Arts | Learning

30th Annual

Champions of Arts Education Advocacy Awards

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2017 6:30 PM

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL, 17 WILLOW STREET, WESTBOROUGH, MA

30th Annual
Champions of Arts Education Advocacy Awards

Knights of Columbus Hall
17 Willow Street, Westborough, MA 01581
Wednesday, May 31, 2017, 6:30 PM

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PROGRAM

TIME	TOPIC	PRESENTER(S)
6:30	**Reception**	Perrier and Cheese, Cash Bar
7:00	**Welcome and Performance**	Charles Combs, President, Arts|Learning Board Tom Reynolds, Chair, Networking and Advocacy Team Worcester Chamber Music Society's Neighborhood Strings Teen Club: Jean-Pierre Cruz, violin; Peter Korfuzi, viola; Melanie Aguilar, cello; Tabatha Criollo, cello
7:05	**Awards Presentations, Part 1**	Networking and Advocacy Team Members
	Comments from Select Awardees	Charles Washburn, Oddleifson Award Sandra Nicolucci, Irene Buck Award Representative Chris Walsh, Legislative Leader Award Jared Bowen, Media Award
7:30	**Performance**	Dancing Arts Center, Holliston, MA *Rainbow Etude* Nicoletta Agostino, Jenna Calabrese, Jessica Lynch, Ariel Ott
7:35	**Awards Presentations, Part 2**	Networking and Advocacy Team Members
8:00	**Farewell**	Jonathan Rappaport, A|L Executive Director

2017 "Champions of Arts Education Advocacy" Awardees

A|L Board of Trustees Award:

Eric Oddleifson Arts|Learning Service Award (see page 4)
- **Charles Washburn**, Vice President & Chief Operating Officer of VSA MA, an affiliate of the Seven Hills Foundation.

Networking and Advocacy Leadership Team Awards:

Legislative Leadership Award (see pages 4-5)
- **Massachusetts State Senator Karen Spilka** (D- Second Middlesex & Norfolk), Chair, Senate committee on Ways and Means.
- **Massachusetts House Representative Christopher Walsh** (D-6th Middlesex). Vice Chair, Joint committee on Education.

Media Support of Arts Education Award (see page 5)
- **Jared Bowen** – Executive Arts Editor, WGBH, Boston

Irene Buck Service to Arts Education Award (see page 6)
- **Dr. Sandra Nicolucci**, K-l2 Director of Performing Arts, Wellesley Public Schools (retired) and Associate Professor of Music, Boston University (Professor emerita)

Publicly Nominated Awards:

Outstanding Community Arts Education Collaborative (see pages 6-8)
- Mixed Arts: **Brimmer and May School** (with Charles Sumner School). Bill Jacob, Theatre Teacher, Brimmer and May; and Jeannette Pizarro, Sumner School
- Music: **Worcester Chamber Music Society**; Neighborhood Strings Program, Tracy Kraus (Executive Director); Peter Sulski (Co-Founder); and Ariana Falk (Education Director)
- Theatre: **Huntington Theatre Education Department**, Donna Glick, Director of Education
- Visual Arts: **Eliot School of Fine and Applied Arts**, Abigail Norman, Director

Distinguished Arts Educator Advocate Awards (see pages 8-10)
- Distinguished Dance Educator Advocacy Award:
  - **Donna Dragon**, Associate Professor of Dance, Bridgewater State University
- Distinguished Theatre Educator Advocacy Award:
  - **Danielle Bazinet**, Arts Department Chair, The Sage School, Attleboro, MA
- The Lynn S. Feldman Distinguished Visual Art Educator Advocacy Award:
  - **June Krinsky-Rudder**, Art Teacher, Revere High School

Outstanding Parent Arts Advocate Award (see page 11)
- **Andover Coalition for Education** (ACE), Lenore Price, President

Outstanding Student Arts Advocate Award (see page 11)
- **Rixy Fernandez**, University of Massachusetts, Boston

Good Neighbor Award (see pages 11-12)

MASSCreative, Boston, Massachusetts; Matt Wilson, Executive Director; Tracie Konopinski, Senior Campaign Director; Andre Green, Political Director

About our Award Winners

Arts|Learning Board of Trustees Award

Eric Oddleifson Arts|Learning Service Award

The Eric Oddleifson A|L Award recognizes an individual who has made a significant impact on arts education across the nation, and is selected by the Arts|Learning Board of Trustees. This award was named in 2013 to honor the memory and vision of Eric Oddleifson (1935-2011), Co-Founder and Vice-President and Treasurer of the Arts|Learning Board, whose life-long commitment to providing arts education for all students has impacted countless lives.

Charles J. Washburn, Vice President & COO, VSA Massachusetts, an affiliate of Seven Hills Foundation

Charlie has worked for VSA Massachusetts since 1987 and joined Seven Hills Foundation as a Vice President when VSA Massachusetts became an affiliate in 2014. He holds his BA in History and Education from Fairfield University and a Certificate of Special Study in Management and Administration from Harvard University. As a certified teacher he taught Kindergarten and early primary students in the parent cooperative Worcester New School. He was director of an urban art center and festival known as Summer's World in Worcester Massachusetts, and is one of the founders of First Night Worcester. Charlie has also worked in human services on improvement of community-based programs including a teen suicide prevention program.

Charlie was a founding member and former President of *Mass. Advocates for the Arts Sciences and Humanities*, the state's former arts advocacy organization. He was a member of the Mass. Arts Curriculum Framework Committee and Chair of the Mass. Department of Education's Arts Education Advisory Council. He served on the Department's Kindergarten Curriculum and Teacher Leadership Project. Charlie served on the board of the MA Alliance for Arts Education since the early 1990s (now Arts|Learning), the A|L Networking and Leadership Team, and the A|L Board for a total of some 25 years of dedicated service.

Charlie serves as the Learning Committee Chair of the International VSA Affiliate Council. Charlie helped define the role of arts integrated instruction in the practice of Universal Design for Learning and developed a graduate level course and a national community of practice on the subject. He has also developed a multi-art and multi-sensory approach to performing arts that is known as Inclusive by Design, incorporating American Sign Language, audio description, visual art and captioning to create performances that everyone can enjoy. VSA's work in schools using an inclusionary model of arts education to integrate and mainstream students with special needs has led to numerous successes, notably the Henderson School in Boston.

