



**The John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts Announces
Madison, Wisconsin as Partner City for
Any Given Child
Program Creates a Long-Range Arts Education Plan
for Students Grades K-8**

(WASHINGTON, D.C.)—The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts has chosen Madison, Wisconsin as the 12th city for *Any Given Child*, a program that creates a long-range arts education plan for students in grades K-8. The program will incorporate existing resources of the Madison Metropolitan School District, along with those of local arts organizations and the Kennedy Center to create a plan for arts education specific to the city. The city joins partnerships in Juneau, Alaska; Sacramento, California; Springfield, Missouri; Portland, Oregon; Southern Nevada; Tulsa, Oklahoma; Sarasota, Florida; Austin, Texas; Iowa City, Iowa; Baltimore, Maryland; and Fresno, California.

Any Given Child seeks to bring access, balance, and equity to each students' arts education, using an affordable model that combines the resources of the school district, local arts groups, and the Kennedy Center. With the assistance of expert consultation services provided by Kennedy Center staff and other professionals, community leaders develop a long-range plan for arts education that is tailor-made for the school district and community.

“We are delighted to announce Madison as our next city for the Any Given Child program,” said Kennedy Center President Michael M. Kaiser. “Every student should have access to a consistent arts education and I commend Mayor Paul R. Soglin and Superintendent Jennifer Cheatham for their commitment to this program.”

“We are thrilled that the Kennedy Center selected Madison as one of the few cities in the country to be selected for Any Given Child,” said Madison Mayor Paul Soglin. “We understand the value of arts education in developing the creative and entrepreneurial spirit of our future leaders. Madison is committed to equal access for all our children and adults. This study and the implementation of its recommendations will help us to build upon that commitment.”

“As we work to ensure that we provide every student with a well-rounded education that prepares them to be college, career and community ready, we know that the arts play an

important role,” Superintendent Jennifer Cheatham said. “We are so honored that the Kennedy Center has chosen Madison for this work, and we’re looking forward to working together to bring greater access, balance and equity to arts education.”

“We know from years of research that comprehensive arts education helps prepare young people to succeed in school and in life,” said Ted DeDee, CEO of Overture Center for the Arts, which will coordinate arts organizations’ involvement in AGC. “Overture Center is proud to be part of the Madison arts community and proud to join in this important effort to help ensure our students in the Madison schools have equal access to programs that are critically important to their future development.”

By working with other local arts organizations and using existing resources, the program aims to create little administrative overhead, remaining affordable. The first phase of the program, a comprehensive audit of existing arts education resources and needs assessment by Kennedy Center staff and consultants, is the first step. A review of the community and the school system will reveal what arts education resources currently exist, and where the gaps are for students. Based on this information, a plan is created to bring more access to arts education for all K-8 students. The audit process takes approximately six to nine months. The Overture Center for the Arts will assist in coordinating this first phase.

During phase two of the program, a community committee makes recommendations to the school district and local arts groups on how best to implement the recently created long range plan, focusing on increasing arts opportunities for K-8 students. In addition, educators and artists can take advantage of a wealth of resources available from the Kennedy Center, such as supplemental lessons with online interactive learning modules and videos available at www.artsedge.org, professional development for teachers and teaching artists, and many others. The goal of this second phase is to provide a tapestry of arts education, strategically weaving together existing arts resources within the schools with those available from community providers and the Kennedy Center in order to reach every child.

In 2009, the Kennedy Center and Mayor Kevin Johnson announced the first formal *Any Given Child* program in Sacramento, California and immediately began phase one of the program in October of that year. Now in the implementation phase, Sacramento has added artist residencies in select schools and provided performing and visual arts experiences for all students K-8 in the two participating school districts. Other communities have been able to add arts

teachers in schools, raised significant dollars to provide performance and museum experiences for students, and coordinate the efforts of arts organizations providing education programs so that more students are served. In February 2010, Springfield, Missouri became the second school district to participate in the program. Portland, Oregon joined the program in June 2010, and Southern Nevada joined in December 2010. Tulsa, Oklahoma joined the program in May 2011, Sarasota, Florida joined in June 2011; Austin, Texas joined in August 2011; Iowa City, Iowa joined in August, 2012; Baltimore, Maryland joined in September 2012; Fresno, California joined in October 2012, and Juneau, Alaska joined in February 2013. The Kennedy Center accepts applications between January 1 and March 31 of each year for a program start in the fall of the same year.

Education at the Kennedy Center

As the national center for the performing arts, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts is committed to increasing opportunities for all people to participate in and understand the arts. To fulfill that mission, the Kennedy Center strives to commission, create, design, produce, and/or present performances and programs of the highest standard of excellence and of a diversity that reflects the world in which we live—and to make those performances and programs accessible and inclusive.

Education at the Kennedy Center includes resources from its presentations and productions and those of its affiliates: the National Symphony Orchestra, VSA (the international arts and disability organization), and Washington National Opera. The focus, locally and nationally, is on producing and presenting age appropriate performances and educational events for young people and their families; school- and community-based programs that directly impact teachers, students, artists, and school and arts administrators through professional development; systemic and school improvement through arts integrated curricula, inclusive classrooms, and universal design in facilities and learning; creating partnerships around the issues of arts education and arts integrated education; creating and providing educational materials via print and the Internet; developing careers in the arts for young people and aspiring professionals; and strengthening the management of arts organizations.

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For more information about *Any Given Child*,
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