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ARTS CORPS 2012. SUMMER

THE
CREATIVE
SCHOOLS
INITIATIVE

BRAVE NEW
VOICES

TEACHING
ARTIST
FLORENTINO
FRANCISCO

ARTS CORPS
SUPPORTER
JESSICA
SILVERTHORNE



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ARTS CORPS 2012. SUMMER

Donor Profile

Jessica Silverthorne

Jessica is a proud parent of an Arts Corps student in 2nd grade at Madrona K-8 school.

What inspired you to donate to Arts Corps?

My son has been taking art classes at Madrona [K-8] with Teaching Artist Lana Sundberg and has really enjoyed them. I work for a non-profit and I know how community-based non-profits like Arts Corps rely on support from community members and I'm part of the community.

What makes Arts Corps special?

The teaching artists are excellent. I have seen the drum line led by Teaching Artist Aaron Walker-Loud perform and have seen Eduardo [Mendonça's] Brazilian Rhythms drum class. I met Lara Davis (Arts Corps program director) and these personal connections give me a sense of the people involved. Arts Corps is really present in the neighborhood.

Tell us about your son's experience.

My son likes [his Arts Corps class] a lot. He brings home what he's made and shows me what he has done. Lana gives them direction but leaves room for

creativity. Arts Corps classes are a nice combination of free form and technique.

Talk to me about the importance of creativity for young people.

It's really important. My son likes to draw and create things. Arts Corps classes are an extension of what he enjoys doing. Lana gives him ideas in class that he then tries again at home.

What is your hope for all young people?

That all kids have the opportunity to participate in quality creative programs such as the performance and visual art classes at Madrona. I think it's just excellent that Arts Corps has so many programs at Madrona. ■



Photo by Victoria Shaw

Student Artwork by Odycey



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Photo by Victoria Shaw

CAN THE ARTS TRANSFORM LEARNING FOR SEATTLE PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS?

Research says yes.

- In Chicago, students who struggled with academic work became consistently engaged in complex analytical cognitive tasks when arts were integrated into the curriculum.
- In Montgomery County, Maryland, a school that adopted a long-term arts integration model reduced their reading gap by 14% and their math gap by 26% over a three year period.
- In New York City, high schools with the top third of graduation rates had fostered 25% more partnerships with arts and cultural organizations than schools in the bottom third.



Photo © Susie Fitzhugh

ARTS CORPS IS NOW BRINGING ARTS INTEGRATION TO SEATTLE.

Building on our strong program and addressing an unmet need in Seattle public schools, Arts Corps has spent the past year developing an arts integration model for middle schools – the Creative Schools Initiative. The goal of this initiative is to create arts rich schools that bolster student engagement, creativity, and academic performance while supporting teachers in working on new classroom strategies.

The Creative Schools Initiative includes an intensive evaluation component that will measure our key goals:

1. Improve student learning, social-emotional development and practice of 21st century skills.
2. Create meaningful and lasting models for collaboration between teachers and teaching artists to address the arts integration and access gaps in middle school.
3. Contribute to a more engaged and vibrant school culture and community.

Arts Corps is proud to announce Madrona K-8 and Orca K-8 schools as the inaugural Creative School sites where Arts Corps' programs will be integrated into the school day and after-school programming.

Teaching artists and AmeriCorps artists-in-service will be placed in each school. They will collaborate closely with classroom teachers to create curriculum rooted in student inquiry and project-based approaches.

We want to thank the administrations and teachers at both Orca and Madrona K-8 schools for partnering with us on this exciting project that we hope will serve as a national model for educational change! This program represents a huge step in Arts Corps growth, made possible by our amazing families, supporters and partners. ■



Photo by Kari Champoux

BRAVE NEW VOICES

In 2011, the renowned youth-led poetry program Youth Speaks Seattle, became a program of Arts Corps. We are proud to continue the Youth Speaks Seattle's legacy with poetry/spoken word classes and the hallmark Slam Series – an all-city poetry slam competition.

Arts Corps would like to thank everyone who attended the Seattle Youth Speaks slam series, the courageous and talented poets who competed, the mentors, coaches Chris Zweigle, Rose McAleese and Henry Luke, and supporters of Youth Speaks Seattle. The top five poets from the Grand Slam-Troy, Raven, Phin, Kristine, Donte-- performed a rousing collaborative piece at the Brave New Voices International Youth Poetry Festival in San Francisco in July...stay tuned for the story online! ■



Student Artwork by Henok, age 7

Teaching Artist Profile

Teaching Artist Profile: Florentino Francisco

Flow started b-boying (breakdancing) with friends in 1995, and is one of the founding members of the 2004 world B-Boy champion Massive Monkees Crew. He has been working with young people in out-of-school time programs for 12 years and teaching for Arts Corps for three. He builds his programs around what he calls the 3As: Academics, Activities and the Arts.

Who was the first person to support you?

The first people to support me in the art of dance were my family. They would either be dancing with me or watching and supporting what I love.

What advice do you have for the families of young artists?

Support your artist by going to one of their shows or performances. Or just tell them you are proud of them and love that they have found something that they are passionate about. It really helps them through life when they have a positive support team.



Photo by Victoria Shaw

Flow pictured far right with students at 2012 End of Year Showcase

Why is it important for young people to be creative?

When you are creative you use different parts of your brain and you can try things in a different way. Through creativity you can express yourself in any way you want. If everyone was the same and did the same things we would all be a bunch of robots.

Although I love doing the robot dance, that's not what I mean! The world would be a very boring place.

What do you love about teaching?

I love being able to share what I am passionate about with as many people as I can. Being able to give someone the sense of accomplishment or understanding is one of the best feelings there is. If you teach someone something, you give them a tool that no one can ever take away from them.

Anything else about yourself that is interesting to share?

I have a wonderful and exciting family, a wife and 2 kids ages 5 and 9. All are very artistic and creative in their own way. [And] my favorite quote is "Go with the Flow." ■