Networking & Advocacy Leadership Team Awards

Legislative Leadership Awards. *These awards honor Massachusetts MA Legislators for demonstrating distinguished leadership, support and commitment in the areas of arts education, education reform, and arts funding.*

Massachusetts State Senator Karen Spilka (D-Second Middlesex & Norfolk), Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and Means.

Through hard work, a keen ability to navigate complex issues, and a demonstrated commitment to advocating for her constituents, Senator Karen E. Spilka has established herself as a respected leader in state government. She represents the Metrowest, one of the most important economic regions in Massachusetts.

Due to her experience in social work, law, and disability issues, Senator Spilka was named the first Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities. Senator Spilka was appointed Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies in February 2009, as well as serving on the Senate Ways and Means Committee.

Prior to becoming a legislator, Senator Spilka was in private practice as an arbitrator and mediator, specializing in labor and employment law and community and court mediation. In addition, she has been a facilitator and fact finder in disputes in the public and private sectors, as well as a trainer of adult mediation and school-based peer mediation programs, collaborative-based collective bargaining, and conflict resolution strategies. She has also previously worked as a labor and employment attorney on behalf of employees, unions, the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA), and the Commonwealth. She served on the Ashland School Committee as both Chair and Vice Chair, and in the legislature she successfully advocated for a provision in the education reform bill that will determine adequacy in quality public school funding. Her strong support for adequate funding of the MA Cultural Council has been vital to the success of that agency.

Senator Spilka has received considerable recognition for her public service, including being named to the National Honor Roll of State Legislators and appointment to the National Conference of State Legislatures' Human Services and Welfare Committee for 2007–2008. Other awards include the 2009 Health Info Management Association's Legislator of the Year Award, the Massachusetts Hospital Association's 1st annual Legislator of the Year Award in 2008, the 2007 Legislative Achievement Award from the Massachusetts Association of Jewish Federations, the 2007 Legislator of the Year Award from the Arc of Massachusetts, the 2006 Legislative Leadership Award from the Metrowest Chamber of Commerce, the 2006 Regional Spirit Award from the Metrowest Growth Management Committee, and Advocates, Inc.'s 2006 Medal of Honor.

Massachusetts House Representative Chris Walsh

(D-6th Middlesex). Vice Chair, Joint committee on Education. Chris Walsh was first elected to the MA House of Representatives in 2010.

Rep. Walsh has been active on many planning boards and has belonged to the Framingham Town Meeting. A past president of the Framingham Historical Society, Walsh has also chaired the Historic District Commission for the town.

Walsh earned his B.A. from the Rhode Island School of Design in 1982. His professional experience includes working as an architect at his own firm, Chris Walsh & Co. His experience as an architect gives him the ability to imagine possibilities, create solutions to problems and chart out the course for bringing ideas to life.

Walsh has worked tirelessly in translating his experience with historical preservation and town planning into revitalizing his hometown of Framingham, including bringing in businesses to raise assessed property values. Citing the high proportion of small businesses in Framingham, Walsh noted a desire to see incentives for business and economic development. One area he specifically pointed out was arts and culture, something he said was underrepresented in the town.

Walsh has called for all mandated state programs to have both an economic impact assessment and a budget proposal and for towns and communities to be given more flexibility in implementing programs than state law allowed at the time. He also recommended direct tax incentives to home owners to incentivize renewing blighted areas.

Walsh is a vocal advocate for stronger state support of education, as well as appropriate levels of funding for the MA Cultural Council

Media Support of Arts Education Award

Jared Bowen – Executive Arts Editor, WGBH, Boston

This award recognizes print, digital, or broadcast media that does an outstanding job of promoting public awareness of arts, arts education, and culture to a wide audience. It honors media professionals who have used media presence to promote arts education and who demonstrate knowledge of the arts, active attendance at arts events, and commitment to the importance of arts education.

WGBH's Executive Arts Editor Jared Bowen is the Emmy award-winning host of the weekly television series, 'Open Studio with Jared Bowen', which takes viewers inside the creative process, offering a blend of profiles, performances, and contemporary exhibitions by artists in Greater Boston, New England, and across the country. He is a contributor to WGBH-TV's nightly news magazine program, 'Greater Boston' and appears regularly on 89.7 WGBH, where he covers the latest happenings in the region's theater, art, music, dance and film on WGBH's 'Morning Edition' and 'Boston Public Radio'.

Jared also serves as a coach/judge on the choir competition show 'Sing That Thing!' and is the moderator of the Boston Speakers Series at Symphony Hall, facilitating conversations with everyone from world leaders to Oscar-winning actors. He is a member of the Boston Theater Critics Association, the Boston Online Film Critics Association and he serves on the Board of Governors for the Boston/New England Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. Jared is also a contributor to the 'PBS News Hour' and 'Art New England' magazine.

Jared has produced five news documentaries for WGBH and the first three seasons of the public media company's Eye on Education initiative. He has won two New England Emmy Awards for his arts reporting and is a recipient of the 2013 Commonwealth Award, recognizing achievement in the arts, humanities and sciences.

Jared began his career at 'Dateline NBC' in New York, and is a graduate of Emerson College where he also won several Associated Press Awards.

Irene Buck Service to Arts Education Award

Dr. Sandra Nicolucci, K-l2 Director of Performing Arts, Wellesley Public Schools (retired) and Associate Professor of Music, Boston University (emerita)

This award honors an individual for distinguished and prolonged service as an advocate for arts education. The recipient exemplifies commitment and service to, and support of the arts, and arts-education communities. This award was named to honor Irene Buck, President of the MA Alliance for Arts Education for many years, who was the first recipient in 1998. Her consistent advocacy over many decades is a model for others to emulate, to promote the arts and arts education in our Commonwealth.

Sandi Nicolucci has made huge contributions to the world of music education in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Her distinguished career includes 37 years of general and choral music teaching in the Newton, Brookline, and Wellesley Public Schools. In the last two districts she also served as the district-wide performing arts coordinator, as well as Vice Principal of the Heath School in Brookline. Additionally for 10 years Dr. Nic was on the faculty of Boston University training teachers and supervising student teacher practicums. Previously she served as the chair of the music education department at Boston Conservatory.

