



Young Audiences

Sun

of Greater Cleveland

Spring 2004

Young Audiences of Greater Cleveland enriches the lives of children and promotes creative learning by uniting arts and education.

And the Winners Are...

On May 11, Young Audiences of Greater Cleveland will present the fourth annual Arts Educator Awards at the Ohio Theatre at Playhouse Square. These awards recognize and celebrate educators from all disciplines who utilize the arts to enrich education and enhance learning of the curriculum. "This award is significant in that it emphasizes the importance of art in our society. These award recipients represent the best arts educators in our multi-county area, and their commitment to, and creativity in, using arts in everyday education impacts the lives of every student they touch," said Marsha Dobrzynski, YAGC Executive Director. The public can participate in the celebration by joining the winners on May 11 at 6:30 pm for hors d'oeuvres, dessert and beverages. Tickets are \$25 or \$50 for patrons.

For more information, please call (216) 561-5005.



Mary Beth Matthews

As the Art Teacher and ICARE co-ordinator at Max S. Hayes Vocational High School in Cleveland,

Mary Beth has spearheaded a movement to incorporate fine arts into the everyday curriculum at the school. From language to music, and even physical education, the arts have become an integral part of Max Hayes' career and technical program. Just a few of her initiatives are: a sculpture in welding program for young artists, implementing a partnership with the Cleveland Institute of Art, the procurement of student scholarships to summer workshops, and the development of an after-school *continued...on pg. 2*

Howard Meeker

As Associate Professor of Music and Director of Instrumental Music at Cleveland State University, Howard Meeker has quietly, unselfishly, and tirelessly worked to develop partnerships and networks of educators and arts organizations throughout Greater Cleveland. His personal commitment to ensuring a place for the arts in classrooms resulted in the creation of the Community Music Enrichment Program, a program that stimulates awareness for the arts through concerts, courses, master classes and outreach activities that promote the importance of arts in the classroom and everyday



life. His impact on arts education stretches far beyond his work at Cleveland State University, to Northeast Ohio's *continued...on pg. 2*

James Thornton

James Thornton is often viewed as the father of the Theatre Arts Department of Shaker Heights High School, now in its 25th year. As the Chair of that department, James has brought his love of, and passion for, the arts to hundreds of students over the years. On an annual basis, James' productions, workshops, and special activities engage



nearly 300 students. The students experience dance, vocal music, acting, and playwriting, and James also creates opportunities for parents and the community. Perhaps one of James' most far-reaching accomplishments has been the network of alumni who regularly visit current students to provide a real world perspective. *continued...on pg. 2*

Inside This Issue

Letter from Executive Director ..Pg. 2
ICARE UpdatePg. 3
Summer InstitutePg. 5

Artist NewsPg. 6
ContributorsPg. 7



Letter from Executive Director

In early March, Young Audiences received the news that the organization has been selected as one of the participants in **The Cleveland Foundation's new Advancement Program for Mid-sized Arts Organizations.** Through a community-wide competitive application and review process, six organizations were chosen. In addition to receiving operating support grants for three years, YA will benefit from technical assistance provided by National Arts Strategies experts including organizational assessment, ongoing professional development for staff and Board, and access to advisors to help with capacity building work. We are eager and excited to begin and anticipate the next three years will provide the assistance to ensure that this organization will thrive and fulfill its mission for another 50 years as the leader in arts education in Northeast Ohio. The Board and staff are very grateful to The Cleveland Foundation for this innovative opportunity for the community.

Thank you to everyone who attended and made the **2004 Cleveland Cabaret** on March 13th such a phenomenal success. Cori Moore and Margaret Krudy and the entire committee put together one of the very best events in YAGC history! Thank you to YA artists Jonathan Graham, Cleveland Contemporary Dance Theatre, Ray McNiece and Mar'Shal Baxter-Beckley and her band for participating in the evening. Deborah and Ronald Ratner were recognized for their longstanding support and commitment to Young Audiences. And special thanks to Robbie Spackey, an outstanding "up and coming" jazz musician, for performing during the cocktail hour. It was a truly enjoyable evening for everyone.

