

Young  
Audiences  
Arts for  
Learning



March 31, 2009

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Dear Member of Congress,

Young Audiences, Inc. is pleased to be a National Co-Sponsor of National Arts Advocacy Day 2009.

Founded in 1952, Young Audiences is the nation's leading source of arts-in-education programs and services. In 2008, the Young Audiences network of 31 chapters and affiliates, including more than 4,600 teaching artists and 1,500 community volunteers, reached over 7 million children in nearly 7,000 schools with more than 16,000 performance demonstrations, 67,000 workshops, and 3,200 teacher services.

Young Audiences advances the artistic and educational development of public school students in grades K-12 by bringing young people together with professional artists of all disciplines to learn, create and participate in the arts. We know that arts learning plays an important role in young people's creative and critical thinking skills, not only for the talented but for all children. These experiences enable our nation's young people to succeed as learners in a rapidly changing world.

Young Audiences strongly supports legislation that will:

- Advance education in and through the arts
- Increase appropriations for arts in education programs through the Department of Education and the National Endowment for the Arts; and
- Ensure that arts education remains a fully-funded part of the core academic curriculum.

On behalf of the entire Young Audiences organization, I encourage your support for legislation and appropriations that provide high-quality arts education for all young people.

Sincerely,

Richard Bell  
National Executive Director

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