

Interstages Update

Arts and Academics After School

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You've seen the back-to-school ads, so you know that DC students will soon begin a new school year. Preparations are underway at Interstages, too. We plan to launch our afterschool program the first week of October, once students have settled into their school routines.

This fall, at least a dozen DC middle grades youth will have the advantage of individualized academic support and music enrichment afterschool to help them succeed in school and in life. This will be a pilot semester for Interstages, challenging us to implement the plans we've been making for the past year.

We know that the year will be filled with its share of successes and obstacles, fun and frustration—but most importantly, we will begin our journey by having a positive effect on the lives of a group of young people who need and deserve the quality programming we will provide.

For the youth we will serve, each new school year represents a chance to start fresh, an opportunity to implement lessons learned from mistakes and successes in years past. We hope you'll help us support DC youth as they attempt to create realistic visions and build positive realities this year.

Fundraising Goal: \$7,000

Yes, \$7,000. That number represents the amount we have left to raise before October in order to launch the Interstages afterschool program this fall. \$7,000 is all that is standing in the way of a pilot program that will not only provide opportunities for success for a handful

of students this fall, but also serve as a model for our program and others like it as we grow.

\$7,000 is not a huge amount of money, but it is the difference between launching the program this fall or putting it off another semester; supporting academic achievement or allowing students to languish in underfunded schools without the support they need; providing opportunities for music enrichment or leaving the music education to BET and MTV.

How much can you give to help us chip away at this vital \$7,000? This month's newsletter highlights several ways you can help us bridge the \$7,000 gap. Every little bit helps. Thanks to all those who have donated so far.

It's Party Time!

Interstages "Vision to Reality" party time, that is. Are you in search of a fun way to support Interstages? If so, we invite you to host a "Vision to Reality" party.

Inspired by the political house parties held nationwide prior to the 2004 elections, we are seeking volunteers to host parties for Interstages. You can host a BBQ picnic, cocktail hour, or whatever you like! Just let us know the date and time, and we'll provide Interstages literature, a short presentation if desired, and the support you need to make your event a successful one—for you and for Interstages. Our goal is to find 5 hosts to hold parties that will raise funds and awareness, as well as enhancing our network of supporters.

For more information, go to www.interstages.org or contact Noel or Herb. Thanks for your support!

Contact us for more information:

454 M St. NW, #2, Washington, DC 20001-4660 • t: 202-824-0740 • f: 202-315-3632
Noel.Tieszen@interstages.org • Herb.Scott@interstages.org • info@interstages.org

Log on: www.interstages.org

Interstages is now online! Visit us at www.interstages.org. In addition to a small archive of newsletters and information about Interstages, our website features two important buttons. Click “donate now” to visit our online donation page, hosted by Just Give. Click the VolunteerMatch button to see a list of volunteer opportunities with Interstages. Many thanks to Krista Olson for making sure Interstages is represented on the information superhighway.

Interstages News of Note

Peyton McCall becomes Interstages’ first business partner

Peyton McCall, an information technology and management consulting firm in DC, has committed to making a monthly donation to Interstages. To learn more, contact Sherrie at info@peytonmcall.com or (202) 250-8158. Thanks, Peyton McCall, for investing in DC youth!

Peyton+McCall

Board of Directors elected

Interstages’ new Board of Directors has been elected and is slated to begin work August 27. Please welcome our dedicated volunteers: Cesar Arreola, Candace Fitch, Lisa Latorre, and Gertrude Rivers. Each has signed on for a one-year term.

Interstages director serves on panel

Interstages was invited to take part in the Arts Education Program grants panel of the DC

Commission on the Arts and Humanities. Noel served as a panelist in July, assisting with grantmaking and gleaned grantwriting hints from observing the process from the other side of the checkbook. Interstages will be eligible to apply for this DCCAH grant next summer.

Upcoming Events:

- **Board Orientation**, August 27, 9:00-12:00.
- **Afterschool Program Launch**, October 3.
- **Vision to Reality Parties**, time and place to be announced by you!

Ready to give? Here are ways you can help make the Interstages vision a reality:

(Interstages is a non-profit charity as determined by IRS section 501(c)(3). All donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law. A receipt for your donation will be provided for tax purposes. Thank you!)

- **By Mail:** Write a check payable to “Interstages, Inc.” and mail it to 454 M St. NW, #2, Washington, DC 20001.
- **Online:** Log onto www.interstages.org and click on “donate now.” JustGive.org will process your credit card donation.
- **Matching Gifts:** Many employers offer to match charitable donations made by their employees. Usually, all it takes is filling out a quick form and submitting it with your gift. Ask your human resources department about how you can double the impact of your gift through a match from your employer!
- **Host a House Party:** See article on page 1 for more information.
- **Donate in-kind:** Check out our wish list below, or contact us if there are additional items you can supply.
- **Other ideas?** We’d be glad to listen!

Wish List: (Contact us with specifics if you can provide any of these items. We will give you a receipt.)

Services: Legal advising, grant writing, fundraising, printing, web design

Office Supplies: Peachtree accounting software, copy paper, file folders, 9”x12” mailers, chart paper

School Supplies: 3-ring binders, dividers, loose-leaf paper, pencils/pens, art supplies, pencil pouches

Instruments: Piano, percussion instruments (hand drums, claves, tambourines, etc.)

Other: Office space, conference room use, Staples or Kinko’s gift cards, digital camera

Moving from Vision to Reality...