Sandi's work also has been national and statewide in scope. For *National Coalition for Core Arts Standards (NCCAS),* she served as a member of the Gr. 3-5 General Music Standards Writing Team constructing and refining a new set of national standards for music education (2013-14). In Massachusetts, she served on the original 1995 MA Arts Curriculum Frameworks Panel, and also the Arts Assessment MCAS Committee of the MA DESE.

Dr. Nicolucci has also served as an evaluator of the K-l2 music programs and curricula for Westborough, MA; Belmont, MA; Pike School (private independent school); Weston Public Schools, Weymouth Public Schools, and the Bedford Public Schools, where she was responsible for critiquing music programs and curricula after three days of site observations and suggesting ways programs could be improved. She served as a member of School Quality Review Team for Boston Arts Academy, a fine arts public high school.

Sandra has served as a consultant, reviewer, and education committee member of several major arts organizations, such as the Boston Symphony and the Handel and Haydn Society. She has served numerous terms on the ESE Arts Education Advisory Council, and has been an active member of the Urban Music Educator's Coalition. She additionally was co-chair of the *Administrators in Music Education* (AIME) organization in Massachusetts for ten years, where she planned and implemented in-service opportunities for Massachusetts arts administrators annually in a fall symposium.

Sandra is the recipient of numerous awards and honors from the MA Music Educators Assn., Boston University, and a host of other organizations including Arts|Learning for her outstanding teaching, service to music education, and advocacy work.

Publicly Nominated Awards

Outstanding Community Arts Education Collaborative Awards

These awards recognize arts educators and organizations that have developed model arts education collaboratives between school and community cultural resources. Recipients demonstrate excellence in: (1) leadership in promoting arts education and building community support beyond the classroom; (2) collaborative programming between cultural institutions and schools; (3) exemplary teaching and programming in the arts; and (4) addressing the cultural and arts education needs of the community.

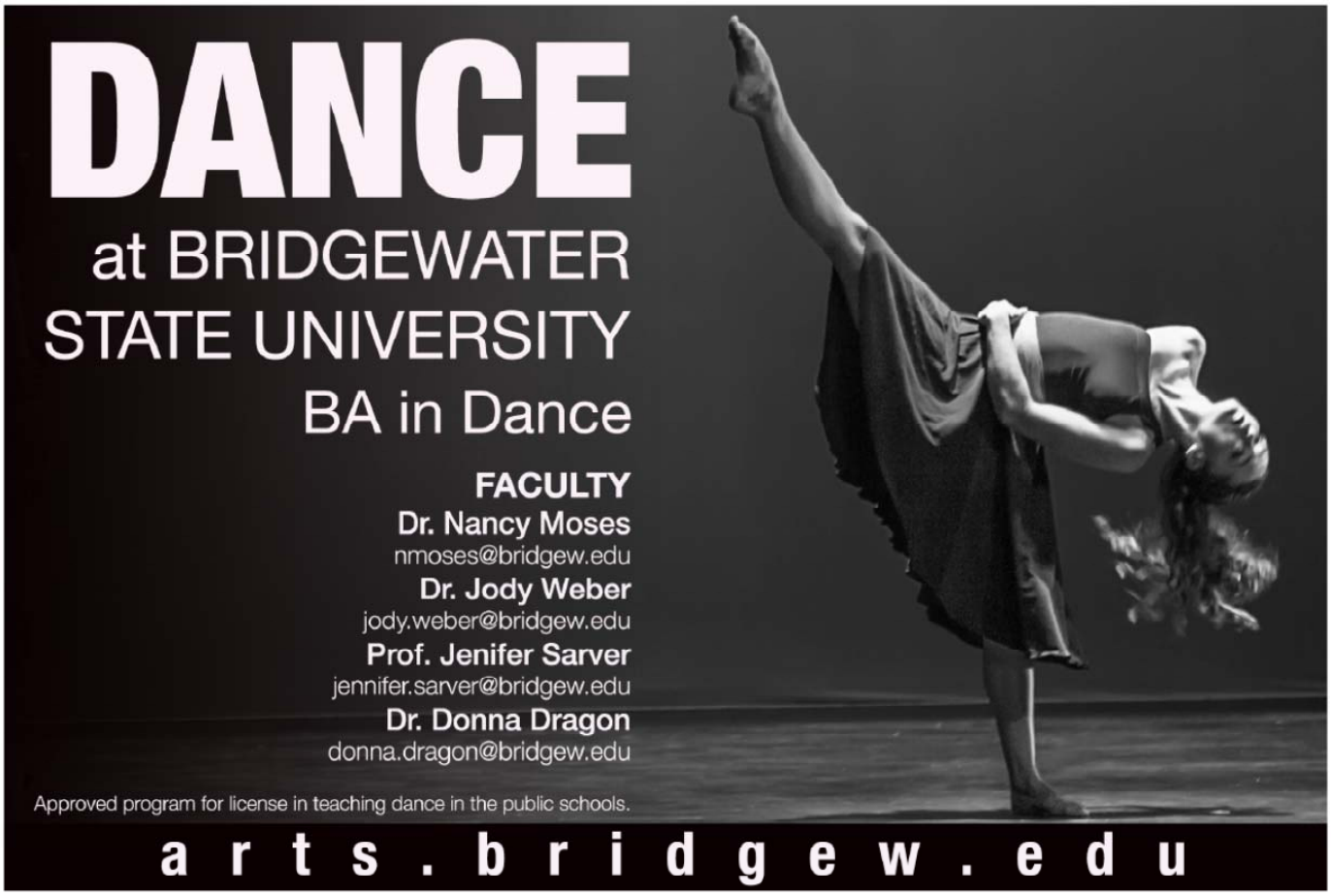
Mixed Arts: Brimmer and May School (with Charles Sumner School).

