



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

September 30, 2015

**The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Announces
Warren, Ohio as Partner City for
Any Given Child
Program Creates a Long-Range Arts Education Plan
for Students Grades K-8**

(WASHINGTON)—The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts has chosen Warren, Ohio as the 20th site and first school district in Ohio for *Ensuring the Arts for Any Given Child*, a program that creates a long-range arts education plan for students in grades K-8. The program will incorporate existing resources of the Warren City Schools, local arts organizations, and the Kennedy Center to create a plan for arts education specific to the city.

Any Given Child seeks to bring access and equity to each student’s arts education, using a model that combines the resources of the school district, local arts and community organizations, and the Kennedy Center. With the assistance of expert consultation services provided by Kennedy Center staff and consultants, community leaders develop a strategy for arts education that is tailor-made for the school district and community. *Students Motivated by the Arts* (SMARTS) will serve as the lead arts organization for Any Given Child Warren, with Executive Director Becky Keck as the coordinator. SMARTS has a long history in the Mahoning Valley as a leader in arts education.

“We look forward to seeing the students of Warren be inspired and excited by increased arts learning experiences,” said Kennedy Center Vice President of Education, Mario Rossero. “We are grateful to Mayor Franklin, Superintendent Chiaro, and the local arts community for their dedication to this program. Warren has a tight-knit arts community, and we will enjoy seeing the students here reap the benefits of a strong arts education.”

“Warren City Schools have shown a proven commitment to giving students a well-rounded education that includes a strong arts component,” said Senator Sherrod Brown. “The Any Given Child program will give Warren students the opportunity to engage with art specialists and local organizations to enrich their education and build on existing programs. My friend Anita Lin of Youngstown, who serves on the Kennedy Center’s Advisory Board, is

another testament to Ohio's leadership in the arts. I want to thank her and the Kennedy Center for bringing this opportunity to Ohio. As the 20th site of the Any Given Child program, Warren will build on the Kennedy Center's success in helping to increase youth access to the arts."

"I couldn't be more excited to have the world-class Kennedy Center involved with Warren City Schools," said Congressman Tim Ryan of Ohio. "Quality arts education programs enhance the education experience for students, help build students' confidence, and make us more aware of our own humanity. I want to thank Anita Lin and Becky Keck for bringing this opportunity to Warren and the Warren Superintendent Steve Chiaro for supporting this. Warren City Schools just may have some of the most cutting edge programming in the country. I know the Warren community will step up to make this possible for our children."

Warren's Mayor, William D. Franklin stated, "Having the Kennedy Center accept our City Schools for the Any Given Child initiative is an excellent opportunity for our community. It is an outlet for creative expression and a pathway to success in the 21st-century world and workforce. Our involvement as a City, along with Warren City Schools and the community, will be an ongoing partnership with the Kennedy Center to work to foster creativity in our children. The City of Warren is deeply committed to the program for our schools and neighborhoods. That certainly includes access to and appreciation for the arts regardless of status or income."

"The Warren City School District is honored to have been selected to partner with The Kennedy Center," said Steve Chiaro, Warren City Schools, Superintendent. "This partnership now enables our district to further our efforts and commitment to providing all K-8 students access and equity in arts education. It is a tremendous honor for our district to be chosen and we are proud to be the first Ohio school district to participate in this opportunity. I know this initiative will be successful with the commitment of the City of Warren, the community and the leadership of SMARTS."

By working with other local arts organizations and using existing resources, the program aims to minimize administrative overhead, thus remaining affordable. The Kennedy Center covers the majority of the cost, and also requires sites to contribute \$25,000 toward the first four years of the program. The first phase of the program is the community's comprehensive audit of existing arts education resources and needs assessment facilitated by Kennedy Center staff and consultants. Data collection will reveal what arts education resources currently exist and where the gaps are for students. Based on this information, the community creates a plan to bring more

access to arts education for all K-8 students. The strategic planning process takes approximately nine months.

During phase two of the program, a committee of community members makes recommendations to the school district and local arts groups on how to best implement the recently-created plan, focusing on increasing arts opportunities for K-8 students. In addition, educators and artists can take advantage of a wealth of resources available from the Kennedy Center, such as classroom lessons with online interactive learning modules and videos available on the Kennedy Center [website](#), and professional development for teachers and teaching artists. The goal of this second phase is to provide a tapestry of arts education, strategically weaving together existing arts resources within the schools with those available from community providers and the Kennedy Center in order to reach every child.

