



"Enriching Our Communities Through Advancement of the Arts"

Contact: Deborah McAuliffe Senner
President/CEO
(405) 278-8944
dsenner@alliedartsokc.com
www.alliedartsokc.com

ALLIED ARTS JOINS NATIONWIDE CELEBRATION OF ARTS EDUCATION

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla., September 15, 2010 – On September 12, Allied Arts joined thousands of arts organizations, school systems, businesses, government entities and individuals across the country in recognition of the first-ever National Arts in Education Week. In late July, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a resolution declaring the week following the second Sunday of September as Arts in Education Week which falls from September 12-18 this year.

"At Allied Arts, we celebrate the importance of arts programming in the lives of children year-round. This inaugural event, however, provides a critical opportunity to promote the value of dance, theatre, music, song and visual arts in children's lives," said Deborah McAuliffe Senner, president/CEO of Allied Arts. "We encourage Oklahomans to join the celebration by enrolling in an art class, seeing a student performance or asking for more art in their children's school."

Research indicates that arts education impacts youth development in a myriad of ways. Children exposed to the arts perform better in school, have higher rates of school attendance and participate in leadership positions in school and the community – to name just a few of the benefits of exposure to the arts.

Through the Allied Arts Educational Outreach Program, Allied Arts helps to enhance and expand arts programming in classrooms, afterschool programs and community centers statewide. This year, Allied Arts will grant more than \$115,000 in support of projects that make the arts accessible to Oklahoma's youth, particularly underserved children.

For example, Allied Arts has been a pivotal supporter of Oklahoma Children's Theatre's afterschool program which provides inner-city students with a safe place in the afterschool hours while offering mentorship and life skills training through the arts. In addition, Allied Arts has supported the provision of scholarships for financially disadvantaged children to attend arts camps at City Arts Center, statewide touring of Lyric Theatre's Musical Interactive program and the Oklahoma City Museum of Art's Yellow Bus Brigade which provides free busing and admission to the museum.

Major supporters of the Allied Arts Educational Outreach Program include Kimray, Inc., JPMorgan Chase, Bank of America and Target.

For more information, please visit www.alliedartsokc.com or call (405) 278-8944.

About Allied Arts

As Oklahoma's only United Arts Fund, Allied Arts generates awareness of the importance of the arts, mobilizes support for arts and cultural organizations and funds arts education programs for Central Oklahoma school children. Founded in 1971, the organization has raised more than \$42 million to advance the arts in Oklahoma City and its surrounding communities.

Allied Arts' member agencies are:

- Ambassadors' Concert Choir
- Arts Council of Oklahoma City
- Canterbury Choral Society
- Carpenter Square Theatre
- Cimarron Opera
- City Arts Center
- Guy Fraser Harrison Academy
- Individual Artists of Oklahoma
- Lyric Theatre and Thelma Gaylord Academy
- Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art
- Metropolitan School of Dance
- Oklahoma Children's Theatre
- Oklahoma City Ballet
- OK City Chorus
- Oklahoma City Museum of Art
- Oklahoma City Philharmonic
- Oklahoma Shakespeare in the Park
- Oklahoma Visual Arts Coalition
- Prairie Dance Theatre
- Science Museum Oklahoma

###