31st Annual
Champions of Arts Education Advocacy Awards

Amazing Things Arts Center
160 Hollis Street (Route 126)
Framingham, Massachusetts

Wednesday, May 30, 2018, 6:30 PM
31st Annual
Champions of Arts Education Advocacy Awards

Amazing Things Arts Center
160 Hollis Street, Framingham, Massachusetts
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31st Annual Champions of Arts Education Advocacy Awards

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PROGRAM

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<td>6:30</td>
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| 7:00  | Welcome and Performance        | Charles Combs, President, Arts|Learning Board  
Nancy Moses, Chair, Networking and Advocacy Team |
| 7:05  | Awards Presentations, Part 1   | Networking and Advocacy Team Members               |
|       | Comments from Select Awardees  | Oddleifson Awardees  
Legislative Awardees  
Irene Buck Awardee |
| 7:30  | Performance                    | *Sereda Danceworks*  
Natick, Massachusetts |
| 7:35  | Awards Presentations, Part 2   | Networking and Advocacy Team Members               |
| 8:00  | Special Announcement           | Irene Buck, Nancy Moses                            |
2018 “Champions of Arts Education Advocacy” Awardees

A|L Board of Trustees Award:

Eric Oddleifson Arts|Learning Service Award
- Mark Churchill, D.M.A., Director, El Sistema USA; Dean Emeritus of Preparatory and Continuing Education and Senior Advisor, New England Conservatory; Music Director and Conductor, Symphony Pro Musica
- Lois Hetland, Ed.D., Professor, Art Education, Massachusetts College of Art and Design; Affiliate of Project Zero, Harvard Graduate School of Education

Networking and Advocacy Leadership Team Awards:

Legislative Leadership Award
- Massachusetts State Senator Adam G. Hinds of Pittsfield (Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin & Hampden District)
- Massachusetts House Representative Mary S. Keefe of Worcester (15th Worcester District)

Media Support of Arts Education Award
- The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, Massachusetts

Irene Buck Service to Arts Education Award
- Myran Parker-Brass, Executive Director of the Arts, Boston Public Schools, Boston, Massachusetts

Publicly Nominated Awards:

Outstanding Community Arts Education Collaborative
- Dance: Dr. Jody Weber, Professor, Bridgewater State University, Bridgewater, Massachusetts

Corporate/Business Support of Arts Education
- Johnson String Instrument, Carol Johnson, President. Newton Upper Falls, Massachusetts

Tosolini Excellence in School Administration Arts Advocate
- J. Curtis Warner Jr., Associate Vice President, Community and Government Relations, Berklee college of Music, Boston, Massachusetts

Distinguished Arts Educator Advocate Awards
- Distinguished Dance Educator Advocacy Award (Sponsored by Bridgewater State University Department of Dance):
  - Meghan McLyman, Professor, Salem State University, Salem, Massachusetts
- The Dennis Wrenn Distinguished Music Educator Advocacy Award (Sponsored by the Massachusetts Music Educators Association)
  - Jack Corbett, Framingham Public Schools, Framingham, Massachusetts
- Distinguished Theatre Educator Advocacy Award:
  - Nicole Smith, Faculty, Charles Sumner Elementary School, Roslinale (Boston), MA
- The Lynn S. Feldman Distinguished Visual Art Educator Advocacy Award:
  Helen Downey, Marlborough Public Schools, Marlborough, Massachusetts (retired)
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.

Mark Churchill, D.M.A., Director, El Sistema USA; Dean Emeritus of Preparatory and Continuing Education and Senior Advisor, New England Conservatory; Music Director and Conductor, Symphony Pro Musica

Educator, conductor and cellist Mark Churchill is Dean Emeritus of New England Conservatory’s Department of Preparatory and Continuing Education, which he oversaw for 31 years. He launched the School of Continuing Education as the counterpart to the Preparatory and shaped the first two decades of its growth. In addition he established the NEC at Walnut Hill Program (1982).