We look forward to filling the last months of the year with creative learning in our schools. Please join us in our work. With your help we will continue to forge a strong future for Greater Cleveland through our young people.

Sincerely,
Marsha Dobrzynski

New Funding From The Ford Foundation

In March, Young Audiences of Greater Cleveland received the news that the organization is one of three recipients nationwide of a \$100,000 one-year planning grant from the Ford Foundation. With these funds, Young Audiences, along with consultants from the Center for Collaboration and Future of Schooling, will take the lead in creating a Cleveland Integrated Arts Collaborative. Building on the past success of ICARE and other arts education partnership efforts in the community, this group will develop plans to provide arts integration experiences to all 72,000 students in the Cleveland Municipal School District, so that every child has access to the rich artistic resources in Northeast Ohio.

Mary Beth Matthews continued...

enrichment project for students to visit area art galleries. "All of the above mentioned initiatives show how art can be utilized as an innovative tool for learning. Her enthusiasm is electric. Many of her students have a greater appreciation of the importance of art in their daily lives," says David E. Volosin, the Principal of Max S. Hayes.

Howard Meeker continued ...

secondary education institutions. His nominator, Kay W. Shames, Director of CSU's Community Music Enrichment Program, says, "His programs are always meant to serve others, not himself, and he is admired throughout the state for his intelligence, professionalism and devotion to the ideals that the arts should be a part of every child's life."

James Thorton continued ...

Hollywood producers, playwrights and movie stars visit the school and engage students in conversation. Shaker parents Cynthia L. Penter and Lynn Lilly said in their nomination, "...his commitment stretches beyond hours to energy – bringing depth and richness to his students' education."



ICARE Update

ICARE, the Initiative for Cultural Arts in Education, is a program of Young Audiences of Greater Cleveland that supports long-term, arts-focused partnerships between the Cleveland Municipal School District and the Northeast Ohio cultural arts community.

NEWS FROM OUR PARTNERS

American Roots

February was filled with music and song at **Forest Hill Parkway Academy**, thanks to the school's ICARE partnership with **Roots of American Music** (ROAM). ROAM helped students perform on February 25 as part of the school's Black History Day. 2nd graders played 2-part polyrhythm of "Fanga" with pint-size djembes and shakers, while classmates sang and performed the dance. 3rd graders sang "Kumbaya" while playing a body percussion polyrhythm. 4th graders sang "Wade in the Water" with a Juba rhythm and "Drinking Gourd." Teachers also experimented with music at the February 13 Professional Development Day where ROAM musicians engaged them in wacky boomwhacker rhythms, spoon playing and sing-alongs.

Giving Voice to Dreams

At **Giddings Elementary School**, the ICARE project introduces 3rd and 5th grade students to individuals throughout history whose dreams transformed the lives of many others. Exposure to the ideas of great dreamers prepares the students to investigate how dreams have affected the lives of people closer to their world, in their communities and families. With the knowledge of others' lives past and present, realizing dreams large and small as inspiration, they learn to give voice to their own dreams through writing, drama, dance and visual art. Besides working with artists in their classroom, this spring students are visiting the Cleveland Museum of Art with visual artist **Gunter Schwegler**, watching their dance instructors **David Shimotakahara** and **Amy Miller** perform in their **GroundWorks Dancetheater** production, and taking a behind-the-scenes tour of Playhouse Square with drama artist **Terré Holmes**. These experiences are sure to inspire students to have some dreams of their own!



The Case Elementary School Drama Club will perform at the May Best Practices meeting.

• ICARE Best Practices Information Exchange •

May 5, 2004

4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

**Ohio Bell Room, Gund Building
Cleveland Institute of Art
11141 East Blvd.
Cleveland, OH 44106**

Calling all ICARE teams! Join us to:

- Interact with colleagues from other schools and organizations.
- Discuss the challenges and rewards of arts education partnerships.
- Share strategies for sustaining your work beyond ICARE funding.
- Celebrate the achievements of ICARE's "graduating" partnerships.

Light refreshments will be served.

Limited free parking in the Cleveland Institute of Art lot beginning at 4:00 p.m.

Please RSVP by May 1 to 561-5014 or Emily@yagc.org.

