



# Arts Education

## Transformative Arts Education for Southeastern Wisconsin's Children

The performing arts are essential to a wholistic education and the social-emotional wellbeing of our region's youth. Because of the generous support of community members like you, UPAF Members provide diverse and innovative arts education programs, delivered in the classroom, after school and in the summer. UPAF Bright Minds reaches nearly 50,000 children with *immersive* and *participatory* arts programming, teaching skills like teamwork, problem-solving and perseverance. Specific programs supported by UPAF Bright Minds include:

### UPAF Cornerstone Member Programs

**First Stage** will provide approximately 350 students in Milwaukee Public Schools interactive theater experiences during the 2023-2024 school year that will allow them to explore how they can harness their bodies, minds and voices to work collaboratively with others as critical, imaginative thinkers. Through active engagement with workshops, outreach performances and field trips to First Stage productions, students will expand their comfort as young communicators, explore new perspectives and develop group problem-solving skills through theater exercises designed to address life skills and stage skills.



**Florentine Opera Company's** 2023-2024 *Opera in Schools* program is a student version of Ravel's *The Child and the Enchantments* that will be performed up to 55 times for nearly 100 schools and community venues, for approximately 11,500 K-8 students. Each school will receive a teacher resource guide to support classroom learning and preparation prior to the performance. Additionally, an in-depth, immersive residency program will unfold at 13 schools to prepare students to perform alongside Florentine's Studio Artists in a performance for their classmates, teachers and families.

**Milwaukee Ballet's** *Relevé* program provides 20-24 weeks of ballet training during the school day for 250 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade students at Milwaukee Public Schools. The *Discover Dance* program provides students with weeklong spring break and summer day camps that include a diverse range of dance styles, and all instruction, attire, supplies, food and transportation are provided free of cost. Milwaukee Ballet School & Academy (MBSA) awards up to 100% tuition scholarships to 1<sup>st</sup> graders through high schoolers. MBSA students participate in professionally staged showcases and may audition for Company productions like *The Nutcracker*. This season, 57 student scholarships were awarded, totaling more than \$116,000 in financial aid.

**Milwaukee Repertory Theater's** *Reading Residency* program improves reading comprehension and literacy, increases social emotional skills and increases theater participation for Milwaukee students in 6<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> grade. Teaching Artists visit 35 classrooms, engaging students in curriculum centered around a production in the 2023-2024 season and designed to meet Wisconsin Common Core State Standards for literacy and reading comprehension. Students also attend a *Rep Immersion Day*: a full-day, behind-the-scenes experience that includes technical demonstrations, a complimentary lunch, a matinee performance and an actor-led talkback following the production.

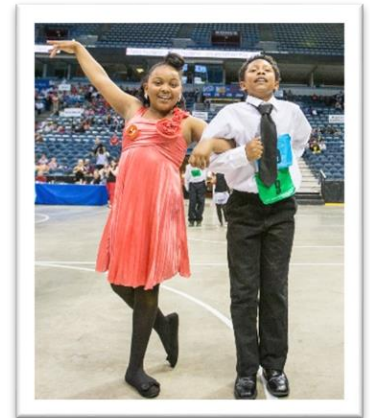
**Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra's Arts in Community Education (ACE)** program supports student learning through a comprehensive series of culturally diverse, cross-curricular in-school arts experiences for students, teachers and families. ACE aligns its programming to support standards-based outcomes and current educational achievement targets through a structured, arts integrated curriculum designed for K-8 students. The program supports teachers in integrating all the arts, performing and visual, into their core curriculum, enhancing student achievement by engaging multiple modes of learning and expression through interactive lessons.

**Skylight Music Theatre's ENLIGHTEN** programs build excitement about music theatre skills, creative writing and visual arts, while teaching collaboration and fostering confidence through workshop experiences. Every year, in the *KidsWrites* program, students submit more than 3,000 pages of original stories, poetry, scripts, monologues and song lyrics. Their work is reviewed by Skylight's Education Manager and teaching artists, who create a music theatre revue with lyrics and dialogue written entirely by students and performed by professional actors and an accompanist for 12 schools in MPS.

### **UPAF Member Programs**

**Black Arts MKE's Youth Arts Education Programming** is designed to reach urban Milwaukee neighborhood schools and organizations serving at-risk, underserved, under-resourced and primarily African American youth and offered at no cost to students and schools. Programming offers unique and hands-on experiences including holiday musical *Black Nativity* student matinees, a Black History Month student series and Youth Performing Arts Camp. These experiences provide a theatrical and culturally relevant way for students to learn about Black history and important Social-Emotional Learning skills like creativity, collaboration and communication.

**Danceworks' Mad Hot Rhythm** Teaching Artists will travel to more than 50 schools in 2023-2024, for 36 hourly classes that utilize dance technique to explore concepts of musicality, rhythm, spatial and kinesthetic awareness. Students will explore the styles of Swing Tap, African/Hip Hop fusion and Samba, learning the cultural foundations of each style and the relationships between them. Programming will culminate in school performances and the annual *Mad Hot Rhythm Competition* in April at the UWM Panther Arena. Since 2006, *Mad Hot Rhythm* has positively impacted over 34,800 students from 117 schools.



**Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra (MYSO) Community Partnership Programs** deliver direct participatory music education to City of Milwaukee youths ages 8 to 18 who would otherwise have no access to it because of barriers including financial need. In addition to access and musical skills, Community Partnership Programs promote youth development -- cognitive, social and emotional skills -- and equity, diversity and inclusion.

**Next Act** presents *Next Actors: Theatre for Teens*, where students can join with peers from diverse backgrounds to collaborate and create and perform their own scenes and plays in schools and community centers. The original, collaborative work is developed through immersive theater and scriptwriting workshops with the guidance of professional artists. To enhance inclusion, there is no cost to participate in the *Next Actors* program, and daily lunches, snacks and bus passes are provided free of charge.

**Present Music's Creation Project** brings professional composers into classrooms of students to create original music compositions. In this 12-week residency, students learn how harmony and melody interact, how to construct rhythm, how to orchestrate for an ensemble, how to express their own voices and communicate through music, how to collaborate, problem solve and publicly present their work. The program culminates in a public performance of the students' compositions performed by Present Music's professional musicians.

## **Opportunities to Designate to Bright Minds**

With a gift of \$1,200 or more to the 2024 UPAF Campaign, you may choose to designate 10% of your gift to Bright Minds. With a gift of \$5,000 or more, you may designate 20% of your gift to Bright Minds and support transformative arts education for our region's children.