Dr. Churchill oversaw NEC’s Center for Music-in-Education, which featured the development of new music education curricula and music teacher training programs. He is founder and board member of El Sistema USA, the advocacy and service organization for US programs that are inspired by the renowned Venezuelan model of social development through music, and he established NEC’s Abreu Fellows Program in 2008. He oversaw NEC’s close relationship with El Sistema until 2010. In January 2018 he was given El Sistema USA’s Lifetime Achievement Award.

Dr. Churchill served as Associate Conductor of the Boston Ballet from 1990 to 2012 and is the founder and Music Director of Symphony Pro Musica, now celebrating its 35th anniversary. Former conducting roles include Worcester’s Salisbury Lyric Opera and Salisbury Chamber Orchestra and the Thayer Conservatory Orchestra. He has also led the New Zealand National Youth Orchestra in its annual gala concert and recently conducted the National Ballet of Mongolia and the Tokyo’s Komaki Ballet. He is the founder and vice president of the Youth Orchestra of the Americas, established in 2002, which draws gifted young musicians from throughout North and South America. For eleven years he served as Resident Conductor and Faculty Chairman of the Asian Youth Orchestra in Hong Kong, a pan-Asian organization led at its inception by the late Sir Yehudi Menuhin.

As a cellist Dr. Churchill has appeared as soloist, recitalist, and chamber music player throughout the United States, South America, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. He was given the Boston Cello Society’s 2017 annual recognition award for outstanding service to education, performance, and scholarship. Dr. Churchill has presented numerous master classes and workshops, and has served on the faculty of the Cremona, Heifetz, Musicorda and Foulger International Music Academies, and Greenwood Music Camp. He and his late wife, Marylou Speaker Churchill, received Harvard’s Luise Vosgerchian Teaching Award in 2005.

Dr. Churchill holds the B.M. and M.M. degrees from New England Conservatory and a D.M.A. from the Hartt School.

Lois Hetland, Ed.D., Professor, Art Education Department at the Massachusetts College of Art and Design; Senior Research Affiliate of Project Zero, Harvard Graduate School of Education

Trained in music and visual arts, Lois Hetland taught elementary and middle school students for 17 years. In 2013, she made her first trip to India and returned for her sixth visit in February 2017. She has initiated an institutional partnership between MassArt and the Srishti Institute of Art, Design, and Technology in Bangalore and has brought art students annually from MassArt to India on study tours since 2015.

In 2017 Dr. Hetland co-authored Studio Thinking in the Elementary School, to be published by Teachers’ College Press in 2018. Other recent work includes reviewing arts and education proposals for IES; co-authoring a chapter on a participatory evaluation of Art21 Educators (conducted 2010-2012); and working with Abt Associates to evaluate nine partnerships among community arts organizations, universities, and schools in Wisconsin and Alaska, funded by the Margaret A. Cargill Foundation.

Her groundbreaking research has result in numerous publications and books. Previous work includes Co-Principal Investigator for the research leading to the co-authored book, Studio Thinking 2: The Real Benefits of Visual Arts Education (2013, Teachers’ College, 2nd edition; 1st edition, 2007), supported by the Getty and Ahmanson Foundations (2001-2004); Principal Investigator on a research and professional development project in Alameda County, CA, funded by three successive US Department of Education grants (2003-2010); collaboratively conducting ten meta-analytic reviews with Dr. Ellen Winner analyzing the effects of arts learning on academic outcomes, funded by the Bryant Family Foundation (1997-2000); leading an assessment initiative at MassArt resulting in the first set of college-wide graduation goals (2009-2013); serving as Co-Principal Investigator on Qualities of Quality: Understanding Excellence in Arts Education (2005-2008), funded by the Wallace Foundation; serving as Co-Principal Investigator on a National Science Foundation quasi-experimental study of potential transfer from visual arts learning to geometric spatial reasoning (2008-2013); and co-leader of the Studio Thinking Network, a monthly online conversation among US and international educators who use the Studio Thinking Framework (2012-2014).

Dr. Hetland received the B.S.S. degree in Music and Visual Arts, Cornell College, Mt. Vernon, Iowa; the Ed.M. degree, Harvard University; and the Ed.D., Harvard University.
Supporters:

Congratulations from the MA Dance Education Organization! madeodance.org

Proud to support arts in our community! The Jewish Arts Collaborative. www.jartsboston.org

The BSU Dance Department

Is proud to sponsor this year’s Distinguished Arts Educator Advocate in Dance Award
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.

