



TURNAROUND: ARTS

creating success in schools

NORTH DAKOTA SCHOOLS CHOSEN FOR NATIONAL TURNAROUND ARTS PROGRAM

President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities program, Turnaround Arts, infuses high-need schools with the arts as a strategy to help close the achievement gap and provide equitable access to arts and music education

Washington, D.C. (May 26, 2016) — The President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities has selected four North Dakota schools for inclusion in the 2016 Turnaround Arts Program. Schools included in North Dakota's first Turnaround Arts cohort include: Solen Middle School, Solen, ND, Cannonball Elementary, Cannonball, ND, and Standing Rock Middle and Elementary Schools, Fort Yates, ND. These four schools, selected through a highly competitive application process, will kick off the 2016 school year as four of 68 schools nationwide receiving Turnaround Arts intensive arts education resources and integration as a strategy to close the achievement gap.

The announcement was made by First Lady Michelle Obama at the White House during the 2nd Annual Turnaround Arts Talent Show. In attendance for the event and announcement were: Jeff Brandt, Principal, Solen High/Middle School; Amber James, Principal, Cannonball Elementary; Tomi Phillips, Principal, Standing Rock Middle School; Twila Jarrett, Assistant Principal, Standing Rock Elementary; Barb Sandstrom, Local Program Director, Turnaround Arts: North Dakota; Shawna Marion, Implementation Coordinator, Turnaround Arts: North Dakota; Stefanie Two Crow, Director of Federal Title Programs, North Dakota Department of Public Instruction; and Rebecca Engelman, Arts in Education Director, North Dakota Council on the Arts.

Nation-wide, six million children still do not have access to arts or music instruction in their schools, and millions more school children have only minimal exposure to the arts. The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which was signed into law in December 2015, provides more funding and new guidelines for states and districts to invest in arts and music education for all children as part of a well-rounded education. Research conducted by Booz Allen Hamilton revealed an average 12.6% improvement in reading proficiency and 22.5% improvement in math proficiency, increases in attendance and significant decreases in suspensions following Turnaround Arts' infusion of the arts into struggling schools.

Turnaround Arts, a signature program of the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities, empowers high-need schools with innovative arts, dance, theater and music programs, arts integration across subject areas, arts resources, musical instruments, and high-profile artist mentors, as a proven strategy to help address broader school challenges and close the achievement gap. North Dakota Turnaround Arts have been adopted by: Jane Fonda, actress and writer, Solen Middle School; Ledisi, R&B and jazz recording artist, Cannon Ball Elementary; DJ IZ, actor and hip-hop artist, Standing Rock Middle School; and Dave Matthews, South African and American singer-songwriter, musician and actor, Standing Rock Elementary.

"Our school has been striving to make changes to improve student performance," stated Tomi Phillips, Principal at Standing Rock Middle School, "We have been looking for something that would work for our students and the Turnaround Arts Program has come at an opportune time! We are very excited, optimistic, and anticipate positive changes in our students and in our school."

Jeff Brandt, Principal at Solen Middle/High School is looking forward to the high-quality professional development provided by Turnaround Arts to teachers and the new and exciting learning opportunities for students. “From a school improvement perspective, our district has improved in many areas. The Turnaround Arts program provides support to our improvement process and will bring innovative teaching strategies that will engage students by incorporating the arts into every classroom,” says Brandt. “This is a great opportunity for our school district and our community. Most importantly, it will be a tremendous benefit to our students.”

“The Every Students Succeeds Act (ESSA) focuses on a ‘well-rounded education.’ What a perfect time to be joining Turnaround Arts.” exclaimed Twila Jarrett, Assistant Principal at Standing Rock Elementary. “Turnaround Arts will provide us with tools and strategies for integrating the arts into our curriculum and school culture to increase student engagement and improve attendance, achievement, and social-emotional learning. We are so fortunate and excited to be a part of this amazing opportunity.”

In June, Leadership Teams from all four schools will begin preparing for Turnaround Arts by attending the Turnaround Arts Summer Leadership Retreat at the Airlie Retreat Center in Warrenton, Virginia. During this four day retreat, Leadership Teams from each school and local Turnaround staff will participate in high-quality training in the arts and arts integration strategies. Leadership Teams will return to their schools and work together with National Turnaround Arts to deliver professional development and support to teachers school-wide. Over the next three years North Dakota’s first Turnaround Arts cohort will continue to explore the arts as a tool for school improvement and seek ways to increase programming and opportunities for students in the arts.

Nationally, Turnaround Arts is made possible through a collaboration of government agencies, non-profit partners, and generous corporate and private donations. In addition to this national support, The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction, North Dakota Council on the Arts, and North Dakota Humanities Council, have come together to support this initiative at the state level through services, grant opportunities, and technical assistance. Local partners and sources for additional funding will be sought by Turnaround Arts: North Dakota to foster sustainability and future expansion.

The President’s Committee on the Arts and the Humanities (PCAH) recently announced a new strategic partnership with the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts to implement Turnaround Arts through the Kennedy Center. This new partnership will help realize the President’s Committee’s vision for expanding Turnaround Arts and aligns with the Kennedy Center’s more than 40-year legacy of providing high-quality arts education programming across the nation.

Getty Photos from the White House Turnaround Arts Talent Show photos for editorial use: http://assignments.gettyimages.com/mm/nicePath/gvipa_public?nav=pr410202657 (courtesy of NAMM, credit: Kris Connor/Getty Images)

Watch White House Turnaround Arts Talent Show:
https://www.whitehouse.gov/videos/2016/May/20160525_20150525_FLOTUS_Turnaround_Arts_Talent_Show_HD.mp4

Embargoed until MAY 27, 10AM ET Turnaround Arts "Everyday People" music video, produced by Playing For Change: <https://youtu.be/-g4UWvcZn5U> (TV stations may request a downloadable version of the video and behind the scenes footage for broadcast only - this will not be downloaded anywhere else online - one link for all digital and social uses)

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