• Upcoming Deadlines and Events •

April 24

People on the Move workshop
Western Reserve Historical Society

May 3

New Partnership Proposals due

May 27

ICARE Final Reports and Renewal Proposals due

July 26-30

Summer Institute 2004:
Taking the Arts to New Places
Cleveland State University



THE POWER OF POETRY

In addition to music, visual art, theatre and dance, ICARE also supports the literary arts in schools, bringing in poets and writers to work with students as well as using arts experiences as springboards for creative writing. Following are examples of poetry from three different ICARE schools this semester. Writers range in age from 5th grade to high school.

At the **Optional School at Margaret Ireland**, an alternative school for academically struggling middle and high school students, visiting **Young Audiences** artist **Dale Davis** used hip hop music and culture as a way to connect to students' lives and motivate them to powerful written expressions.

Mrs. Deborah Mahaney, a 5th grade teacher at **Giddings Elementary School** Giddings, has been

working with **GroundWorks Dancetheater** in an ICARE partnership for the past three years. This year, she integrated this work with the Young Authors program by asking students to write about their experiences in art, dance and theatre with ICARE. The resulting class book will be publicly exhibited later this spring.

At **Collinwood High School** students had fun writing their own blues songs with **Creative Writing Workshop Projects** artist **Barbara Barrett**. In addition to learning about the history of blues music, students also learned about using music to release stress. Says Barrett, "Music and other art forms can provide refuge and/or solace from the many challenges of life...."

"Desperation"

Desperation runs through me
like a black river
running to a dark desert.
I am desperate to reach my dreams.
Music flows through my veins.
I am desperate
to be loved by those whom I love
and to earn the trust of those who
have turned their backs.
I am desperate
to stop the hating,
to have my anxiety attacks vanish,
to scream out,
to lash out,
to stop the pain.

What is the meaning of my existence?

Music has saved me
from this dry and unforgiving world,
this desert
where all vision is blurred.

By: Serenus Henderson
The Optional School at
Margaret Ireland

"Drama"

Things to imagine
People to trust
People to play
Things to say
Journals to write in
Moving around
Things to dream about
Listening to Ms.Terre
Things to share with people
Places to go
Plays to act
Feelings to be felt
Games to have fun with others!

By: Tanaejua Jackson
Giddings Elementary School

"No Mo' Money"

I ain't got no money, my family is
hungry.
I don't know what to do, got three
brothers and one on the way, too.
Daddy got laid off, just the other day,
Now I got to buy my "Forces" through
the layaway.
Whoever took my money got to pay
for my shoes.
My money is so low, that's why I'm
singing the blues.
My money is so low, time is moving so
slow.
My money is low, I really wanted my
shoes.
My money is low that's why I'm
singing the blues.

By Tiara Drish
Collinwood High School





SUMMER INSTITUTE 2004

Presented with the generous support of The Ohio Arts Council and the Eaton Charitable Fund.

Taking the Arts to New Places: Designing Interdisciplinary Curriculum

July 26-30

Are you an elementary, middle or high school teacher, art or music specialist, or a teaching artist? Do you wish you had more time and expertise to design creative curriculum to meet your students' needs? Would you like to experience arts learning for yourself?

Whatever your level of experience or teaching area, Young Audiences' **Summer Institute 2004** will give you new insight into the challenges and joys of integrating the arts into today's school culture. In partnership with Playhouse Square Center's Education Department, Young Audiences will offer a weeklong graduate level course, *Taking the Arts to New Places: Designing Interdisciplinary Curriculum*, 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. July 26-30 at Cleveland State University.

Throughout the week, participants will work with facilitator Karen Erickson as well as with three Young Audiences' artists in music & movement, drama/theatre and visual art. They will look at curriculum from different viewpoints, connect to standards and interdisciplinary practice, and create new plans for classroom practice, including planning and assessment processes. **New this year will be the opportunity to explore one artistic discipline in depth throughout the week.**

Participants will be asked to share their expertise, experience, and enthusiasm as they practice the arts, explore educational structures, and work in partnership with others to create exciting and meaningful learning for students. **All course participants will also receive free tickets to the State of the Arts Luncheon on June 18, 2004 with keynote speaker Harry Belafonte.**

Presenters

Karen L. Erickson

has been a Professional Teaching Artist for over 20 years. As Executive Director of Creative Directions in Chicago, Erickson trains artists and teachers in drama education, curriculum planning, arts integration and assessment development nationally and internationally. Erickson will be joined by YAGC artists, **Terry Boyarsky, Robin Pease, and Debra Wuliger.**



"I enjoyed the positive and supportive atmosphere in the class...."