Bill Jacob, Theatre Teacher, Brimmer and May; and Jeannette Pizarro, Sumner School

Brimmer and May enjoys a 135-year history. The Brimmer School was founded in 1887 and the May School in 1880. In 1939, these two well-known Boston schools merged. From the beginning, the Brimmer and May School has been committed to creating high-achieving lifelong learners with strong moral character. Today, Brimmer and May continues this tradition educating students from Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12. In 2009, Brimmer was designated a "Model School" by The National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS).

In 2004, at the urging of the National Arts and Learning Collaborative (now Arts|Learning), Brimmer and May partnered with the Charles Sumner School in Roslindale. The goal of the partnership was for a private upper-level school and its students to share their training and love of the arts with younger elementary students from a public school with less access to the arts. The collaboration began with quarterly visits, then monthly, and in 2010, with weekly classes taught by students from Brimmer's Creative Arts Diploma (CAP) students. These classes offer Brimmer students a valuable introduction to teaching in the arts concentration of their choice, and it provides a needed arts opportunity for students in the Sumner community. In addition, since 2010 Brimmer has included Sumner School students in nearly all of our twice-yearly Upper School theatre productions, and Brimmer busses Sumner students to attend our Middle and Upper School theatre productions 2-3 times each year.

The Brimmer/Sumner collaboration has been transformational for the students involved. For Brimmer students enrolled in the CAP program, it has been an opportunity to test themselves as teachers and mentors. For the Sumner students, the experience of regular attendance at live theatre and participation in weekly arts classes has resulted in an embrace of artistic expression and experiences generally.



Music: Worcester Chamber Music Society; Neighborhood Strings Program, Tracy Kraus (Executive Director); Peter Sulski (Co-Founder) and Ariana Falk (Education Director)

Hailed as a group with imagination, style, and chops, the Worcester Chamber Music Society took the Worcester scene by storm with its initial concert in 2006. It has become a recognized cultural presence within the Greater Worcester area by presenting sold-out concerts to captivated audiences, receiving consistent critical acclaim, building new young audiences, and training rising musicians through both its Neighborhood Strings and Summer Music Camp programs.

The success of the WCMS is a direct result of the group's hard work and commitment to its music, its members, its audiences, and the community. Performances in small venues, pre-concert talks, post-concert receptions, educational outreach, and open rehearsals make WCMS a performing group that is particularly gifted at making the connection between performer, audience, and community.

Now in its fifth year, Neighborhood Strings connects the musicians of the Worcester Chamber Music society with urban youth, forming deep ties that transform the lives of the students, the musicians, and ultimately the public face of the community through music. Our program provides free instruments, after-school lessons, and intensive mentorship by WCMS teaching artists to 45 students, ages 7-15, at two teaching sites. 25 mentors from local colleges and high schools deepen our impact. Students receive private lessons, play in orchestra, and may join a teen leadership group. The year culminates in formal and informal performances including a "performance party" that involves the entire family. The focus is not just on the child as a musician, but the child as a citizen and a contributing member of society.

Theatre: Huntington Theatre Education Department, Donna Glick, Director of Education

The Huntington Theatre Education Department , directed by Donna Gllick, is a vital partner for Massachusetts schools, helping young people discover their personal and artistic potential. Huntington education programs have engaged tens of thousands of students in building literacy, leadership, civic pride, and community through theater.

The Huntington's 16-year collaboration with Codman Academy Public Charter School in Dorchester began when Codman asked the Huntington to be a founding partner. Today, theatre work with the Huntington's Education staff and teaching artists serves as a core learning experience for all Codman students. Throughout the year, both at the school and every other week at the theatre, students develop literacy, public speaking, and collaboration skills through the study of performance, dramatic literature, and poetry with the Huntington. All 9th graders compete in the national Poetry Out Loud competition; 10th graders compete in the national August Wilson Monologue competition (the Huntington runs both competitions in Massachusetts.) Ninth and 10th graders perform a year-end showcase at the theatre, open to the public. All seniors, drawing on four years of training in drama, deliver a Senior Talk -- a Socratic Apologia, or defense of his or her life. Graduation is held on a Huntington main stage. Students attend Huntington productions and receive a Student Club Card for two free tickets to every Huntington production until they turn 21.

Today, we also honor Donna Glick, Huntington's Director of Education. For 27 years, Donna has enriched the lives of teens through theatre. She's a fierce advocate for arts education in schools and has established close partnerships with schools statewide. Donna and the Huntington's Education staff have inspired an entire generation of students to find their creative voices. Donna is retiring, so we are proud to recognize the tremendous work of the Huntington Theatre Education Department *and* Donna Glick.

Visual Arts: Eliot School of Fine and Applied Arts,

Abigail Norman, Director

The Eliot School of Fine & Applied Arts inspires lifelong learning in craftsmanship and creativity for all. The school celebrated its 340th anniversary last year. It continues a legacy of public school partnerships begun in the late 19th century, when it helped spread manual arts throughout the Boston Public Schools. One of its current programs is its collaborative School Partnership Program (SPP), which ensures access to high quality visual art education for young people who need it most.

While Boston has made strides to increase arts education in its public schools, access remains uneven. SPP helps fill this gap, serving 2,000 students in some of Boston's neediest neighborhoods. Eliot School instructors teach in about 16 schools and 19 libraries, low-income housing developments, Boys & Girls Clubs, and community centers close to where young people live.

The Eliot School provides arts instruction and hands-on learning opportunities through its innovative visual arts and woodworking classes, helping students learn more effectively in the classroom and using art to give them ways to connect with themselves and the world. Eliot School art teachers take care to honor students' cultures and respond to the social, behavioral and academic challenges they may face.

The Eliot School takes a leadership role in providing professional development and support to Boston's visual art teachers. In addition to providing professional development series for its own instructors, it partners with the Boston Public Schools Arts Department and EdVestors to provide targeted professional development for BPS visual art specialists.

In addition, the Eliot School offers classes in its own schoolhouse to students aged 2–90, with a focus on manual arts. Students from SPP also attend these classes, thanks to a scholarship fund and a new teen program. All told, the Eliot School serves more than 3,600 students each year.

