

# Introducing... Interstages, Inc.

Arts and Academics During Out-of-School Time

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**W**elcome to our first newsletter! Allow us to introduce you to Interstages and update you on our progress...

**Our story begins last June**, when Noel Tieszen and Herb Scott were completing the school year as middle school teachers in DC Public Schools. Looking back on a year full of challenges and accomplishments, their conversation centered on one main concern: **many students were not reaching their potential**. A year of conversations about students' daily struggles culminated in a strategy session about how to support student achievement. Their answer: structured afterschool activities, individualized academic support, and opportunities for creative expression and experiences of success. Noel and Herb committed to making that happen, and Interstages was born.

**One year later**, Interstages has completed a contract with Life Pieces to Masterpieces and received its first grant, first individual donations, and first volunteers...we are incorporated and have filed for 501(c)3 tax exempt status with the IRS...we are in discussion with several principals in an effort to find the best site for the pilot program...we're recruiting a Board of Directors and an Educational Advisory Board...we are collaborating with Training Grounds, a new nonprofit job training organization, to provide a 2-week summer day camp for 10-14-year-olds in Anacostia...

**Interstages is off and running**, planning for a fall launch of our daily afterschool program. We're moving quickly...and we hope you'll join us on this exciting ride!

## Interstages' Mission:

All children deserve access to opportunities for academic and personal development, both in and out of school. Yet many students in low-income communities remain underserved, particularly during the middle years. Interstages utilizes **individualized academic support plans** and **music enrichment**, provided by caring adults during **out-of-school time**, to provide opportunities for **middle grades** students to experience **academic and personal success**.

## Interstages' Model:

Our out-of-school-time program concept consists of two main components:

### Academics

- Individualized goal-setting
- Daily homework help
- Targeted basic skills development
- Weekly study skills sessions
- Organization strategies
- Communication with school staff

### Arts

- Private music lessons
- Performing choir
- Studio classes
- Integrating music and history
- Guest artist visits
- Creating original music
- Field trips to performances

**See page 2 to find out how you can help Interstages fulfill our mission...**

**Contact us for more information:**

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## Who Are Herb and Noel?

**Artistic Director Herb Scott** holds a BA in Music from Morehouse College and is completing Masters work at Catholic University. He has taught music at Barnard Elementary and Kramer Middle Schools in Washington, DC. He is an accomplished soloist.

**Executive/Academic Director Noel Tieszen** holds a BA in Psychology from Oberlin College and M.Ed. from the University of Massachusetts-Boston. She taught 7<sup>th</sup>- and 8<sup>th</sup>-grade history and English in Boston Public Schools and at Kramer Middle School in Washington, DC, as well as piano, voice, and music appreciation to students ages 5-45.

## Interstages Accomplishments

### January 2005:

Interstages provided workshops on African music and cultures to students at Life Pieces to Masterpieces ([www.lifepieces.org](http://www.lifepieces.org)).

### April 2005:

Interstages, Inc. officially incorporated in the District of Columbia and filed for tax exemption with the IRS.

### May 2005:

Interstages received notification of a \$1,000 Small Projects Program grant from the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities/National Endowment for the Arts.

### Upcoming Events:

- **Meet-and-Greet Breakfast**, June 11, 10:30-12:00.
- **Summer Day Camp**, July 25-August 5, Anacostia.
- **Afterschool Program Launch**, October 1. School site TBA.

## We need you to help make our vision a reality! Here's how you can get involved:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Volunteer:</b> Check our listing on <a href="http://www.volunteermatch.org">www.volunteermatch.org</a> for posted opportunities—or contact us to tell us your skills, and we'll put you to work!</li><li>• <b>Spread the word:</b> Share this newsletter with anyone who might be interested. We need lots of folks involved.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Fund us:</b> Make your check out to Interstages, Inc., 454 M St. NW, #2, Washington, DC 20001. We can't open without funds! <i>We'll inform you when our tax-deductible status comes through.</i></li><li>• <b>Donate in-kind:</b> Check out our wish list below, or contact us if there are additional items you can supply.</li></ul> |
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**Wish List:** (Contact us if you can provide any of these items.)

**Services:** Legal advice, Grant writing, Fundraising, Printing

**Equipment/Supplies:** Fax machine, Peachtree bookkeeping software, Copy paper

**Other:** Office space, Occasional conference room use

**Our thanks are due** to those who have helped us get this far: January Angeles; CityFirst Bank of DC (Jose Ygoa and Jessica Rodriguez); Kami Dar; Liz Davis; DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities/National Endowment for the Arts (Jose Dominguez, Anthony Gittens, Mary Liniger, and Lionell Thomas); the Foundation Center; Scott Hennessey; Jerry Levine; Life Pieces To Masterpieces (Mary Brown, Ben Johnson, Bruce Purnell, Seneca Wells, and of course the boys); Kofi Ofori; Krista Olson; Ned Rimer; Gertrude "Trudi" Rivers; Sherrie, Xavier and Jackson Scott; Charles Shambry; David Stolow; Jessica Sultzer; Training Grounds (Tom Brown); Keith Watson; and everyone else who has supported us in less tangible but equally important ways.

**Stay tuned...[www.interstages.org](http://www.interstages.org) is coming soon...**