



Arts Education

Transformative Arts Education for Eastern Wisconsin's Children

Because of the generous support of community members like you, UPAF Member Groups provide diverse and innovative arts education programs, delivered in the classroom, after school and in the summer. These important programs provide a creative and safe outlet for our community's children. Despite the challenges of COVID-19, UPAF Member Groups are providing vital support to teachers and students through safe in-person and virtual programming that reaches more than 50,000 children. Specific programs supported by UPAF Bright Minds, presented by We Energies Foundation, include:

Cornerstone Programs

- **First Stage Theater Academy and Education Programming** are virtual and safe in-person outlets for youth that engage minds, spark creativity and provide hope.
- **Florentine Opera Company's Opera in Schools Tour and Residency** provides Milwaukee schoolchildren with age-appropriate opera.
- **Milwaukee Ballet's Relevé** program directly links the benefits of dance and education for grade school students through a partnership with three Milwaukee Public Schools.
- **Milwaukee Repertory Theater's Emerging Professional Resident (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.
- **Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra's Arts in Community Education (ACE)** program 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.
- **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 (and this year, virtual where safe in-person is not possible) musical theater activities and performances.

Member Programs

- **Danceworks Mad Hot Rhythm** teaches life skills by integrating dance classes into the regular school curriculum.
- **Milwaukee Chamber Theatre (MCT) Young Playwrights Festival (YPF)** challenges teens to create new work for live theater and up-and-coming local artists to bring those scripts to life onstage.
- **Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra (MYSO) Community Partnership Programs** include an array of music training and education programs. These programs include 10 music education programs, including strings, jazz and steel pan options 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.
- **Next Act Theatre's Next Actors: Summer Theatre for Teens** is a program for teenage students who are aspiring actors and playwrights.