Kathy Tosolini Excellence in School Administration Award

Not given in 2017. This award is in honor of Kathy Tosolini, who served as the Unified Arts Director for the Plymouth Public Schools from 2007-2011 and the Senior Program Director for the Arts of the Boston Public Schools, 1995-2007. Kathy was previously honored by Arts|Learning with the Irene Buck Service to Arts Education Award in 2010.

Distinguished Arts Educator Advocate Awards

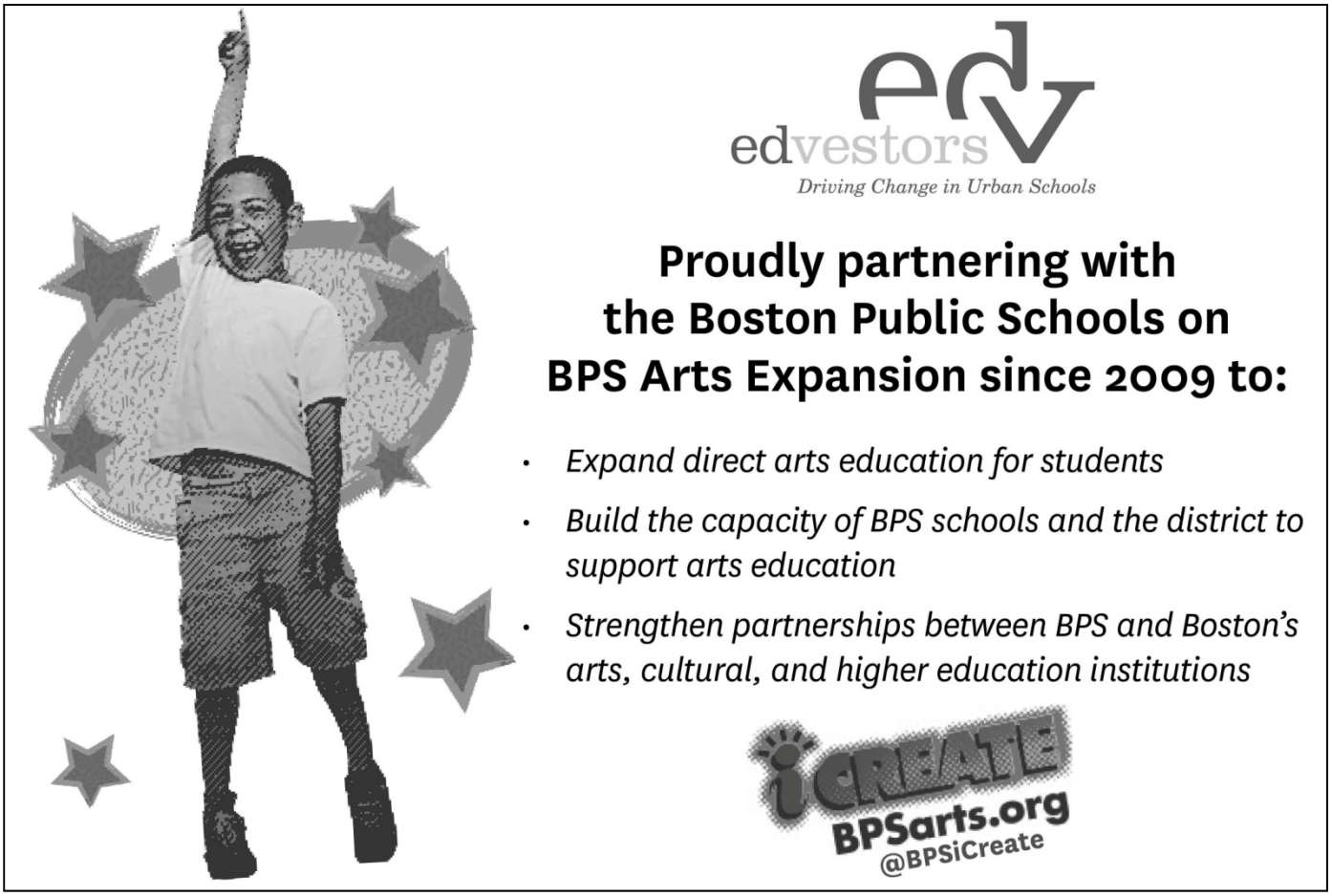
These awards recognize arts educators for: (1) demonstrated leadership in advocating for a specific arts discipline and overall arts education; (2) superior teaching in one of the four disciplines of dance, music, theatre, or visual arts; (3) creation of model arts programs and partnerships; (4) use of Massachusetts Arts Curriculum Framework and National Standards for Arts Education; (5) use of arts and cultural resources; and (6) support of opportunities for multicultural learning and interdisciplinary planning.

Distinguished Dance Educator Advocacy Award

Donna Dragon, Associate Professor of Dance, Bridgewater State University

Dr. Donna A. Dragon is Associate Professor and Dance Education Specialist in the Department of Dance and the Part-time Faculty Development Coordinator at Bridgewater State University. She prepares dance majors for teaching entrepreneurship and for K-12 teacher licensure. As a dance educator and Certified Laban Movement Analysts and Somatic Movement Therapist, she has implemented somatic and embodied education paradigms for infants to elderly people and for beginners and professionals alike in public, private, urban and rural environments, corporate settings, hospitals, rehabilitation centers, psychiatric facilities, and in K-12 and higher education.

Dr. Dragon has provided the backbone of practice and theory to the dance education program at Bridgewater State University. She teaches three sequential classes that prepare the students to teach dance leading to the application of various dance styles and forms, giving the students the material, attitudes and methods necessary to effectively teach dance content to students. The students are given mini opportunities to teach in



micro laboratory situations with peer students and with community students in the local schools. This is in preparation for the experience of student teaching, where the students are placed in the community for an intense supervised period of teaching. This program is unique, in that it is the only public program that prepares students for licensure to teach dance in the Commonwealth.

Her choreography has premiered in many northeast colleges and universities, at the UNC Charlotte in North Carolina, and has been shown on PBS television. Dr. Dragon was bestowed the Outstanding Dance Educator of the Year Award (post-secondary) by the National Dance Education Organization in 2014. In all aspects of work/life she engages in discovery and teaching/learning processes that integrate body-mind-spirit and emotions.