Since the program's inception, *Any Given Child* sites have reported numerous successes: some school districts have hired additional teachers or added staff positions; new sources of funding for arts education have been established; communities have expanded arts offerings for students; and sites have provided professional learning for classroom teachers, arts specialists, and local arts organizations to build their capacity to deliver high quality arts education to students.

In February 2015, the Kennedy Center announced a \$1 million gift from Newman's Own Foundation in honor of A. E. Hotchner and his many contributions to the success of Newman's Own. The grant established an endowment to help underserved communities participate in the Center's *Ensuring the Arts for Any Given Child* program.

In 2009, the Kennedy Center and Mayor Kevin Johnson announced the first formal *Any Given Child* program in Sacramento, California. The following cities joined subsequently:

- Springfield, Missouri, February 2010
- Portland, Oregon, June 2010
- Southern Nevada, December 2010
- Tulsa, Oklahoma, May 2011
- Sarasota, Florida, June 2011
- Austin, Texas, August 2011
- Iowa City, Iowa August, 2012
- Baltimore, Maryland, September 2012

- Fresno, California, October 2012
- Juneau, Alaska, February 2013
- Madison, Wisconsin, July 2013
- Missoula, Montana and Jacksonville, Florida August 2013
- New Orleans, Louisiana and Harrisonburg, Virginia, August 2014
- Houston, Texas August 2015
- Indianapolis, Indiana; and Trenton, New Jersey September 2015

ABOUT EDUCATION AT THE KENNEDY CENTER

The Kennedy Center retains its commitment as the nation's cultural center to educating and enlightening children and adults in Washington and around the country. The Center's national education programs include: *Ensuring the Arts for Any Given Child*, which works with 14 municipalities and their school districts around the country to develop a long-range strategic plan for arts education; ARTSEdge, a website that offers standards-based materials for use in and out of the classroom, Partners in Education, which forges relationships between an arts organization and its neighboring school systems to build effective arts education programs for teachers and teaching artists; Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education Network, which works with 33 state organizations on arts education policy issues; Explore the Arts, which provide insight into the cultural and historical context of the works presented on stage and sparks dialogue between audiences and the artists who have created the performances through participatory workshops, demonstrations, panels, master classes, and open rehearsals; and the Kennedy Center/ Stephen Sondheim Inspirational Teacher Awards, which acknowledge teachers of grades K-12 whose efforts have made a significant impact on their students.

In and around DC, the Kennedy Center's programs include *Changing Education Through the Arts*, a program that works with 15 schools in the area to affect long-term change in school culture through professional learning in arts integration; Professional Development Opportunities for Teachers, which trains Washington-area educators to teach the arts or other subject areas through the arts; and Washington, D.C. Partnership Schools, where the Center provides resources and teaching artist residencies to 20 elementary, junior, and senior high schools in Washington, D.C. The Center also mounts more than 100 events and performances of theater, music, dance, and opera throughout the season for more than 100,000 local school-aged children.

In addition, the Center offers multiple skill development programs for young artists and professionals both locally and nationally, including the National Symphony Orchestra's Youth Fellowship Program, Summer Music Institute, and High School Competition; Washington National Opera's Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program, Opera Institute, and Kids Create Opera Partnership; the biennial New Visions/ New Voices forum for development of new plays for young people; Exploring Ballet with Suzanne Farrell; Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead; VSA's Playwright Discovery Program, Young Soloists, and Visual Arts Programs; arts administration internships; and the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, which impacts hundreds of thousands of college-aged theater students across the country and marks its 47th anniversary in 2015.

FUNDING CREDITS:

Any Given Child, part of the *Rubenstein Arts Access Program*, is generously funded by **David and Alice Rubenstein**.

This program is also funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, with additional support provided by David Gregory and Beth Wilkinson; the President's Advisory Committee on the Arts; and the U.S. Department of Education.

Discover [The Kennedy Center](#) on Social Media:



PRESS CONTACT:

Amanda Hunter

The Kennedy Center

(202) 416-8441

aehunter@kennedy-center.org