"We discovered the value of team work, effective communication, and creativity."

"...teaching with a work of art as a focal point of learning has proven to be an extremely powerful tool for the development of critical and creative thinking."



"Now I know that the arts are important across the curriculum and can be linked to literacy with ease and practice."



"Clearly, when teachers work together on curriculum, the ideas are richer and more plentiful."

"... an incredible experience that has renewed my passion for teaching."

Registration and Scholarship Info • Register early. Enrollment is limited.

Secure your registration with payment of \$50 workshop fee. There is a \$300 participant fee for those taking the course for no credit or \$640* for 2 graduate credits. All fees should be made payable to Cleveland State University. Please contact Young Audiences at (216) 561-5014 or emily@yagc.org for a registration form.

Cleveland Municipal School District/ICARE
The participant fee is waived for CMSD teachers and active ICARE partners; ICARE funds also provide tuition reimbursement or stipends to the above participants on a first come, first served basis. Please call (216) 561-5014 for details.

Teachers in Other Districts

A limited number of scholarships for educators outside the CMSD are available through Playhouse Square Center's Education Department. Please call (216) 348-7912 for more information.

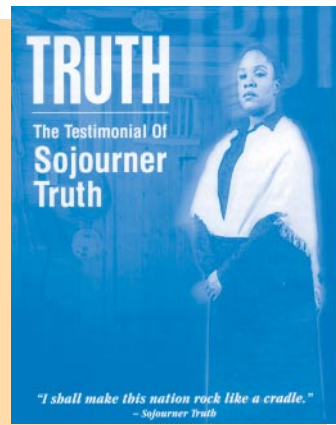
**Graduate tuition subject to change without prior notice.*



ARTIST NEWS

Introducing Rasheryl McCreary

Young Audiences is pleased to welcome **RaSheryl McCreary** to the roster. Beginning in January, McCreary has offered students in grades 7-12 performances of "Truth," a powerful drama about the life of Sojourner Truth, a woman searching for her identity in a country ripped apart by the Civil War. Since returning to Cleveland in the mid-1990s from Los Angeles, McCreary has become one of Cleveland's premier stage actresses and is well known for her one-woman shows portraying Sojourner Truth, Billie Holiday and Sarah Vaughan. With over 20 years of combined experience as a professional performing artist, educator and corporate trainer, McCreary is also founder and executive director of The Living Legacy Project, a program that uses creative writing, oral history and drama to help girls understand that their teenage choices have lifelong consequences. McCreary received the 2001 Northern Ohio Live Award of Achievement for Community Events/Outreach.



Val's piece "Untitled Model" can be seen at Tri-C western campus

Look to the Book

Congratulations to YA visual artist **Valerie Van Sice** who recently had several pieces accepted into juried exhibitions. Locally, Val was one of two Cleveland artists in *An Open Book*, a show at Cuyahoga Community College western campus featuring national and international artists. On view March 1 – April 9, that show had two of

Valerie's books on exhibit. On the national front, Valerie's piece, "A Little Knowledge," was chosen from among 200 entries to be in *Stand and Deliver: Engineering Sculpture into a Book Format*, a touring exhibition that features 52 books representing artists from 25 states and 3 countries. The show will travel to locations around the country, including San Diego, Denver, Chicago, Boca Raton, Florida and Brookfield, Connecticut.

