

Young Audiences

Massachusetts



YOUNG AUDIENCES RECEIVES GRANT FOR WORK WITH DISABLED AND DISADVANTAGED YOUTH

One of Ten Programs Chosen for National Recognition

BOSTON (April 26, 2011)...Today, Young Audiences of Massachusetts (YAMA) announced that *Healing Arts for Kids* a program of Young Audiences, has been recognized as one of ten national educational programs by VSA an affiliate of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and MetLife Foundation.

“It is an honor to be recognized for working to fulfill our mission, to educate our students here in Massachusetts and provide them with skills they need to flourish, to explore and maintain their sense of cultural identity - and to be prepared for all the challenges in a world that is changing faster than ever,” said Diane Michalowski Freedland, Executive Director, YAMA.

The *Arts Connect All* Grant is awarded annually by VSA and MetLife Foundation. It will provide second year funding to YAMA for their work bringing together physically and cognitively disabled youth with nondisabled youth.

Healing Arts for Kids, a program of Young Audiences of Massachusetts – Arts for Learning, provides free arts programs and teacher professional development services to economically disadvantaged, disabled, and limited English proficient youth. In addition, it serves special education populations in schools, hospital schools, hospitals, and homeless shelters.

In late April, select Young Audiences staff and teaching artists will participate in the *International VSA Education Conference: Contours of Inclusive Arts Teaching and Learning* in Boston.

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