


## Help Our Students Reconnect and Heal Through the Arts

Last year was a very difficult year for many of our region's children, but United Performing Arts Fund (UPAF) Bright Minds Arts Education, presented by We Energies Foundation, was there, primarily virtually, to give them a safe, healthy and creative outlet. Now, students are getting ready to head back to school, and UPAF Bright Minds programming will be there again to help ease the transition back to the classroom, allowing students to connect, express themselves, channel their energy in a positive direction and heal after the stress, anxiety and isolation of the past year.

The **UPAF Rally for Arts Education** ensures that more than 80,000 students across the region will receive robust, life-changing arts education programming at school through UPAF Bright Minds. This program brings exceptional teaching artists into the classroom to provide essential programming that is no longer offered in many schools.

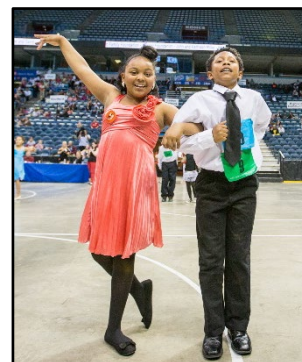
### Cornerstone Programs

- **First Stage's *Big Stories for Little Actors*** provides early elementary students in marginalized neighborhoods with this free, yearlong program exploring literacy through drama-based activities. Programming serves 2,400 K4-2nd grade students from 15 local schools, providing them with In-Person Touring Storytelling Experiences and Literacy Workshops. First Stage utilizes arts-integrated methods to enhance students' literacy development, language comprehension and social-emotional learning — allowing students to learn traditional academic subjects through creativity and self-expression.
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- **Florentine Opera Company's *Opera in Schools Tour and Residency 2021-22*** program features a student version of Engelbert Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel*, developed by Brenna Corner, a national arts educator. It will be performed up to 100 times at nearly 60 schools and community venues for nearly 15,000 K-5th grade students from January through May 2022. Each school will receive a *Hansel and Gretel* teacher resource guide to support classroom learning and preparation prior to the performance.
  - **Milwaukee Ballet's *Relevé*** program directly links the benefits of dance and education for grade school students through a partnership with four Milwaukee schools. Relevé provides free year-long ballet classes to 390 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students at partner schools. During the school year, students receive lessons, ballet attire and shoes and transportation to the Ballet's Baumgartner Center for Dance at no cost to their families or schools. Additional free classes are offered through a summer program, and dedicated students are offered full Milwaukee Ballet School and Academy scholarships upon completion of the program through age 18.
  - **Milwaukee Repertory Theater's *Emerging Professional Resident (EPR)*** program is unlike any other training program in Southeastern Wisconsin, by design and results. The EPR program is the country's premier training pipeline designed to identify diverse talent at a young age, cultivate that talent through workshops and professional practice and launch the careers of emerging artists to enhance and diversify Milwaukee's local talent pool. The process begins by nurturing local talent through the Rep's Professional Training Institute for high-schoolers, preparing them for acceptance into collegiate theater programs, and culminates in a career-launching residency for post-collegiate and early-career professionals.

- **Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra's Arts in Community Education (ACE)** program serves approximately 6,500 students at 31 public, private and charter schools in 10 area districts throughout Southeastern Wisconsin, including over 3,300 students from Milwaukee Public Schools. The digital programming developed to continue serving students during COVID-19 has expanded the reach of the program to even more students. ACE is a nationally-recognized education model for arts integration that trains classroom teachers to use all art forms as tools for teaching daily core subjects such as math, science, reading and language arts. The goal is the advancement of a student's overall learning and development — using music and all the arts to teach children to think comprehensively and creatively.
- **Skylight Music Theatre's Enlighten** performing arts education program responds to the need for high-quality arts programming in Milwaukee schools by providing free, in-school musical theater activities and performances. Programming includes KidsWrites storytelling workshops, student matinee experiences, two educational touring shows and an ongoing partnership delivering all of these activities and more to eight under-resourced Milwaukee Public Schools. Skylight commits to an ongoing presence at partner schools delivering a free, sequential package of musical theater education through multi-year partnerships.

### Member Group Programs

- **Black Arts MKE's Educational Experiences for Young Audiences (EEYA)** are a theatrical and culturally relevant way for students to learn about Black history and important social-emotional learning skills like creativity, collaboration, communication, literacy and more. Over 98% of Black Arts MKE's school-aged participants are economically disadvantaged and qualify for free school lunch. Black Arts MKE's program provides an opportunity for youth to explore the lives and talents of African-American historical figures, build confidence and self-esteem by engaging with artist professionals who look like them, and gain an appreciation of the performing arts, along with an enduring appreciation for theater.
- **Danceworks Mad Hot Rhythm** teaches life skills by integrating dance classes into the regular school curriculum. Mad Hot Rhythm gives students the opportunity to explore diverse styles of non-partnered rhythmic dance like Hip Hop, Jazz, Stepping and Salsa or Bachata. The program reaches 2,000 students from over 50 schools and positively impacts academic performance and school attendance.
- **Milwaukee Chamber Theatre (MCT) Young Playwrights Festival (YPF)** challenges high school students to create new work for live theater and up-and-coming local artists to bring those scripts to life onstage. Program activities are threefold: an annual cycle of playwriting residencies at local high schools, an annual one-act playwriting competition for high school students and a biennial showcase of winning plays fully produced by MCT with emerging local directors, designers and actors.
- **Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra (MYSO) Community Partnership Programs** include an array of music training and education programs created to bring the life-changing benefits of music study to students with barriers to equitable access, and are focused specifically on urban youth with limited financial means. More than 300 annual Community Partnership participants are retained and advance through MYSO's programs with staff support and financial assistance for up to 10 years.



## Help Make This School Year Bright!

- Become a sponsor of the August Bright Minds Arts Education Initiative
- Set up a corporate or individual fundraising page and ask your colleagues, friends and family to support
- Donate in support of UPAF Bright Minds, [UPAF.org/Rally](https://UPAF.org/Rally)

**Thank You for Supporting Our Region's Children!**