

**CULTURAL ARTS COMMITTEE
MAY 2018/YEAR-END REPORT**

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On April 27th, I sent out the results of the annual Cultural Arts Budget Survey to the PTArts e-list, the MCCPTA Board e-list, and the MCCPTA Delegates e-list. This year there were 34 schools that responded to the survey and the budgets ranged from "0" to \$14,500. Of the schools that responded, 8 schools reported an increase in their budget; 11 reported a decrease; 12 reported that their budget remained the same as the previous year; and 3 schools reported for the first time. It is our hope that doing this survey helps those who wish to increase their school's funding for cultural arts programming.

As always, I encouraged those school representatives who reported that they have no budget for hiring performers to be sure that someone from their PTA and/or staff is on the PTArts e-list, where there is information posted about occasional free performances and grants, as well as announcements about the annual MCPS Cultural Arts Showcases and cultural arts workshops.

To join, please send your Name, Email Address, School, and Position (Cultural Arts Chair or committee member, etc.) to: PTArts-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

The **2018 MCPS Cultural Arts Showcases** will be held at the Carver Educational Center Auditorium, and the dates are set for:

Tuesday, October 2nd: 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 3rd: 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 10th: 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 11th: 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Please make sure your school has these dates on their fall calendar, and please remember that the dates and exact times are always subject to change, due to heavy demand for use of the auditorium. I will keep everyone informed if there are any changes. The exact schedule of performers for each day will be posted on the PTArts e-list after the annual auditions are held for new performers in September.

The **2017 MCPS Performing Arts Catalogue**, and many of the Showcase performances that have been videotaped, can be viewed on this website: <http://www.biglearning.org> Click on "Cultural Arts Showcases" and you will see both of them listed. The password for viewing the videos is "**culturalarts**". The 2018 Catalogue will come out in the fall, when the Showcases begin.

The Cultural Arts Committee is available for participating in either or both of MCCPTA's Spring & Fall Training Workshops this year. At the Fall 2017 workshop, as Chair of Cultural Arts, I provided information for participants on how to organize a Cultural Arts committee; procedures for hiring performers for assemblies,

workshops, and artist-in-residency programs; where to apply for grants; free programs that are available; advocating for increasing a school's Cultural Arts budget; and resources for finding and previewing performers to hire. Information was provided about the annual Cultural Arts Showcases by Seda Gelenian, who is Chair of the Superintendent's Committee for Performances in MCPS, and is also the producer and coordinator of the Cultural Arts Showcases.

The goal of the Cultural Arts Committee is to make sure that all schools are well informed about the many wonderful opportunities available to them for Cultural Arts programming. Engaging children in the arts inspires creativity and imagination, which is crucial to every aspect of learning.