Dennis Wrenn Distinguished Music Educator Advocacy Award

Not given in 2017. This award honors the memory of Dennis Wrenn who tragically passed away in April of 2009 while on tour in Europe with his high school jazz ensemble. He was a beloved teacher at Algonquin Regional High School (Northborough/Southborough) for 28 years, where he was the Head of Instrumental Music as well as Chair of Fine and Performing Arts and director of numerous ensembles. His exemplary service to state and national music education associations serves as a model for all arts educators.

Distinguished Theatre Educator Advocacy Award

Danielle Bazinet, Arts Department Chair, The Sage School, Attleboro, MA

Danielle Bazinet is the Arts Department Chair and Performing Arts Teacher at The Sage School. She has been teaching at Sage for thirteen years and loves working with curious, reflective and passionate artists. This year she is excited for the opportunity to also work in the Admission Office and support new families as they begin their journey to Sage. Prior to working at Sage, she completed her master's degree in Dance and Dance Education at NYU and holds a dual bachelor's degree in Theater Education and Communications from Regis College. She is an innovative teacher who has created a developmentally sequential arts program fusing dance and theatre that has been a model program in the arts. She has developed creative classes in theatre to help prepare her students for the next level of their education. As a teacher, she believes in learning through doing, so she and her students jointly produce several theatre productions each year.

Danielle has been an active participant in the state wide High Expertise Teaching Project which designed assessments in Theatre for future evaluation. She has also been invited to be a panelist for the MTEL teacher's licensure evaluations in the arts. She has taught as an adjunct teacher-artist at Bridgewater State University, helping train the next generation of arts educators. In this role she was always educating her students in the necessity for active advocacy in the arts and helped them articulate the benefits of an active arts program. She has supervised student teachers from Bridgewater State University, helping them make the transition from student to teacher in an arts-friendly environment.

Danielle is a tireless advocate for Theatre and all the arts as the senior administrator of the arts for the entire Sage School. She coordinates all arts activities and community programming for the school in all the disciplines. She is especially active in efforts to promote STEAM in her school and in the greater arts education community. She recently was invited to speak about Arts and Science at a conference in Cambridge where she advocated for theatre and all the arts to be integrated with science. She is always an active spokesperson on behalf of the arts when speaking about and for the Sage School and beyond in the community.

The Lynn S. Feldman Distinguished Visual Art Educator Advocacy Award

This award is named in memory of beloved A|L Board Trustee and Treasurer, Lynn Sunshine Feldman, who passed away in 2016. She was a master calligrapher and visual artist, comfortable in such diverse media as painting, bookmaking, fiber arts, and sculpture.

June Krinsky-Rudder, Art Teacher, Revere High School

June Krinsky-Rudder has an extensive background in visual arts, both as an artist and art educator, and for the past sixteen years has taught art at Revere High School. As a practicing artist, she maintains a studio in East Boston. Before moving to Boston in 1994, she taught art for three years in Bellport, NY, but left the field in 1994, and returned to teaching full-time at the Home for Little Wanderers, in Jamaica Plain in 1998.

June co-founded the East Boston Artists Group in 2000, and helped coordinate the first East Boston Open Studios a year later. As an active member of the Massachusetts Art Education Association (MAEA), she has served as Secondary Education Representative, Vice-President, and President, and represented MAEA as a Delegate at the National Art Education Association (NAEA) conventions five times. She recently completed service as the Eastern Region Vice-President of NAEA, and is on the Steering Committee for Art All-State.

A passionate advocate for students, June has organized a local Portfolio Review Day at her school (now expanded to include music and theatre students), and provides opportunities for her students to exhibit their work at venues such as Endicott College, UMass-Dartmouth, and the MAEA Youth Art Month Exhibit in Boston. She also started a National Art Honor Society chapter at her school four years ago. She has hosted a number of student teachers in her classroom, from Lesley University, Salem State University, Massachusetts College of Art and Design, and the former School of the Museum of Fine Arts. Her favorite part of teaching art is being privileged to observe 'Aha moments' experienced by her students. In her many years of teaching and creating art, June has inspired students, and has been a sharing professional, as such she is a worthy recipient of this award.

Supporter:
Boston Dance Alliance proudly provides our portable dance floor to BPS *free of charge*
http://www.bostondancealliance.org/resources/raise-the-floor-2/

MADEO
Massachusetts Dance Education Organization
congratulates all of the 2017 Arts|Learning Advocacy Awards recipients!
Dance Educators - Join MADEO to bolster your skills, and to strengthen and support Dance Education in Massachusetts:
http://www.madeodance.org/

Outstanding Parent Arts Advocate Award

Andover Coalition for Education, Lenore Price, President

This award honors a parent or parent organization for demonstrating (1) outstanding support for the arts; and (2) exemplary leadership in promoting arts education in schools and building community support.

Andover Coalition for Education (ACE), a fund of the Essex County Community Foundation, is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization made up of a broad spectrum of citizens dedicated to enhancing all levels of the Andover Public Schools. Working with the Superintendent's office, the exact features of individual ACE-sponsored programs are determined case by case, year by year, allowing for ACE's partnership with Andover schools to respond with vision, creativity and skill. Having been in existence since 2005, ACE grants for the Andover schools have exceeded $500,000. ACE supports a wide variety of curricular enhancement initiatives throughout Andover Public Schools with arts being the beneficiary of a number of substantial grants.

In 2012-2013, ACE funded a Visiting Artist Program for the arts department for $30,000. In 2013 ACE funded a Graphics Lab in the visual arts department and an art display system for rotating art exhibits for $24,000. In 2016-2017, ACE has recommitted to the Visiting Artist Program for additional $25,000.

One of ACE's early commitments to the school district supported the inclusion of a grants writer which has impacted arts education in profound ways throughout the years. In 2014, thanks to a collaborative administrative team working with the grant writer, Andover Public Schools was the recipient of a two-million dollar, U.S. Department of Education Arts in Education Model Development and Dissemination grant. The four-year grant, called *New England Arts for Literacy*, supports teacher professional development and project-related components with the intent of developing a model focused on building effective student achievement in literacy and the arts.

ACE's ongoing support continues to extend and impact opportunities for students, teachers, and administrators and demonstrates how central the arts are to quality education.

