



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE June 3, 2015

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WHITE HOUSE COMMITTEE SELECTS NEW YORK CITY SCHOOLS IN EXPANSION OF TURNAROUND ARTS PROGRAM

Turnaround Provides Federal Support to Expand on de Blasio Administration's Commitment to Enhancing Arts Instruction in Public Schools

Paula Abdul, Marc Anthony, Misty Copeland, and Ed Norton to work in Four Brooklyn Schools

New York – June 3, 2015 – New York City has been selected by The President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities (PCAH) to participate in the next round of Turnaround Arts, a program that aims to narrow the achievement gap and increase student performance through intensive engagement with the arts.

The NYC Department of Education, Department of Cultural Affairs, and the Fund for Public Schools will serve as the local partners for Turnaround Arts' three year duration. The four schools selected for the program are located in Brooklyn: East Flatbush Community Research School and Ebbets Field Middle School in Crown Heights, and P.S. 165 and P.S.284 in Brownsville. Each participating school will receive training and resources to address their individual needs. Resources include a summer training program for school leadership, in-school arts-based professional development for all teachers, partnerships with community arts education and cultural organizations, art supplies, and musical instruments. Each school will also be assigned a Turnaround Artist to work directly with students. In NYC, the artists are Paula Abdul, Marc Anthony, Misty Copeland, and Ed Norton. The Turnaround Artists will work with these schools for the length of the program, collaborating with students, schools, and communities to highlight their success.

“When you work hard and tap into the power of the arts, you can be anything you want to be,” said **Misty Copeland**. “I hope to inspire my students at P.S. 284 to dream and focus, to have confidence and strength. Isn't this what we want for all children?”

Participating schools were competitively selected by program partners according to national guidelines. Selection criteria included demonstrated need and opportunity, strong school leadership with district support, and a commitment to arts education. Turnaround Arts schools represent elementary and middle schools from across the country and encompass a diversity of student demographics in urban and rural settings.

Turnaround Arts: New York City supports the de Blasio Administration's commitment to improving struggling schools and providing a quality arts education for all public school students – no matter their zip code. All of the schools selected for Turnaround Arts are part of the City's Renewal School Program, which is the DOE's turnaround plan for historically struggling schools. As Renewal Schools they are receiving additional funds and supports from the City and community partners. The Turnaround Arts program in New York supplements the City's renewed investment in arts education - last year, the Mayor announced \$23 million for increased arts instruction in City schools, much of which went to serve low-income, high-needs schools. Turnaround Arts provides an opportunity for even greater investment in the arts at these four schools, and a unique opportunity for students and staff to engage with a prominent artist.

“Bringing arts into classrooms is a critical piece of improving our struggling schools and raising student achievement,” said **Schools Chancellor Carmen Fariña**. “With the arts, students learn to think creatively, become more engaged in their schoolwork, and find productive passions and hobbies. I look forward to this incredible experience for our students, and I know this program is going to help them thrive in and out of the classroom.”

"Last year Paul King, Executive Director of the DOE arts office, and I attended a White House event that showcased the amazing talents of students from schools participating in Turnaround Arts," said **Cultural Affairs Commissioner Tom Finkelpearl**. "The energy was palpable and the message was clear: arts education is making a difference in some of America's most challenged schools, and its impact is being recognized at the very highest levels. After meeting some of the kids, teachers, and parents, we agreed that Turnaround belongs in New York City. We are excited to work with Turnaround Arts and these incredible artists to engage students in a curriculum that enhances their creative thinking and performance in a range of disciplines."

The official announcement was made today in Washington, D.C., by PCAH's co-chairs, George Stevens Jr. and Margo Lion. This follows last year's major expansion of the program after a Booz Allen Hamilton evaluation of the program's effectiveness. Turnaround Arts now reaches over 22,000 of the country's highest-needs students in 49 schools in 14 states and the District of Columbia.

The newly expanded program is funded through a public-private partnership, receiving over \$5 million over the next three years from the U.S. Department of Education, the National Endowment of the Arts, the Ford Foundation and other private foundations and companies to bring arts education into low-performing schools. The program leverages approximately an additional \$10 million contributed in local funds over the same period. In New York City, the Steven A. and Alexandra M. Cohen Foundation is providing additional funding to support the local program director. The money will be used to hire new arts and music teachers; bring teaching artists, art supplies and music instruments into schools; and support arts integration with other core subjects such as reading, math, and science.

“We are proud that the progress at all our existing Turnaround Arts schools has made it possible for us to expand into even more schools and states,” said **PCAH Vice-Chair and President-elect of Spelman College, Mary Schmidt Campbell, Ph.D.** “We continue to demonstrate that high-quality arts education positively changes young lives and turns around failing schools,

thanks to the hard work of public and private funders, our artists, program partners, and school educators.”

In May 2012 the President’s Committee, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Education and the White House Domestic Policy Council, launched Turnaround Arts as a pilot program in eight “turnaround schools” across the country—public schools in the lowest-achieving five percent of their state that were receiving School Improvement Grants through the U.S. Department of Education. Over the last three years, Turnaround Arts has brought intensive arts education resources and expertise into 35 schools and worked with school leadership to incorporate the arts as part of their reform strategy. Research evaluation results show that participating schools are demonstrating improved academic performance, increased student and parent engagement, and improved culture and climate. On average Turnaround Arts schools showed a 23% improvement in math proficiency and a 13% increase in reading proficiency over three years, as well as showing reductions of up to 86% in student disciplinary issues and sharply increased attendance. (<http://1.usa.gov/1J00lrX>)

National partners in Turnaround Arts include the U.S. Department of Education, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Ford Foundation, the Herb Alpert Foundation, the Rosenthal Family Foundation, the Keith Haring Foundation, Crayola LLC, the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation, and Music Theatre International. New national partners to the program include AOL, Little Kids Rock and JCPenney. The program is administered in partnership with Americans for the Arts.

About the President’s Committee on the Arts and the Humanities

*Created in 1982 under President Reagan, **the President’s Committee on the Arts and the Humanities (PCAH)** is an advisory committee to the White House on cultural issues. The PCAH works directly with the three primary cultural agencies—National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Institute of Museum and Library Services—as well as other federal partners and the private sector, to address policy questions in the arts and humanities, to initiate and support key programs in those disciplines and to recognize excellence in the field. Its core areas of focus are education, cultural exchange, and creative economy. Under the leadership of the First Lady and Honorary Chairman, and through the efforts of its federal and private members, the President’s Committee has compiled an impressive legacy over its tenure, conducting major research and policy analysis, and catalyzing important federal cultural programs, both domestic and international. For more information, please visit <http://www.pcah.gov/>.*

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