



NOT FOR PUBLICATION UNTIL
November 9, 2017

CONTACT: Iván Román
202-294-2247
iroman@metgroup.com

PHOTOS
https://www.flickr.com/photos/pcah_nahyp/albums
(photos posted by 8 p.m. EST, 11/09/17)

Samentha Moore
202-464-6510
smoore@metgroup.com

FEDERAL ARTS AND CULTURAL AGENCIES RECOGNIZE NATION'S BEST CREATIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

12 After-school Programs from Across the U.S. Honored



(WASHINGTON, D.C.) Twelve creative youth development programs from across the country were recognized today by the nation's arts and culture agencies with the highest honor such programs can receive, the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award.

First presented in 1998, the 2017 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Awards will be presented through a partnership between the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), in cooperation with the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA).



In its nineteenth year, the award has recognized 285 after-school and out-of-school-time programs for achieving a wide range of outcomes in the lives of children and youth, often from underserved communities across the country. Among the outcomes generated by these programs are higher grades and graduation rates, increased college attendance rates, and skill development ranging from collaboration and critical thinking to leadership and confidence.



"These 12 creative youth development programs represent the best of the best," said Pam Breaux, president and chief executive officer of the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies. "They are living proof of the power of the arts and the humanities to build the skills young people need to succeed in school and in life."

The 2017 awardees include the following:

- Three programs based in museums ... including **Brick x Brick** at the Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAMM), **High School Apprenticeship Program** at the New Bedford Whaling Museum, and **Newark Museum Explorers program**.
- Two programs designed to serve youth with special needs: **Creative Readers** at Port Washington Public Library, a weekend arts and literacy inclusion program that turns books into multi-sensory experiences for elementary students with special needs; and **The Penguin Project** of The Penguin Project Foundation, Inc. from

National Arts and
Humanities Youth
Program (NAHYP)

1200 18th Street NW,
Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20036
1.202.682.5409
www.nahyp.org

Peoria, Ill., which provides high-quality theater education to youth with developmental and neurological disorders.

- Two programs that serve youth in rural areas: **MAPS Media Institute**, an after-school arts academy in western Montana that brings rigorous, hands-on media arts experiences to rural students; and **The Summer Performing Arts Company** from Grand Forks, N.D., the only arts-based summer program in the region, which during its 30-year history has provided an array of music and drama programming to more than 21,400 students.
- **Cool Classics!**, which engages Chicago public school students from low-income and immigrant families in classic and complex literature through theater and text-related artistic activities.
- **Teen Innovators at BLDG 92** in Brooklyn, N.Y., a humanities-based internship program offered by the Brooklyn Historical Society that focuses on the creation and expansion of career readiness skills.
- **Confident Voices** of SAY: The Stuttering Association for the Young from New York, N.Y., a performing arts program that provides youth who stutter with an affirming environment to share their voices.
- **Destiny Arts Youth Performance Company** from Oakland, Calif., which empowers youth from diverse cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds to use the dance and theatre along with philosophies of nonviolence to create original, thought-provoking performances that promote social change.
- The **Phoenix Conservatory of Music's College Prep Program** from Phoenix, Ariz., which provides rigorous, comprehensive contemporary music education to students, along with workshops and training in college preparation, internships, and life skills courses.

The awards were presented today at a ceremony at the Anderson House, a National Historic Landmark house museum located on Embassy Row in the nation's capital. The ceremony was highlighted by a performance by vocalist, Lourde Childs, and pianist, Michael Rodriguez, from the Phoenix Conservatory of Music's College Preparatory Program, and remarks by youth speaker, Samantha Joseph from the Newark Museum Explorers program at the Newark Museum.

The International Spotlight Award was presented to the MASC Awesome Arts program from Ottawa, Canada. This community-engaged arts program engages youth, aged 5-18, through a variety of bilingual multidisciplinary arts workshops and youth mentorships. Under the leadership of MASC (Multi-Cultural Arts for Schools and Communities), more than 1,125 Awesome Arts workshops have been provided to 1,500 Ottawan youth.

In addition to their recognition by the nation's arts and culture agencies, each of the 12 community-based programs will receive \$10,000. For more information about the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Awards, visit nahyp.org.

About the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award

The National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award is the nation's highest honor for after-school arts and humanities programs. The award recognizes and supports outstanding programs that lay new pathways to creativity, expression, and achievement outside of the regular school day. These programs excite and engage a range of students, cultivating imagination, collaboration, discipline, and academic success—with demonstrable results. They also provide safe harbors after school, on weekends, and during the evenings for children and youth in some of our country's most at-risk urban and rural settings.

2017 Awardees

Brick x Brick

Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAMM)
Miami, Fla.

Confident Voices

SAY: The Stuttering Association for the Young
New York, NY

Cool Classics!

Chicago, Ill.

Creative Readers

Port Washington Public Library
Port Washington, N.Y.

Destiny Arts Youth Performance Company

Destiny Arts Center
Oakland, Calif.

High School Apprenticeship Program

New Bedford Whaling Museum
New Bedford, Mass.

MAPS Media Institute

The Irwin and Florence Rosten Foundation, Inc.
Hamilton, Mont.

Newark Museum Explorers

Newark Museum
Newark, N.J.

Phoenix Conservatory of Music's College Prep Program

Phoenix Conservatory of Music
Phoenix, Ariz.

Teen Innovators at BLDG 92

Brooklyn Historical Society
Brooklyn, N.Y.

The Penguin Project

The Penguin Project Foundation, Inc.
Peoria, Ill.

The Summer Performing Arts Company

Grand Forks Public Schools
Grand Forks, N.D.

International Spotlight Honor

MASC Awesome Arts

MASC (Multi-Cultural Arts for Schools and Communities)
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada