC.
555 AMORY STREET
JAMAICA PLAIN, MA 02130
617-524-1160

Funds are going toward the creation of a teen performing arts center in an underserved neighborhood struggling with increased violence, poverty, and limited opportunities for young people. Dance and theater arts will be the initial focus, though the planners envision an even broader multidisciplinary center as this project grows. Collaborators on this project are: ABCD Summerworks Program, Boston Parks & Recreation Department, Boston Photo Collaborative, BNN Cable Access Television, Dorchester Youth Collaborative, Dimock Health Center, Ecumenical Social Action Committee, Egleston Square Coalition, First Night Inc., Jamaica Plain Community School, Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency Tenants Assistance Program, and Urban Edge. Additional financial support for this project comes from Associated Grantmakers, Hyams Foundation, Safe Neighborhoods Program, and Governor's Alliance Against Drugs.

ARTS UNLIMITED OF FALL RIVER, INC.
P.O. BOX 2551
FALL RIVER, MA 02722
508-674-1810

Reclaiming, remaking, and rejoicing in Cambodian art, spirituality, and culture is at the center of this project for young people in Fall River, a community struggling with economic and social challenges. Dance, music, and the visual arts all play a role. Collaborators on this program are Angkor Plaza,

the Cambodian Community of Greater Fall River, Fall River Housing Authority, Fall River Public Schools, and the Lowell Apsara Dance Troupe. The Fall River School Department, Charter Coalition, Fall River Fire Museum, and Ankor Plaza are also financial contributors.

BOSTON FILM / VIDEO FOUNDATION
1126 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02215
617-536-1540

Working with GANG PEACE, an organization committed to deterring youth involvement in gangs, this video production center is providing young people the opportunity to learn film and video techniques through a paid internship program. Additional support comes from Lotus Development Corporation and the City of Boston.

FEDERATED NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSES, INC.
90 CUSHING AVENUE 3RD FLOOR- MAIN BUILDING
DORCHESTER, MA 02125
617-282-5034

With the help of some of the state's nationally-renowned cultural institutions like the Isabella Stuart Gardner Museum, Mobius, Museum of Fine Arts, and The Space, this interactive afterschool arts effort provides teens the chance to develop their own work in a multitude of media while exposing them to a wide range of artistic expressions. The Boston Globe Foundation and New England Mutual Life Insurance Company contribute to this program as well.



INQUILINOS BORICUAS EN ACCION (IBA)
405 SHAWMUT AVENUE
BOSTON, MA 02118
617-262-1342

A pioneer in the integration of the arts with community development, funds have enabled this organization to revitalize and enlarge their youth arts program. Classes in percussion, vocal music, and dance are available for young people in this multi-faceted neighborhood center. The Teen Empowerment Program is collaborating with IBA on this project. The Schrafft Foundation and the Boston Foundation are both financial contributors to this program.

MCCORMACK CENTER FOR THE ARTS
543 COLUMBIA ROAD
DORCHESTER, MA 02125
617-282-5230

With a focus on court-involved youth, this performing arts project is sited in Boston's historic Strand Theater. Young people develop scripts, music, and choreography for a wide range of school and community audiences with the help of professional composers, dancers, and writers. Birch Street Community Center and the Roxbury District Court are actively involved in this effort. The Strand has also received financial support directly from the National Endowment for the Arts for this program.

THE MINIATURE THEATER OF CHESTER
HC63 BOX 30A EAST RIVER ROAD
HUNTINGTON, MA 01050
413-354-7770

Located in a tiny rural community in the western part of the state, this theater internship program offers rural youth the chance to work for a professional theater company. Teens have the opportunity to work with artists involved in other disciplines as well. This undertaking connects teens with the many artisans, visual artists and landscape artists who have settled in the area. The Gateway Regional School District is an active collaborator with the Theater on this project. The Theater has garnered support from the towns of Chester, Russell, and Blandford for this program. The Chester Hill Association is a contributor as well.

MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION
56 AVENUE A
TURNERS FALLS, MA 01376
413-863-9200

Combining video production, oral history, folklore, scientific inquiry and architectural exploration, this youth project has the renovation of an old mill at its center. The connections, both past and present, to the mill and the river are explored in this community endeavor. Also working on this program is EFP Services, a film and video production company, the Five College/Public School Partnership, Great Falls Middle School, and the Montague Book Mill. Financial support comes from the Great Falls Middle School, the Mirage Foundation, and the National Science Foundation.



