



Connecting arts to academics since 2001

Winter 2011

Arts @ Large is an innovative program that provides multidisciplinary arts experiences for Milwaukee K-12 students. Arts @ Large provides sustainable arts programming for students and teachers in public schools and highlights the essential role that art and music specialists and members of the greater arts community play in creating an inclusive atmosphere of classroom learning.

Staff

- Kim Abler,
Founder/Co-Director
- Teri Sullivan,
Founder/Co-Director
- Ryan Hurley,
Program Coordinator
- Darrell Garrett,
Communications Assistant

Kagel Students Perform in Washington D.C.

The Kagel Elementary School Drummers traveled to Washington D.C. to perform at the 2011 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Celebration, sponsored by the National Education Association (NEA), in January.

For the memorial celebration, the students performed a series of songs called the "Pass It On" Suite, which emphasized games and activities children engage in today, that were passed down from African ancestors.

The audience was shown, via the drumming and movement, the origins of jump-rope, double-dutch, patty cake and ground games like "jacks", whose rhythmic roots are found in West Africa and were spread throughout the African Diaspora.

Yolanda Estante, Kagel's Music Director/Instructor, and Dr. Cecil Austin started the Kagel Drummers, a percussion and dance ensemble of 4th and 5th graders. The students had to have enormous amounts

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of dedication, sacrificing some recess time in order to rehearse for the event.

"Thank you Arts @ Large. The Kagel Drummers are honored to have represented Milwaukee Public Schools on a national level and to salute Dr. Martin Luther King Jr." said Estante.



Arts @ Large Grows Great Gardens With 53rd St. School



This spring, Arts @ Large will kick off its “Growing Great Gardens” or “3G” project with 53rd Street School.

Pending approval by Milwaukee Public Schools Facilities and Maintenance Department, the project will see local artists help 53rd St. School design and create their own garden on school grounds. The initiative is not only a way to bring a community garden to a local urban school, but also a way to teach environmental responsibility to the students.

The idea originated when freelance artist and gardener Melissa Tasjian partnered with local organizations to create the Bay View Hide House Community Garden, last summer. A Garden Beautification Day was held in September. A@L’s summer program at Tippecanoe School for the Arts and Humanities was one of many partners, along with Home Depot and Don’s Greenhouse of Fredonia, that offered its time and services to the garden in an effort to liven up the community attraction.

Tasjian will again team up with Environmental Science Artist Educator Sean Kiebzak, one

of the artists who worked on the Bay View Hide House Garden project, to not only create fencing for the garden but also build Aldo Leopold benches for a place to relax while in the garden. Students will wood burn pledges to the earth onto the benches as an inspirational call to going green.

Tasjian is hoping to pick up right where she left off with the Bay View Garden, which earned a nomination by the Shepherd Express for the 2010 Urban Farm of the Year, at 53rd St. School.

“Arts @ Large provided the artistic perspective into that project, they helped to make it beautiful” said Tasjian referring to last year’s initiative, “and now I’m excited to bring all those pieces back together for this project and work with students again”. Norwood Neighborhood Group and Sherman Park Community Association

are also participating in the collaboration.

Artists Muneer Bahauddeen and Meg Mastronianni also worked with students from Tippecanoe school during the Bay View Garden project. Bahauddeen created tiles to embed into benches and fence posts to install in the garden. Mastronianni, a biology and chemistry teacher, collaborated with Kiebzak to teach plant and insect biology through the project.

The students used plants and insects that they studied with Kiebzak and Mastroianni to create the array of images placed on the tiles.

Arts @ Large is hoping to use this model and carry it into numerous schools, as a way for more schools to weave the arts through science and math curriculum and ultimately “go green.”

“Arts @ Large provided the artistic perspective into that project, they helped to make it beautiful” said Tasjian



Educators Connect Animals to Learning at John Michael Kohler Arts Center

Teachers and Artist Educators explored the connection of wildlife to humanity through Arts @ Large's "Connect Animal Magnetism to your Classroom" professional development workshop in December.

