

March 9, 2009

**TO INSPIRE CITY YOUTH, A NEW WEBSITE EASILY CONNECTS  
MILWAUKEE ARTISTS AND EDUCATORS**  
*Part of Helen Bader Foundation Three-Year Drive  
to Bolster Arts Opportunities for Disadvantaged Youth*

MILWAUKEE, WI—In recognition of National Arts Education Month in March, the **Helen Bader Foundation** is marking the first year of its Arts in Education Initiative, a three-year, \$1.3 million partnership with key nonprofit agencies to bring the arts into the lives of Milwaukee's underserved children. Under the Initiative, a new website—[www.MilwaukeeArtsEducationDirectory.org](http://www.MilwaukeeArtsEducationDirectory.org)—is being launched to serve as the region's first online resource that connects educators and arts organizations.

The Arts in Education Initiative is dynamic partnership with four key agencies—**Arts @ Large, the Cultural Alliance of Greater Milwaukee, the Nonprofit Management Fund, and the United Neighborhood Centers of Milwaukee (UNCOM)**—with the goal of delivering more arts programming to city children through Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) and community learning centers.

The **Cultural Alliance of Greater Milwaukee** is launching the Milwaukee Arts Education Directory, a new online source that provides artist teachers and arts organizations the opportunity to create colorful, interactive profiles of their original arts education programming. Educators and community youth-serving organizations can use the Directory to find arts programs to incorporate into their curriculum and outreach. To date, the site already features more than 115 arts education programs from 70 local artists and arts organizations for MPS teachers and community learning centers to consider.

**Arts @ Large**, whose reach extends to more than 7,000 students and teachers in 15 Milwaukee Public Schools and four community learning centers, received nearly half of the grant money to invest into its sustainable arts-integrated projects. Arts @ Large projects promote an arts-rich climate in the classroom, incorporating creativity within all academic pursuits.

Arts in Education funds have enabled Arts @ Large to add nine new locations—five MPS schools and four community learning centers—to its extensive repertoire. These nine new Arts @ Large sites are participating in the Dare to Dream project, a collaborative effort with the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities.

The Dare to Dream project uses arts programming to create an “atmosphere of inclusion” within the classroom. The program challenges artists and teachers to create universally designed arts-integrated projects that embrace the diverse learning and physical abilities present in each classroom. Multidisciplinary arts experiences are provided to build self-esteem and classroom unity by highlighting the unique talents of every child.

**MORE**

Representing the community's side of the partnership, the **United Neighborhood Centers of Milwaukee** is applying its share of grant funds to operate after school and summer arts programming in their community centers. Each of the eight UNCOM agencies is benefiting from the Arts in Education Initiative, enabling over 35 locations throughout the city the opportunity to impact nearly 5,000 Milwaukee youths.

In most cases, the UNCOM agency directly contracts with a local arts educator to provide a specific arts program. At **COA Youth and Family Centers**, for example, students are participating in photography classes, fashion design, and hip hop dance programs. **The Next Door Foundation** is offering African dance, **Journey House** has violin lessons, **Neighborhood House** provides music lessons for toddlers, and African drumming can now be taken at the **Silver Spring Neighborhood Center** thanks to the Arts in Education Initiative.

Over the next three years, the **Nonprofit Management Fund** is strengthening the organizational capacity of 15 small to mid-sized arts organizations through the Fund's diagnostic clinic program. These diagnostic clinics assess the management and structural stability of nonprofit organizations, offering helpful consultation to fortify its community stature and operational efficiency.

Through the Arts in Education grant, this year's participants in the diagnostic clinic program—**Artists Working in Education (AWE), Milwaukee Public Theatre, Skylight Opera Theatre, Walker's Point Center for the Arts, and Woodland Pattern**—are applying the expert advice of the Nonprofit Management Fund to bolster their organization's capacity to provide arts programming within Milwaukee Public Schools.

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**About the Foundation:** The Helen Bader Foundation, Inc. strives to be a philanthropic leader in improving the quality of life of the diverse communities in which it works. Awarding an average of \$11 million annually, the Foundation makes grants, convenes partners, and shares knowledge to affect emerging issues in key areas. The Foundation has awarded more than \$179 million in grants and \$10 million in Program Related Investments since it was established in 1991.