



An Affiliate of Young Audiences
Arts for Learning

Media Release

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ARTS PARTNERS RECEIVES \$25,000 GRANT TO BRING THE ARTS TO FIVE WICHITA SCHOOLS

Wichita, KS – Arts Partners has announced a grant of \$25,000 from the K.T. Wiedemann Foundation to bring arts programming to students in four low-income parochial schools and one Quaker school. Students at the schools range in age from kindergarten to 8th grade. The project will provide professional development training for teachers on using the arts for learning in their classrooms, as well as arts programs for students, including artists-in-residence and performances. All of these activities will serve as models for the teachers in using the arts both as a source of enrichment and a way to support learning.

For ten years, Arts Partners has worked with professional artists and arts and cultural organizations to inspire children to learn and create by providing arts-in-education programs in the public school system. Currently, none of the five schools - St. Joseph, St. Margaret Mary, Holy Savior Academy and St. Patrick and Wichita Friends School - have art or music teachers. This grant will train teachers in the skills they need to incorporate the arts across the curriculum.

Doug Pringle serves as president of the K.T. Wiedemann Foundation. “Mrs. Wiedemann loved kids and loved supporting children's programs. We felt this program would bring a lot of opportunities for children to be involved in some wonderful arts programs. By exposing children to the arts, it helps them to be well-rounded and will hopefully spark some kids' interests, maybe for a career or just something they will be pursue in other fashions throughout their lives.”

**ARTS PARTNERS RECEIVES SUBSTANTIAL GRANT TO BRING
THE ARTS TO FIVE AREA SCHOOLS**

“Research has shown that children who learn to think creatively, problem solve, and work as a team have a greater chance of future success in whatever they choose to do, particularly as we educate our children for the 21st century global workforce,” said Katie Lynn, executive director of Arts Partners. “Using the arts for learning is the best way to encourage higher level critical thinking by taking what students hear, see and/or read, and using music, dance, visual art, drama, film making and other arts disciplines to create new learning. Our vision is to inspire children to learn and create. This grant allows us to reach even more children – in this case, children that are missing a key element in their education by not having exposure to art and music.”

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Because we believe that creative minds make communities better, Arts Partners is dedicated to providing opportunities for students to learn in and through the arts. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Arts Partners works with area arts and cultural organizations and artists to develop PreK-Grade 12 arts programs that introduce students to the visual, literary, and performing arts while reinforcing learning in other areas of the curriculum, including reading, writing, math, social studies, and science. The partnership includes school districts, schools, community teaching artists, cultural organizations, and funders. Arts Partners is an affiliate of Young Audiences, Inc. and is also the sponsoring organization of Kansas Wolf Trap Early Learning Through the Arts.