School of Excellence Award

Not awarded in 2017. This award recognizes individual schools that have done an outstanding job of making the arts an essential part of education by including two or more of the following components: (1) teaching all the arts (dance, music theatre, visual arts) as specific disciplines; (2) providing imaginative learning environments; (3) including parental involvement; (4) promoting learning about other cultures; and (5) encouraging community connections.

Outstanding Student Arts Advocate Award

Rixy Fernandez, University of Massachusetts, Boston

This award is designed to honor a high school or college student who has demonstrated exceptional leadership in making the case that the arts are important for Massachusetts youth. The recipient should be seen as a model within the school or organization and exemplify its mission.

Ms. Rixy Fernandez is a freelance visual artist and instructor, focused on expanding the creativity of others, while highlighting the therapeutic benefits of the arts. As a junior at the University of Massachusetts Boston, Ms. Fernandez has been working towards incorporating her studio art background into a creative career, with a focus on mentoring younger students.

During her role as Art Juror & Mentor Intern for nonprofit publisher, The Marble Collection, Rixy worked one-on-one with teen artists and writers to guide their work for publication for real-world audiences. While at UMass Boston, Ms. Fernandez has held several positions around campus such as Marketing Creative for the Art Union, Illustrator for Writ Large – a student run non-fictional magazine, and Coordinator for the juried student exhibition in the Harbor Gallery. Ms. Fernandez is also a member of the Boston LGBTQIA Arts Alliance, which is "a volunteer artist-run organization that seeks to elevate the visibility of and provide resources to LGBTQIA-identifying Boston-area artists."

Ms. Fernandez is currently earning her B.A. in Studio Arts with a focused track in sculpture and mixed media art. Her ultimate goal is to continue to improve her craft while positively impacting others through practicing and teaching art.

Good Neighbor Award

MASSCreative, Boston, MA, Matt Wilson, Executive Director; Tracie Konopinski, Senior Campaign Director; Andre Green, Political Director

This award is designed to honor organizations or individuals who have gone out of their way to offer artistic, logistical, technical, moral, or financial support for arts education to thrive in their community.

Founded in 2012, MASSCreative is dedicated to working with citizens and organizations across the state to make Massachusetts creativity-driven from the ground up. The organization is passionate about strengthening arts education and the arts across the Commonwealth.

MASSCreative and Arts|Learning joined together in 2014 to launch and lead the *Arts for All Coalition* to advocate for quality arts education for every Massachusetts student. Partially funded through a grant from the Americans for the Arts, the coalition now includes Arts|Learning, MASSCreative, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the Boston Public Schools,

EdVestors, Young Audiences of Massachusetts, MassINC, MA DESE, and Project Learn, Lowell. MASSCreative has brought to the coalition extensive political expertise and experience, skills, and successes in arts advocacy and applied these to arts education.

Over the past year, under the co-leadership of Arts|Learning and MASSCreative, the collaborative led a successful state-wide advocacy campaign to strengthen arts education for every student in every district. As a result, the Department and Board of Elementary and Secondary Education has pledged to include the arts in the state's school reporting system. The new district and school profile "report cards" will provide transparent arts access and participation information to help schools, districts, school boards, parents and communities better understand the strength and needs of arts education in each school. DESE also agreed to review and revise the MA Arts Curriculum Framework which has not been updated since 1999.

In addition, MASSCreative has created the Youth Arts Advocacy initiative to help Massachusetts youth speak up and out for arts education. Through training, young people learn to develop and share their own stories about the importance of the arts in their lives. With MASSCreative's help, these voices are now reaching legislators, superintendents, school committees and funders, building support for arts education across the Commonwealth. There is no stronger voice to advocate for arts education than the young people whose lives are changed by the arts. Arts|Learning is pleased to recognize our partner, MASSCreative, for its extraordinary contribution to arts education advocacy in Massachusetts with the 2017 "Good Neighbor Award."

About Our Performers

Neighborhood Strings Program of the Worcester Chamber Music Society (Please see detailed information under the Collaborative Awards, page 7 above). Performing today are four members of the Neighborhood Strings Teen Club:

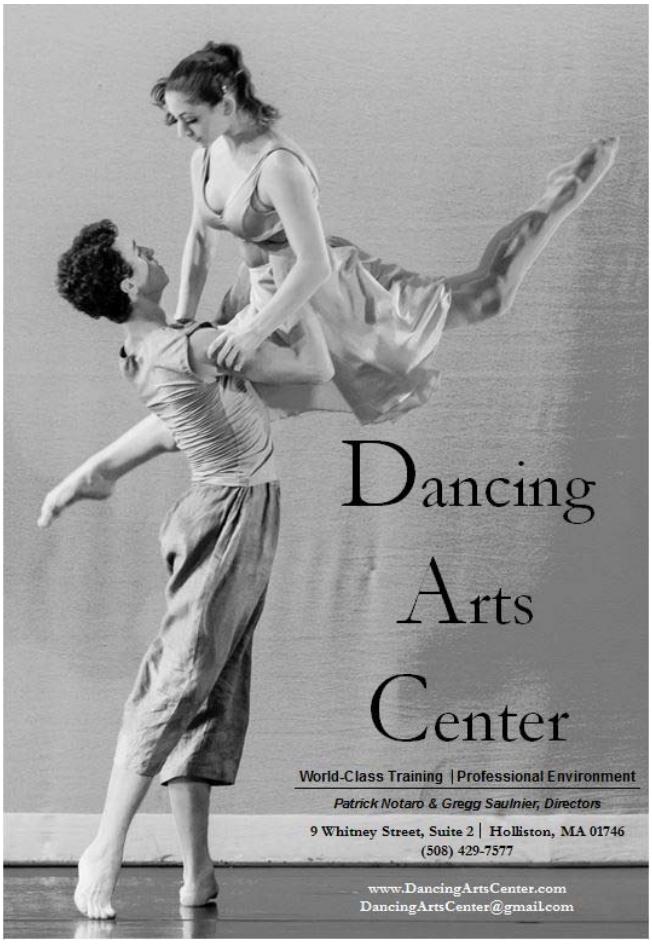
- Jean-Pierre Cruz, violin
- Peter Korfuzi, viola
- Melanie Aguilar, cello
- Tabatha Criollo, cello

Dancing Arts Center, located in Holliston, MA and led by Co-Directors Patrick Notaro and Gregg Saulnier, provides world-class instruction for students of all ages. Our innovative Children's Division nurtures and prepares young minds and bodies for success. DAC's Main Division follows renowned training curricula in classical ballet, modern dance, improvisation, jazz, and choreography. Drop-In classes are also offered in our Adult/Teen Division.

