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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **United Arts Awards Over \$103,000 to Wake Schools**

**RALEIGH (September 27, 2010)** - With school budgets shrinking and belts tightening everywhere, the United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County is proud to announce that they are awarding \$103,567 to 137 schools in Wake County through their Artists in the Schools Program for the 2010 - 2011 school year. This program has been placing professional teaching artists in Wake County public, private and charter schools for the past 45 years. In a partnership with the Wake County Public School System and local PTA's, United Arts helps bring artists into K-12 schools for curriculum-based performances, residencies and workshops.

The main objective of the Artists in the Schools program is to expose as many children as possible to a variety of art forms, encouraging creativity and a lifelong appreciation of the arts, while providing teachers another instructional method.

"Some of these children may never have the opportunity to hear an opera singer or receive encouragement on their poem from a writer. The Artists in the Schools program inspires children to learn in ways they never imagined," explained Eleanor H. Oakley, President and CEO of United Arts. "Children learn in different ways. The arts have a big impact on the developmental growth of every child and have been proven to help across socio-economic boundaries," she continued.

This year United Arts was not able to support in full every school that applied because of decreases in both private and public funding. But even with a limited budget, they were able to give a grant to every school that qualified, which means many children across Wake County will have the power of the arts at their school this year.

A fundraiser for the Artists in the Schools program will be this Thursday, September 30, at Cobblestone Hall in downtown Raleigh. It is simply called the pARTy -- with the emphasis on the art -- and it promises to be a whole lot of fun for a great cause. For tickets and more information go to [www.unitedarts.org](http://www.unitedarts.org)

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