State Senator Adam G. Hinds
Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin & Hampden District

State Senator Adam G. Hinds (D- Pittsfield) is completing his first term as a Massachusetts Senator. He represents the largest geographic territory in the Legislature, comprised of 52 western communities situated across Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden Counties.

He serves as the Senate chair of the Joint Committee on Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development and the Senate vice-chair of the Joint Committee on Economic Development & Emerging Technologies. He is a member of the powerful Senate Committee on Ways & Means as well as several other policy committees with jurisdiction over matters of importance throughout western Mass: Higher Education; Housing; Mental Health, Substance Abuse & Recovery; and Intergovernmental Affairs. Senator Hinds also serves as the Senate co-chair of the Rural Caucus and is an active member of the Gateway Cities, Regional Schools, Regional Transit Authority and Trails Caucuses.

Senator Hinds is the founding director of the Pittsfield Community Connection, a program designed to proactively engage at-risk youth before exposure to and engagement in violence and crime. He, along with Pittsfield City officials, was successful in winning a grant that will bring up to $5 million to Pittsfield to move young men engaged in illegal activities towards education, jobs, and counseling. He continues to serve as the Chair of the program’s Steering Committee and as an active Board Member of Downtown Pittsfield Inc., dedicated to fostering local economic development.

Senator Hinds is the former Executive Director of the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition, based in North Adams. As the leader of this organization he worked to connect, engage and empower regional residents to respond to local challenges, including issues related to employment, health and addiction.

Senator Hinds is working to keep young adults in the area through his work on the Steering Committee of the Berkshire Youth Leadership Program, a program of the Berkshire Chamber of Commerce, and as a Member of the Berkshire Compact for Education. He is committed to our high quality regional institutions and is a Corporator of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts Foundation and a Member of the Access and Benefits Committee of Berkshire Health Systems, the region’s largest employer. Senator Hinds also serves on the Board of Directors of the Robert F. Kennedy Children’s Action Corps, and is a Truman National Security Fellow.

Senator Hinds was hired by the United Nations and spent nearly ten years working on issues at the heart of US national interest in the Middle East. This included three-and-a-half years in Iraq, two years in Jerusalem, worked with Kofi Annan to attempt to broker a ceasefire in Syria, and was part of a team that worked to eliminate Syria’s chemical weapons program.

In his free time, Senator Hinds rides his Harley, skis, bikes throughout the district, and takes advantage of the abundance of outdoor recreation and cultural resources the region has to offer. He is a 3rd degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do and has a strong appreciation for a good cup of coffee.

House Representative Mary S. Keefe,
State Representative for 15th Worcester District

A lifelong resident of Massachusetts, and originally from the town of Sutton, Representative Mary Keefe has lived in downtown Worcester for close to thirty years. Neighborhood life and community work have been central to her organizing work. She has been a longtime neighborhood leader and advocate for the importance of democracy and public life. Her affiliations include; founding member of Progressive Democrats of Massachusetts, Co-chair of Worcester Interfaith, board member of the Green Hill Park Coalition, and founding member of the Worcester Community Labor Coalition.

Mary Keefe has a deep love and passion for the arts. She has a degree in visual arts and has taught at the Worcester Art Museum. She is the new Co-Chair of the Cultural Caucus at the Statehouse and is an active member of Blackstone Printmakers.

For 12 years Mary was the Executive Director of the Pleasant Street Neighborhood Network Center (PSNNC); a grass-roots resident-led organization that centers its work on issues that most concern working families, immigrants, business leaders, churches and institutions within the Piedmont area of the Worcester 15th District. Though the target area of the PSNNC is geographically specific, the work of the organization has had city-wide impact in terms of modeling solutions to inner-city challenges such as lack of summer jobs for youth, youth violence and impact on families, isolation and lack of community, failing neighborhood schools, and gaps in public safety services.

