



**Providence CityArts** is a national award winning community youth arts organization. CityArts teaching artists guide and inspire over 900 urban youth, ages 8-14 in free out-of-school time multidisciplinary arts classes—art&design, digital media, music, dance, theatre and creative writing—and in artist residency programs. Programs take place at our Southside Broad Street Arts Center, Boys and Girls Clubs, Providence Public Schools and charter schools. With access to the arts, youth develop lifelong skills and habits of inquiry to explore ideas for our communities and self. CityArts fosters imagination and creativity.

*"These are arts classes with a difference. It is "arts and..." instruction. Whether it is music, art, or theater, the class is a chance to learn how to learn: how to listen, discuss, take notes, observe, collaborate, and chiefly to become someone who has the power to generate new ideas and understandings."*

*- Arts education researcher and policy analyst, Dr. Dennie Palmer Wolf*

### **Mission and Philosophy**

CityArts was founded by Sr. Ann Keefe in 1992, on the ideal that all youth, regardless of socio-economic background, should have access to quality arts learning as an essential part of childhood and youth development. Underpinning CityArts belief is the role of the teaching artist as an agent of change for our underserved children who live in some of the poorest communities of Providence, Rhode Island.

### **Awards and Accomplishments**

CityArts received the 2014 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award in Washington, D.C., from First Lady Michelle Obama and the President's Committee for the Arts and the Humanities. NAHYP is the nation's highest honor for youth programs that transform lives through the arts. CityArts also holds the state's only AmeriCorps program that places teaching artists in urban Priority public schools to help improve outcomes for struggling students. CityArts was also awarded the 2014 Provider Excellence Award from the Providence Afterschool Alliance, a nationally-renowned out-of-school time systems-builder and intermediary for Providence Public Schools District.

Major projects of CityArts include a public art installation of 63 youth art works at the Providence Community Health Center; Kennedy Plaza Tile Mural Project as part of 2012 NEA Our Town Project with FirstWorks Providence and the City of Providence; National Fish and Wildlife Foundation environmental/arts education mural installation; Art kiosk for RIPTA's R-Line bus stop; and a U.S. Dept. of Education/21CLC RIDE award for afterschool arts classes for Highlander Charter School.

CityArts is a member agency of the Providence Youth Arts Collaborative, a consortium of Providence's leading youth arts programs. CityArts arts-integration residency at Roger Williams Middle School is one of five case studies reported in a national published study, conducted by the National Center for Expanded Time and Learning with funding from the Lila Wallace Foundation. CityArts was featured in Edutopia and received the AFP RI award for Outstanding Philanthropic Service Organization. CityArts presented at the 2012 NAEA Conference, and 2011 National Guild for Community Arts Education Conference.

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