NUEVA ESPERANZA INC.
401 MAIN STREET
HOLYOKE, MA 01040
413-532-2360

The expansion of El Arco Iris, a holistic, multi-cultural arts and services center is the focus of a community-based effort to serve youth in one of the state's largest Puerto Rican communities. Funds have enabled this group to forge working relationships with the Canal Gallery and the Children's Museum to the benefit of the many youth who use the program. Greater Holyoke Inc., a business revitalization group, is also working to make this happen. Support for this program also comes from the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts, Teen Pregnancy Prevention Challenge Fund, and Holyoke Arts Council.

PARTNERS FOR YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES
1 ASHBURTON PLACE
ROOM 1305
BOSTON, MA 02108
617-727-7440

A new summer theater arts program is underway for young people with disabilities from the central and eastern part of the state. Improvisation, movement, writing, and set design are all part of this comprehensive opportunity. Artists with and without disabilities comprise the staff of this dynamic effort. Collaborators include Boston Center for Independent Living, Until Tomorrow Productions, and Very Special Arts of Massachusetts. Financial support for this project also comes from The Boston Foundation, D'Angelo Sandwich Shops, and First Night Inc.

RAW ART WORKS, INC.
37 CENTRAL SQUARE
LYNN, MA 01901
617-598-3117

Both individual and group work is encouraged at this visual arts program. Young people are involved in the development of studio space, exhibits, and other public art forums. Cultural, racial, and economic boundaries are explored and expanded in this inventive and expressive youth arts program. Collaborators include the City of Lynn, Girls Inc., Greater Lynn Senior Services, HAWK, Lynn Arts, and Young at Arts. The General Electric Company, the City of Lynn, and the LEF Foundation all contribute to this effort.

SOMERVILLE COMMUNITY ACCESS TELEVISION
90 UNION SQUARE
SOMERVILLE, MA 02143
617-628-8826

This community television station has initiated "The Mirror Project", an afterschool video training and production program that gives young people the opportunity to tell their stories and develop the craft of videography. This program has become a national model in part because of its empowerment philosophy and its commitment to young people and their families. Also working on this project are staff from the Somerville Boys and Girls Club and the Somerville Housing Authority. Additional support has come from The Boston Globe Foundation, LEF Foundation, Haymarket Peoples' Fund, Hyams Foundation, and Somerville Arts Council.



SPRINGFIELD THEATRE ARTS ASSOCIATION

1 COLUMBUS CENTER
SPRINGFIELD, MA 01103
413-781-4470

Community, creativity, and collaboration are central themes with this theater project in the largest city in the western part of the state. Harnessing the power of theater, this organization has developed an afterschool and summer model that brings together both the African-American and Latino communities in dramatic self-expression. The 5A Organization of Springfield, New North Citizens Council, and Springfield College are also working on this effort. The Frank Stanley Beveridge Foundation and the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts support this program as well.

URBANARTS, INC.

409 W. BROADWAY
P.O. BOX 1658
BOSTON, MA 02205
617-864-2880

Public art is the focus of this inner city project. Teens team up with visual artists and landscape designers to recreate and enliven one of Boston's most crime-ridden and economically-depressed neighborhoods. Building on their strong record of innovative public art projects, UrbanArts assembled many groups to make this work for young people. They are: Boston Photo Collaborative, Boston Public Library, Boston Urban Gardeners, Church of the Holy Spirit in Mattapan, Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative, GANG PEACE, Mattapan Board of Trade,

Neighborhood Development Corporation of Grove Hall, National Center for Afro-American Artists, Northeastern University, Oral History Center, and Roxbury Multi-Service Center. UrbanArts receives additional support from: Action for Boston Community Development Corporation, Associated Grantmakers Summer Fund, Boston Council on the Arts and Humanities, Boston Foundation, Boston Foundation for Architecture, Haymarket People's Fund, Hyams Foundation, Lotus Development Corporation, National Endowment for the Arts, Polaroid Foundation, Mabel Louise Riley Foundation, Rowland Foundation, Safe Neighborhoods Youth Fund, and Tiny Tiger Foundation.

WHEELOCK FAMILY THEATRE

200 THE RIVERWAY
BOSTON, MA 02215
617-734-5200

YouthReach funding launched an innovative afterschool theater arts program for deaf youth in the Boston area. Young people develop a full range of theater skills while benefiting from in-depth mentoring relationships with deaf professional artists and peers. Other organizations working on this are: Comprehensive School Age Parenting Program, D.E.A.F. Inc., Horace Mann School, Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Massachusetts State Association for the Deaf, and the New England Society for Black Deaf. The Peabody Foundation, Boston Globe Foundation, and Very Special Arts' ADA Program all support this new initiative.



Massachusetts Cultural Council

120 Boylston Street

Boston, MA 02116

617-727-3668

617-338-9153 (TTY)

436 Dwight Street

Springfield, MA 01103

413-784-1089

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