



# UPAF Rally for Arts Education

## Transformative Arts Education for Eastern Wisconsin's Children

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. These important programs provide a creative and safe outlet for our community's children. UPAF Members are providing vital support to teachers and students through UPAF Bright Minds, presented by We Energies Foundation. Bright Minds Arts Education programming reaches more than 50,000 children, teaching skills like teamwork, problem-solving and perseverance. Specific programs supported by UPAF Bright Minds include:

### UPAF Cornerstone Member Programs

- **First Stage *Big Stories for Little Actors*** provides early elementary students in marginalized neighborhoods with free, year-long access to programming that explores literacy through drama-based activities and improves reading ability. Programming serves approximately 2,400 K4-2<sup>nd</sup> grade students from 15 local schools with virtual and in-person workshops, classroom experience kits and in-person touring performances that bring storybooks to life.
- **Florentine Opera Company's *Opera in Schools Tour and Residency*** provides Milwaukee schoolchildren with age-appropriate opera. Florentine Opera's school tour will be performed up to 100 times at nearly 60 schools and community venues for 15,000 K-5<sup>th</sup> grade students. Thirteen schools will experience an immersive opera residency program culminating in student performances.
- **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. Relevé provides free year-long ballet classes to 280 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> 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 Artist Training*** program is unlike any other training program in Southeastern Wisconsin, by design and results. The 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 5,300



students in Eastern Wisconsin each year, and 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 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.

### UPAF Member Programs

- **Black Arts MKE *Educational Experiences for Young Audiences (EEYA)*** is a theatrical and culturally relevant way for students to learn about Black history and important Social-Emotional Learning skills like creativity, collaboration and communication. Programming offers unique and hands-on experiences including holiday musical *Black Nativity* student matinees and a Black History Month student series.
- **Danceworks *Mad Hot Rhythm*** teaches life skills by integrating dance classes into the regular school curriculum. Mad Hot Rhythm accommodates social distancing as students 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 more than 300 teens 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. 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. Approximately 450 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!

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

### Thank You for Supporting Our Region's Children