The in-service took place at The John Michael Kohler Arts Center in Sheboygan, WI and featured a day of activities centered around the museum's Animal Magnetism exhibit. Participants examined human treatment of animals in the arts and the fascination of the animal kingdom among human beings.



The day started with a presentation by Leslie Umberger, the center's Senior Curator, which gave the attendees an overview of the Animal Magnetism concept, theme and exhibit. The group was then given time to explore the exhibit and later take part in smaller group activities.

These activities included making pewter cast animal medallions, a writing workshop based on art in the exhibit and taking part in a visual thinking strategies (VTS) discussion about the work of arts.

Those who attended were also given curriculum and hands-on activity examples to take back into the classroom.

Educators found the experience not only useful, but informative as well.

"I enjoyed the exhibits, the meal, the speakers, everything", said Kathy Pousha, a Special Education Teacher from Browning Elementary School. "The visual [thinking strategies] was new to me and I think I can take that back to my students and they'll enjoy it".

Teachers were encouraged to bring students back to the Center to experience the exhibit, which runs through the spring semester.

Arts @ Large New Gallery & Grand Opening

April 15th (Gallery Night)
Open House: 4pm – 9pm



Arts @ Large is moving to a new building at 908 S. 5th St., in the Walker's Point neighborhood. The pre-Civil War era structure is built with cream city brick and has been renovated, adding multi-colored support beams, elegant wood floors and unique lighting fixtures.

The new building is a total of 6,000 sq. feet, 3,000 on the main floor gallery and 3,000 for storage, allowing for A@L to hold events directly at its headquarters. It will also house a brand new gallery space to showcase the great work that students, teachers and artists are creating. The move places A@L even closer to some of the schools it serves, including Kagel Elementary School and new inductees Escuela Vieau K-8 and El Puento High School.

To celebrate, Arts @ Large is having a Grand Opening on April 15th, from 4pm – 9pm.



“Wow, I am so proud of you all,” said Pat Bridges, NOVA’s Director. “You all are stars, and today you shined”.

Nova High School Showcase Their Talents to the Community

NOVA High School’s Spoken Word Poetry Club – The Audacious Young Poets, and the Photography Club got a chance to share their skills with the community when they debuted their work at Coffee Makes You Black in December.

The showcase included students of the Audacious Young Poets reciting their spoken word poetry, originally written by each student, while exhibiting photos taken by the school’s Photography Club throughout the coffee shop.

Literary and Theatre Artist Sheri Williams Pannell lead the Audacious Young Poets, helping them hone in their writing abilities and put on a performance for the entire school. Photography Artist Jennifer Pelzek has lead the Photography Club, helping to create a body of visual artwork with students.

The event not only earned the students a spot on Milwaukee Journal Sentinel’s website, it got them an invitation to hold a showcase of their work at the JP Morgan Chase Black History Event on March 4.

“Wow, I am so proud of you all,” said Pat Bridges, NOVA’s Director. “You all are stars, and today you shined”.

Some of the students’ photos have also been featured in Arts @ Large publications and on the A@L website.



Tippecanoe School Wins MLK Art Contest

Arts @ Large alumni school Tippecanoe won 1st place in the 27th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration in January. Teacher Jane Borden, her class of 1st grade students who created the winning piece of artwork and Heather Frank, Tippecanoe's Art Instructor were at the celebration to accept the award.

The program highlighted local community youth who interpret Dr. King's words through a visual art, speech and writing contest. The Milwaukee MLK birthday celebration is currently one of two in the nation, the other being in Atlanta, GA, that has ran consistently since 1984.

The students met Dr. Gregory Thornton, MPS Superintendent, before accepting their award. Kim Abler, MPS Art Curriculum Specialist and A@L Co-Director presented the art awards.

The award winning artwork was on tray liners at local McDonald's during the month of February in honor of Black History Month and the event was covered in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.



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