Inspired by and committed to the practice of community organizing, Mary is excited for the chance to extend this work as State Representative and continuing to make a difference in the lives of her constituents.

She has three adult children, Joe, Thom and Nora Kate Keefe. Mary is a graduate of Massachusetts College of Art (BFA, 1971) and received the Worcester Telegram & Gazette Visions Award for Community Service in 2006.
Media Support of Arts Education Award
The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA

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.

The Berkshire Eagle is one of three local daily newspapers published by New England Newspapers Inc. which traces its origins back to the Western Star, a weekly newspaper founded in 1789 in Stockbridge, Mass. That paper changed its name and place of publication several times, as well as its ownership, but it was a continuously operated enterprise, which eventually became the weekly Berkshire County Eagle in 1852.

Kelton B. Miller, along with several partners, purchased that paper in 1891. Miller soon bought out his partners, and the paper remained in the Miller family until 1995.

Over the years, The Berkshire Eagle and its sister newspapers became highly regarded. In 1973, one of the Eagle’s editors, Roger Linscott, was awarded a Pulitzer Prize for his editorial writing, attracting national attention to the Millers’ newspapers. The Eagle became an attraction for journalism school graduates starting their careers, and many of those reporters went on to renowned careers throughout the journalistic world in publications such as The New York Times, The Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, Time magazine and others. The Eagle is now owned by Digital First Media.

The mission of the paper is to encourage the people of Berkshire County to take steps to improve the quality of life and economic conditions for all, to vigorously exercise and protect the First Amendment, and to be the voice of the Berkshires without fear or favor.

The Eagle shows a general predisposition toward free expression, as well as leaning toward progressive ideas, environmental conservation, the encouragement of innovation and entrepreneurship, and the promotion of tourism and cultural entities. With this in mind, the paper has extensive and comprehensive coverage of the arts and culture, education, and arts education issues.

Irene Buck Service to Arts Education Award
Myran Parker-Brass, Executive Director for the Arts, Boston Public Schools

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.

Myran Parker Brass has tirelessly worked to advocate for strong arts throughout Massachusetts and beyond. She has been a key member of the “Arts for All” coalition that includes ArtsLearning, MASSCreative, the MA Cultural Council, and EdVestors. The work of this coalition has led to the inclusion of the arts in the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education’s new Accountability Plan (data in the arts will soon be on every public school profile “report card”) as well as the current revision process for the Arts Curriculum Framework.

Parker-Brass spent her early career teaching in the public schools in her hometown of Chicago. A classically trained mezzo-soprano, she is an accomplished performer who has sung everything from opera to jazz to African-American spirituals throughout the United States, Europe, and South America. She is also a choral conductor and remains an active musician.

Myran spent 20 years of working as the education and community-programs director at the prestigious Boston Symphony Orchestra. Throughout her years at the BSO, Parker-Brass had worked closely with the Boston schools, organizing teacher trainings, arranging for musicians to visit schools, and bringing students and their families to the theater for orchestral performances.

Myran joined the Boston Public Schools in 2011. She has led an ambitious expansion of arts education that now provides a diverse array of dance, music, theater, and visual-arts instruction during the school day. She has vastly improved the amount and quality of instruction that all students in New England’s largest school district receive in the arts as well as significantly increasing the budget and staffing. Additionally, Myran has fostered and improved partnerships with a large number of cultural organizations throughout the city with Boston students, giving increased opportunity and access to quality arts education experiences.

Her visionary leadership in the Boston Public schools, her strong advocacy of arts education for all students, and her active role as a professional musician led ArtsLearning to the obvious conclusion that this extraordinary woman should receive this year’s Irene Buck Service to Arts Education Award.

2018 Awards by Kemp Pottery

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(508) 255-5853

31st Annual Champions of Arts Education Advocacy Awards 2018 -7-
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.

Dance – Jody Weber, Professor of Dance, Bridgewater State University

Dr. Jody Weber is currently chair of the Dance Department at Bridgewater State University, having devoted herself to the mission of training excellent teachers of dance for the public schools and the private studios in Massachusetts for almost two decades. As a result of her efforts, quality dance education has been more available to a greater number of students of our Commonwealth.

