



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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8 Seattle Youth to Attend White House Event

Young Musicians to be part of Obama's historic civil rights concert

Seattle, WA – Eight youth from Youngstown Records – a collaborative after-school program of Arts Corps and Youngstown Cultural Art Center – have been invited to attend the White House historic concert and education event on February 10th entitled “A Celebration of Music from the Civil Rights Movement.”

These students come from a variety of Seattle high schools and backgrounds, with the largest cohort being from SW Interagency Academy, an alternative high school of Seattle Public Schools for students at high risk of not graduating. All of these students are talented and committed musicians who share a passion for social justice and independent youth voice.

President and Mrs. Obama will host the concert in honor of Black History Month. Artists include Natalie Cole, Bob Dylan, Jennifer Hudson, John Legend, John Mellencamp, Smokey Robinson, Seal, the Blind Boys of Alabama and the Howard University Choir. Morgan Freeman and Queen Latifah will serve as emcees. The music special, part of the PBS “In Performance at the White House” series, will air on February 11 at 9 p.m. ET on KCTS9.

The invitation to attend the White House celebration came from the Grammy Foundation through Kathleen Allen, community arts liaison with Seattle Public Schools, who was moved

by the students' performances at the opening exhibit at The Frye Art Museum on January 22, 2010. Funds to support the trip to the White House have been provided by the Frye Foundation and individual donors.

I Wish I Knew Who I Was Before I Was Me

In October the Frye Art Museum met with Arts Corps to invite a group of students to the Museum to curate a new exhibition. The students began by visiting the Frye Art Museum, then working from the Youngstown Cultural Arts Center with Arts Corps teaching artist Roberto Ascalon (poet) and Arts Corps and MusicianCorps teaching artist Amos Miller (musician/producer). Over the course of several months the students viewed and discussed hundreds of Frye Permanent Collection works of art, narrowing the number of possible works to be included in the exhibition, until there were fewer than ten. The students created personal responses to the artworks in music and lyrics, spoken and written word. The students then chose the final five pieces in the exhibition and determined the theme and exhibition title. The end result is ***I Wish I Knew Who I Was Before I Was Me***, an exhibition and soundscape offering unique insights into the Frye collection as interpreted by Seattle youth.

Youngstown Records

Youngstown Records – a collaborative program of Youngstown Cultural Arts Center and Arts Corps – is a youth-driven record label and music cooperative committed to building community by empowering and amplifying the voices of the youth of Seattle. Youth develop their musical talents and leadership skills in a year-long program of artist-led workshops, studio recording, performances and training in new media.

Arts Corps

Arts Corps is the largest, nonprofit arts education organization in the greater Seattle area. Our classes reach 2,500 children a year and build higher level thinking skills: critical thinking, imagination, reflection, courage and risk-taking, and persistence. We partner with schools and community centers to bring high quality, arts and music education opportunities to disenfranchised youth.

This year, Arts Corps is piloting MusicianCorps Seattle – a musical Peace Corps created by Music National Service. This musicians-in-service program aims to engage youth in arts and

arts learning and serve as a prototype for a national "Artists Corps" as called for by President Obama.

www.artscorps.org

Youngstown Cultural Arts Center

Youngstown Cultural Arts Center is an arts and education facility in Seattle's Delridge neighborhood. Youngstown Records is a part of Youngstown's ALL ACCESS after-school arts program, which offer free classes for youth to flourish in community, creativity and self expressions.

www.youngstownarts.org

Additional media opportunities

Site visit to Youngstown Records class - interview students* and teaching artists

Thursday, February 4, 4-6 p.m. *(Please contact Alberto Mejia to attend)*

** Some students are minors and will need parental/guardian consent to be identified in media.*

Interview opportunities

- Amos Miller, MusicianCorps Fellow, co-teacher of Youngstown Records
amelation@hotmail.com, (206) 218-5495
- Kevin Mock, co-teacher of Youngstown Records
thekevinmock@gmail.com, (206) 851-5961
- Tina LaPadula, Arts Corps' Education Director and MusicianCorps Lead
tina.lapadula@artscorps.org, (206) 722-5440
- Kathleen Allen, Seattle Public Schools Community Arts Liaison
kpallen@seattleschools.org, (206) 252-0782
- Kiff Gallagher, Music National Service Founder and CEO
kiff@musicnationalservice.org, (415) 860-2770
- Rebecca Garrity-Putnam, Frye Art Museum Deputy Communications Director
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