



What a year this has been at Wingspan Arts! Our arts education programming continues to reach over 3,000 students around the New York metro region, connecting artists with the communities and enriching the education of all of our partners. Our 2012 Summer Conservatory is now supported by The New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA), The New York City Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA), and many other supporters – like you! We look forward to sharing more successes with you at our 10th Anniversary Benefit on June 11th at B. B. Kings in Times Square. (See more details at the bottom of this newsletter) Thank you for being a part of *connecting the arts to life!*

As always, the Spring allows many opportunities to see our students in action. Please read the updates below and check out our website which will keep you posted on all things Wingspan in the coming months.

Education Programs



Club Wingspan has partnered with two additional schools this year to provide arts-based afterschool programming. Welcome PS 748 in Bensonhurst, Brooklyn and The Neighborhood School in the Lower East Side to our afterschool partners! Wingspan is very excited about these partnerships and the new families we are serving with an on-site afterschool program.

Recently, Wingspan's Education team presented at The National Afterschool Association Convention in Dallas, Texas. The workshop "Cultivating your Artistic Community to Energize Afterschool Learning" shared Wingspan's best practices for program design with afterschool organizations across the nation. Wingspan continues to strive to be leaders in the world of arts education as we *connect the arts to life!*

Through a generous City Council Member Margaret Chin grant, Wingspan Arts has expanded the Lower Manhattan Community Middle School Dance Program to offer extended-day Dance Technique and High School Audition Preparatory classes. The students, who performed at the Tribeca Family Festival last Spring, are working hard to be a part of the NYC Dance community!

In our first residency at MS 326, Teaching Artists are working with the entire 7th grade to introduce music in the classroom through choral work and music history. This is the first time MS 326 students have participated in music, and we are working towards presenting their newly acquired skills at a Spring Showcase.

Wingspan Arts has established our Drama Integration Program with a new school partner, IS 276/Battery Park City School. The entire 7th grade participated in a Process Drama and Monologue residency, in which they developed characters inspired by themes in their English Language Arts classes. The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros, and Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain served as the material for students to discover "Why do we tell our story?"



The 3rd Annual *Wingspan Arts Ballroom and Latin Dance Festival* will be held on June 6! Students from Wingspan partner schools MS 324, Learning Community Charter School, PS 230, PS 102 and PS 40 will send dance teams to this tournament-style match competing against several other schools. If you like the Tango, stay tuned for further details and come cheer on these young ballroom dancers!

Conservatory



This year's Cabaret Troupe was a great success - our show, "Up and Coming" featured not only our talented students, but the work of up and coming musical theater composers and the songs that influenced them. We also received a grant from The Manhattan Association of Cabaret and Clubs (MAC) to sponsor one of our participating students, Aaquil Rowe. In addition to getting to be a part of the Cabaret Troupe, Aaquil had the honor of performing at the MAC Awards at B.B. Kings. We look forward to continuing this exciting partnership.

Summer Conservatory 2012 is fast approaching! We are looking forward to a summer full of learning and creativity and, of course, stellar performances by our 74 middle and high school students. Our Musical Mania program for elementary aged students is filling up fast, but we do still have room available so come join us!

Events



We had a great time at this year's annual ARTOPIA! which was held on February 4th at The Anderson School. Students of all ages participated in tap and yoga workshops, singing and clowning, and arts and crafts that included a mural and puppet making! Check out the pictures and short film on our website.

Join us for *Wingspan Arts' 10th Anniversary Benefit on June 11th*. We are thrilled to be able to celebrate our first ten years with all of our friends and supporters at B.B. Kings in Times Square. With appearances from Broadway performers, teaching artists and some of our students, this event will be one that you should not miss! Visit our website for more information and to make a donation now.

Our Annual Board Meeting was held on January 25th and new officers were elected to serve two-year terms. We are pleased to announce that Scott Wilcox will serve as Board Chair, Inna White as Secretary and David Boehm as Treasurer.

The Board would like to invite everyone to attend our 10th Anniversary Benefit and celebrate the successes of our first decade - *join us!*