This evening's performance is entitled ***Rainbow Etude***, and is part of the American Dance Legacy Initiative's ADLI Repertory Etudes Collection, curated and directed by Carolyn Adams and Julie Adams Strandberg.

Teacher: Hayley Kenney
Choreographer: Donald McHale
The Dancers:

- Nicoletta Agostino, 17
- Jenna Calabrese, 17
- Jessica Lynch,16
- Ariel Ott, 17



Arts|Learning Board of Trustees, 2016-17

About Arts|Learning

Arts|Learning believes that the arts have the power to transform education. When the arts are at the center of the core curriculum, students develop the 21st-Century skills they need to lead fulfilled lives and to experience greater success in college and the workplace. Arts|Learning exists to be a catalyst in that transformation. Our mission is to develop and advocate policies, practices, programs and partnerships for a new level of excellence in pre-K–college teaching and learning, in and through the arts.

Founded in 1999 as a non-profit organization, Arts|Learning is the unified voice for arts education in Massachusetts, bringing together a large variety of constituencies interested in quality education in and through the arts. We bring years of experience and expertise to bear on arts education, programming, services, and advocacy. We believe this is best accomplished through the intersection of our three areas of focus:

• Convener • Networking and Advocacy • Teaching and Learning

For more information about Arts|Learning, please visit our website at www.artslearning.org. Inquiries may be sent to info@artslearning.org, or P.O Box 483, Medfield, MA 02052.

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You can help by:

- Becoming a Member
- Making a Donation of any amount
- Volunteering to serve on a committee

Please check out these opportunities on our website:
www.artslearning.org. Thank you!

Networking and Advocacy Leadership Team, 2016-17

The Networking and Advocacy Group of Arts|Learning is led by a Leadership Team of individuals from across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts who represent the arts-teaching workforce. This includes K-12 arts educators and administrators, teaching artists, arts education and cultural organization representatives, those in higher education and research, legislators, parents, business leaders, and funders. A|L advocates for quality arts education programs across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and acts as an umbrella organization for various constituencies and professional arts education associations who support the arts and arts education.

Since 1984, the A|L Networking and Advocacy Group (previously the Massachusetts Alliance for Arts Education, founded 1981) has recognized exceptional individuals and organizations who advocate for the arts in order to ensure that every child in Massachusetts receives a high-quality arts education. Through the A|L annual "Champions of Arts Education Advocacy" awards ceremony, over 260 arts educators, schools of excellence, school administrators, school committees, parent advocates, legislators, community organizations, cultural institutions, and businesses have been honored. Award nominations for most awards may be made by any member of the arts and cultural community, and winners are selected by A|L's Awards Committee. Some awards, such as the Irene Buck Service to Arts Education, the Legislative Leadership, and Media Support for Arts Education are nominated and selected by the N & A Leadership Team. The Oddleifson A|L Award is nominated and selected by the Arts|Learning Board of Trustees.

For information about A|L membership, please visit:
http://www.artslearning.org/member-2/

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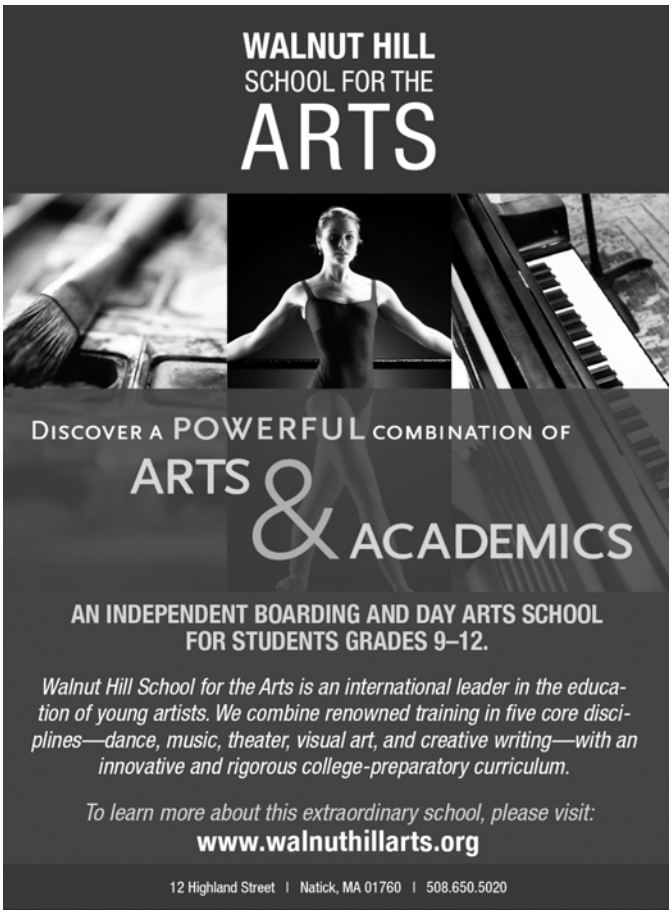

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2017 ArtsILearning Awards
Created By
Harary Glass Studio
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www.debbieharary.com

Debbie Harary was introduced to glass making while living in New York City working as a textile designer. She moved to the Boston area in the early 1980's and continued pursuing art as a stained glass artist. Debbie started creating kilnformed glass in 2007 and has since exclusively focused her artistic expression in this form of glass making. Her work is featured in several galleries throughout New England as well as across the United Stated and Canada. Locally, Debbie is an active member of the Clever Hand Gallery Artist Cooperative in Wellesley, MA. Debbie finds her journey as a glass artist extremely rewarding. She welcomes commission work and loves creating new ideas in glass.