



United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UNITED ARTS AWARDED \$245, 481 FROM the N.C. ARTS COUNCIL

Raleigh, NC – The United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County has been awarded **\$245, 481** from the N.C. Arts Council for **Arts in Education, Regional Artists Projects, and the Grassroots Arts Program**. The funds received for Arts in Education will help sponsor the annual Arts Integration Institute, a professional development program for K-5 educators that provides training in using the arts to teach other curricular areas. The Regional Artists Project funds will go to grants to individual artists for professional development. The majority of the funds for the Grassroots Arts Program will be sub-granted to arts and cultural organizations in Wake County to support their artistic programming, and the remainder will be used for United Arts internal programming and administration costs.

President and CEO of United Arts, Eleanor Oakley, commented, “The grants received from the state help United Arts provide quality arts programming for over 1.1 million adults and students in Wake County each year. These funds inspire and strengthen our arts community, as well as sustain our local economy.” The annual Booking Fair for the Artists in the Schools program is a one of United Arts most successful programs. On August 14th artists from across the United States showcased their talents to an audience of over 500 PTA representatives, teachers, community leaders and artist educators at Wakefield High School. From this fair, more than \$350,000 in artist contracts will result for an estimated 370 artist events in Wake County schools.

“The support of our grants program by the General Assembly during these economically challenging times demonstrates the role the arts play in our economy and our quality of life,” said Mary B. Regan, executive director of the N.C. Arts Council. “Nonprofit arts organizations employ workers, stimulate commerce, generate tax revenues and help communities retain their vibrancy.”

Each year the N.C. Arts Council awards grant money to provide diverse arts experiences for citizens in all 100 counties of North Carolina. In fiscal year 2010–11, the Arts Council is expected to distribute \$7.4 million in state and federal grant funds to arts organizations such as United Arts, as well as to schools and other nonprofit organizations that sponsor arts programs.

The United Arts Council’s mission is to build better communities through the support and advocacy of the arts. This year’s funding will support more than 650 public music, dance and theatre performances and art exhibitions and more than 6000 classes/workshops in arts for youth outside of school settings, as well as 140,000 hours of arts programming in 130+ Wake County schools. More information is available at www.unitedarts.org

The N.C. Arts Council is a division of the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources, the state agency with the mission to enrich lives and communities and the vision to harness the state’s cultural resources to build North Carolina’s social, cultural and economic future. Information on Cultural Resources is available at www.ncculture.com

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