

JUNE 2017/YEAR-END CULTURAL ARTS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Cultural Arts Committee began the 2016-17 school year by holding a workshop as part of the annual MCCPTA Fall Training event. 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 fall MCPS 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 2016 Cultural Arts Showcases were held for two days and two evenings in early October at the Carver Educational Center. Performers who had auditioned and been approved by the Superintendent's Committee for Performances in MCPS were presented at the Showcases; each gave a 15-minute version of their longer performance for reps from the schools to observe and choose from in hiring for their schools. At the Showcases, we distributed the 2016 MCPS Performing Arts Catalogue, as well as brochures from the performers, and important information for all Cultural Arts chairs. Any schools that did not send someone to the Showcases had the catalogue mailed to them.

The **2016 MCPS Performing Arts Catalogue** and many of the Showcase performances that have been videotaped can be seen on this website: <http://www.biglearning.org> Click on "Cultural Arts Showcases" and you will see them both listed. The password for viewing the videos is "**culturalarts**".

In March, 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 a total of 52 schools that responded to the survey and budgets ranged from "0" to \$14,000. Of the schools that responded, 16 reported an increase in their Cultural Arts budget, 20 schools reported a decrease, 11 schools reported that their budget remained the same as the previous year, and 5 schools reported for the first time.

As Chair of MCCPTA's Cultural Arts Committee, I serve as the Moderator of the "**PTArts**" e-list, which is the best place for schools to learn about Cultural Arts programming opportunities, to receive announcements about upcoming Cultural Arts Showcases, to learn about occasional free performances available to the schools, and to network with each other about performers they are booking at their schools.

*All schools should have one or more representatives join the PTArts e-list. **To join, please send your Name, Email address, School, and Position** (Cultural Arts Chair or committee member, staff members, etc.) **to:**

PTArts-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

The **2017 Cultural Arts Showcases** will again be held at the Carver Educational Center Auditorium, and the dates are set for:

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

Wednesday, October 4th: 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

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

Thursday, October 12th: 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Please remember that these 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 held for new performers in September.

Please make sure your school is aware of these dates and has them on their fall calendar!

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. Our highest priority continues to be seeking ways of reaching out to some schools that seldom or never send anyone to the Cultural Arts Showcases, and do not have anyone on the PTArts e-list, which is critical to receiving announcements. Some schools say they do not have cultural arts programming because they have no money to spend on it, and some because they do not consider cultural arts a priority. However, it is the feeling of our committee that if they could see the amazing variety and talent of performers available for the schools (at the fall Cultural Arts Showcases), they would realize the importance of exposing children of all ages to the arts as much as possible. Engaging children in the arts does not just bring enjoyment, it inspires creativity, which is crucial to every area of learning. Schools that have no money available for cultural arts programming need to know that there are a variety of opportunities available for grants and occasional free performances.

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