



Make Art Anyway

PRESS RELEASE:

Contact: Christina Twu, (206) 722-5440

May through July 2008

*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

The President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities recognizes largest nonprofit arts educator in Seattle

Seattle, WA — The President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities has named Seattle-based Arts Corps a semifinalist for its 2008 "Coming Up Taller" award.

"Coming Up Taller" recognizes organizations nationally that have achieved distinctive success in youth after-school and out-of-school arts and humanities learning. Committee members reviewed more than 320 nominations from 47 states and Washington, D.C. and selected Arts Corps as one semifinalist out of 50 nationally. Arts Corps is the only 2008 semifinalist from Washington state. In addition, no Washington state-based organization has received finalist recognition from "Coming Up Taller" since 2000.

"In our state, Arts Corps is bringing recognition back to the necessity and potency of arts learning. We are extremely humbled and grateful to be honored by the President's Committee as an outstanding national model for our vision, innovation and growth these past eight years," says Lisa Fitzhugh, Arts Corps' founder and executive director who started the organization in 2000. "Tremendous thanks to all who have pursued its mission and brought the organization to where it is today."

A national jury of field experts is now reviewing Arts Corps' nomination. The committee will award plaques and \$10,000 grants to 17 "Coming Up Taller" finalists later this year.

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More about Arts Corps:

Arts Corps was founded on the principle that all young people, not just those with resources, should have access to quality arts learning opportunities. Since 2000, our excellent faculty of teaching artists have been modeling and fostering creative habits of mind in K-12th grade students so that they may reach their full potential. We work with area community organizations and schools to reach as many kids as possible with powerful arts learning experiences. And since Arts Corps believes that every child should have the freedom to imagine and the courage to be, we offer classes for free. More information at www.artscorps.org.