YA Artists Participate in Leadership Training

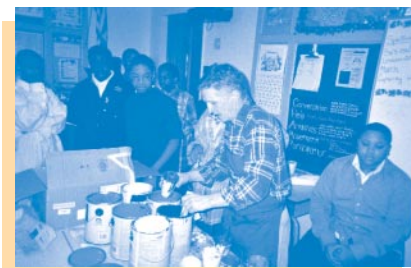
YA artists **Terry Boyarsky**, **Tom Evert** and **Robin Pease** joined artists from throughout Ohio at a two-day seminar March 25 and 26 at the Vern Riffe Center for Government and the Arts in Columbus, OH. Entitled "Artists as Educators: Planning Effective Workshops for Teachers," the training program was sponsored by The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Ohio Arts Council, Ohio Alliance for Arts Education and VSA arts of Ohio.

Enhancing Early Childhood Education

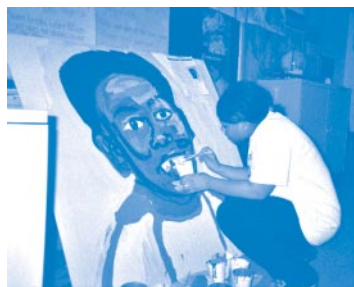
In February, Young Audiences and Neighborhood Centers Association (NCA), through the Creative Scholars initiative, launched a new partnership designed to enhance literacy development in young children. Following meetings with the NCA site directors and parent policy group as well as two professional development sessions for parents and staff, Young Audiences provided 64 performances in March and April at 17 Head Start programs and three home school sites around the city. YA artists delighted children, families and educators with their ability to bring literacy to life through music and movement, rhythms and rhymes, story and song.

Portraits of History

4th through 8th graders at Hope Academy East were treated to a unique lesson in history and art the week of February 9th. Working with YA artist **Colin Coots** and their social studies teachers, students learned about ten notable African-Americans and created large-scale (4' x 4') painted portraits of these historical and contemporary figures, including Harriet Tubman, Martin Luther King, Jr., Oprah Winfrey and Condeleeza Rice. Opened in August 2003, Hope Academy East Campus is a public charter school serving 290 students in grades K-8.



Colin Coots working with the children on portraits.



As principal Lee Lazar stated, "I am very excited about this project. During Black History Month, our students combined their internet based research skills and artistic talents to learn about important African-American historic people and their influence on America today."

Judging by the resulting portraits, Lazar's excitement was justified and the works are proudly displayed at several public venues throughout the Collinwood community!



DEVELOPMENT

Dynamic Duo

Young Audiences welcomes co-directors of development **Ranelle Huber** and **Abbie Sender** to our staff. Ranelle Huber brings to the position ten years of development experience, encompassing capital campaigns, annual campaigns, marketing and experience working on some of Cleveland's largest benefits in recent years. As the mother of two young boys who have themselves benefited from YA programs, Ranelle also brings a fervent belief in the importance of uniting arts and education for our young people. Ranelle, her husband Doug, and their children are 12-year residents of Cleveland Heights, where they are both very active in their sons' school. Ranelle has a Bachelor of Arts degree from



Ranelle Huber



Abbie Sender

Wittenberg University and a Master of Nonprofit Organizations from the Mandel Center at Case Western Reserve University, where she first met job share partner Abbie Sender. Abbie also has a Master of Nonprofit Organizations from Case as well as a Bachelor's Degree from Brandeis University. Prior to joining Young

Audiences in January, she was a free-lance grant writer for local health, social services and arts organizations. In her spare time, Abbie volunteers at her children's school and enjoys cooking, knitting, reading, gardening, biking and, of course, spending time with her family. She resides in Cleveland Heights with her husband and two boys.

Congratulations

Nanci and Earl Stein are the winners of the YAGC drawing for a pair of roundtrip tickets on Continental Airlines. They became eligible for the drawing by increasing their annual fund contribution by \$50 or more this year.

Contributors

Young Audiences gratefully acknowledges our 2003-2004 Contributors (7/1/03 and 2/29/04) Does not include ticket or table sponsorship for the Cleveland Cabaret.

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* includes a contribution to Young Audiences' Endowment Fund
We apologize for any errors or omissions.



**Join theater artist Robin Pease
at the 2004 Summer Institute,
July 26-30.**

See page 5 for details.



"...the best weeklong opportunity that I ever had."
past Summer Institute participant

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