



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**The Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education Network
Names Recipients of
*The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
National Schools of Distinction in Arts Education Award*
For the 2009-2010 School Year**

**Adlai E. Stevenson High School – Lincolnshire, IL
Boston Arts Academy – Boston, MA
Hilton Head Island School for the Creative Arts – Hilton Head Island, SC
Roland Park Elementary/Middle School – Baltimore, MD
Sudbrook Magnet Middle School – Baltimore, MD**

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts today announced the recipients of its national awards program honoring outstanding school arts programs. Five schools were chosen as *John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts National Schools of Distinction in Arts Education* for their work during the 2009-2010 school year. The award recognizes schools that have made the arts an essential part of their students' education. Each school will receive a two thousand dollar award to support their arts education program.

The winners of the award were selected from the schools nominated by their State Alliance for Arts Education. Selection criteria at the national level includes a review of the ways in which arts education is an essential component of the school curriculum; how the program creates and uses imaginative learning environments for teaching and learning in, through and about the arts; how the arts program provides opportunities for parental involvement in education; how the program provides opportunities for learning about other cultures through the arts; and how the program links arts education to community cultural resources.

This awards program is one of two offered by the Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education Network (KCAAEN), a coalition of thirty-three statewide, not-for-profit organizations that work with the Kennedy Center. The second is the Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education and National School Boards Association Award.

John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
National School of Distinction in Arts Education Award Winners

Adlai E. Stevenson High School; Grades 9-12; Lincolnshire, IL

Adlai E. Stevenson High School offers a rigorous fine arts curriculum, with courses and extra-curricular opportunities abounding in visual arts, music, dance and theater. The fine arts faculty challenges students to think beyond the classroom, while never losing sight of its mission to instill a life-long love for, appreciation of, and involvement in the arts. Beyond providing a well-balanced education that focuses equally on the process of learning as well as the product of one's efforts, Stevenson students regularly perform to raise money for charities and other worthy causes. Appreciating the arts is so important at Stevenson High School that it suspends the regular class schedule for two days every two years to conduct a fine arts festival for more than 4,000 students. Stevenson's fine arts teachers also provide a model for collaboration that has gained attention from educators in other academic areas. During the past two decades, Stevenson's fine arts program has earned a number of state and national honors for excellence. The school has earned four Blue Ribbon Awards for Excellence from the U.S. Department of Education, and on two occasions the fine arts program was singled out as a major factor in its decision.

Boston Arts Academy; Grades 9-12; Boston, MA

Boston Arts Academy (BAA) provides students with a vibrant, comprehensive program of study in the arts, and an engaging arts-integrated college preparatory academic curriculum. Boston's only public high school for the performing and visual arts, BAA is a collaborative project between the Boston Public Schools and the member colleges of the ProArts Consortium. Students major in one of four areas: dance, music (instrumental or vocal), theater, or visual arts. Arts curricula are developed by BAA faculty, working in cooperation with faculty from the ProArts Consortium and other outside resources with an eye to state and national standards. The arts curriculum covers all areas of performance and production, including music production, technical theater (set design/building, costume design/building, make-up), exhibitions, graphic design, media, and marketing. BAA students receive intensive training in their arts majors, learning from experienced teachers who are themselves artists, as well as from a variety of professional guest artists. The school's interdisciplinary approach to teaching and learning engages students with a variety of learning styles, motivating them to finish high school and continue on to higher education.

Hilton Head Island School for the Creative Arts; Grades 1-5; Hilton Head Island, SC

Hilton Head Island School for the Creative Arts is an arts-infused public school located on Hilton Head Island, SC. The school serves grades 1-5 with a school population of 730 students. Of those students, 56% are minorities with 44% White, 41% Latino and 15% African American. Free and reduced lunches are received by 46% of the students. Dance, theater, music, and visual arts are taught as specific subjects, as well as integrated into the curriculum. The school offers many arts opportunities which are based on the SC Visual and Performing Arts Standards. Teaching and learning are the focus of curriculum, instruction, and assessment. Strong community and parental support allow the arts to flourish in this unique environment.

Roland Park Elementary/Middle School; Grades K-8; Baltimore, MD

Roland Park Elementary/Middle School is an urban public school that recognizes the essential role the arts play in a child's education. Roland Park maintains a strong focus on academic excellence, with high standards for students and faculty, believing that teaching "in and through the arts" helps to achieve that goal. A dedication to the arts in the curriculum both reflects accepted educational theory and engenders strategies that reward children. The school's arts programming is organized along three related paths: Arts Education, Arts Experiences, and Arts Integration. Arts Education provides a systematic curriculum in the instructional day of every student in all nine grade levels, with discrete classes in theater, visual arts, music and dance/movement. Arts Experiences takes form as having artists in residence, teaching artists, assemblies, performances, field trips, and community events. Arts Integration is the deliberate weaving of creative and metaphoric thinking throughout the classroom and is a core component of the Roland Park academic curriculum. Roland Park's vision includes providing a safe, caring community that promotes tolerance and respect for diversity. Students are challenged to become innovative learners and thinkers, and the school continually strives to improve teaching practices and achieve deeper levels of engagement for students and teachers.

Sudbrook Magnet Middle School; Grades 6-8; Baltimore, MD

Sudbrook Magnet Middle School is a public school with a diverse population of 1,025 students coming from more than 40 feeder elementary schools. The student body is approximately 67% Africa American, 22% White, 7% Asian, and 4% Hispanic. Sudbrook is a pure magnet school whose students take daily 90-minute classes in one of four magnet areas: Environmental and Earth/Space Sciences, Performing Arts (dance, theater arts, instrumental music, and vocal music), Visual Arts, or World Languages (French, Japanese, and Spanish). At Sudbrook, students live and learn through our experiential, multicultural approach to education. The arts are taught as separate courses and also integrated into other academic areas where teachers incorporate art skills and content into their classes. Performing Arts and Visual Art Magnet students spend 25% of each school day engaged in arts education. Students apply critical thinking and creative problem-solving skills in order to achieve professional quality results. The school approaches parental and community involvement as a partnership that is comprehensive, ongoing, and evolving.

About The Kennedy Center Education Department

For more than 35 years, the Kennedy Center Education Department has provided quality arts experiences through performances, residencies, workshops, conferences, career development programs, symposia, and on-line and print resources. In the past year, the Center's education programs have directly impacted more than 16 million people across the nation. The mission of the Education Department is to foster understanding of and participation in the performing arts through exemplary programs and performances for diverse populations of all ages that represent the unique cultural life and heritage of the United States. For more information, visit the Center's web site at www.kennedy-center.org/education.

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