Dr. Weber is an active arts advocate in her educational activities and in her professional dance activities. She constantly works to promote the Dance Department in the university setting, volunteering to participate in interdisciplinary programming such as the Creative Arts Festival at school. She also makes dance visible by mentoring students for the Undergraduate Research Symposiums at school, giving them the opportunity to advocate for dance education themselves.

Dr. Weber is also Artistic Director and Choreographer for Weber Dance, a nonprofit concert dance company based in Boston Massachusetts. As part of her work, she schedules performances and residencies in various community settings and schools, including Cambridge; Dorchester; Juneau, Alaska; Washington DC; New York City; and Lewiston, ME.

Jody’s choreography has been presented through numerous local outlets as well as venues in New York City, Florida, Montana, British Columbia, Alaska, Colorado, Maine and Washington D.C. In the 2001, 2005, 2009 & 2013 seasons, Dr. Weber received an Artist Fellowship Grant from the Somerville Arts Council to support her choreography. She also the recipient of grants from the Boston Dance Alliance, the Choreographer’s Workspace, and most recently, the Boston Center for the Arts. Her work has received critical attention in the Globe, Herald, and The Phoenix. Dr. Weber is the author of The Evolution of Aesthetic and Expressive Dance in Boston.

Dr. Jody Weber received a BFA from SUNY Purchase in 1988, an M.A. from American University in 1992, and a Ph.D. in dance history from Boston University in 2005.

Is proud to sponsor

The Dennis Wrenn Distinguished Arts Educator Advocate in Music Award

Congratulations to Jack Corbett Framingham Public Schools
State Senator Adam G. Hinds (D- Pittsfield) is completing his first term as a Massachusetts Senator. He represents the largest Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin & Hampden District.

Senator Hinds is the founding director of the Pittsfield Transit Authority and Trails Caucuses. He is committed to our high quality regional economic development. Senator Hinds is working to keep young adults in the area through his work on the Steering Committee of the Berkshire Youth Community Coalition, based in North Adams. As the former Executive Director of the Northern Berkshire Liberal Arts Foundation and a Member of the Access and Benefits Committee of Berkshire Health Systems, the region's largest institutions and is a Corporator of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts Foundation and a Member of the Gateway Cities, Regional Schools, Regional Recovery; and Intergovernmental Affairs. Senator Hinds also serves on the Board of Directors of the Berkshire Compact for Higher Education; Housing; Mental Health, Substance Abuse & Technologies.  He is a member of the powerful Senate Committee on Ways & Means as well as several other policy committees with jurisdiction over matters of importance throughout western Mass: Arts and Cultural Development and the Senate vice-chair of the Arts and Cultural Development and the Senate vice-chair of the Higher Education; Housing; Mental Health, Substance Abuse &

He, along with Pittsfield City officials, was engaged at-risk youth before exposure to and engagement in violence and crime.  He, along with Pittsfield City officials, was engaged at-risk youth before exposure to and engagement in violence and crime. Senator Hinds is the founding director of the Pittsfield Community Connection, a program designed to proactively engage at-risk youth before exposure to and engagement in violence and crime. He, along with Pittsfield City officials, was engaged at-risk youth before exposure to and engagement in violence and crime. He, along with Pittsfield City officials, was engaged at-risk youth before exposure to and engagement in violence and crime.

In his free time, Senator Hinds rides his Harley, skis, bikes through the district, and takes advantage of the abundance of outdoor activities. He is a 3rd degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do and has a strong interest in martial arts. He has been a lifelong resident of Massachusetts, and originally from the Hampden Counties.

Mary Keefe has a deep love and passion for the arts.  She has a degree in visual arts and has taught at the Worcester Art Museum. She is the new Co-Chair of the Cultural Caucus at the Statehouse and is an active member of Blackstone Printmakers. Her affiliations include; founding member of Progressive Democrats of Massachusetts, Co-chair of Worcester Interfaith, member of the Worcester Community Labor Coalition. Inspired by and committed to the practice of community organizing work. She has been a longtime neighborhood leader and community work have been centric for Mary in her downtown Worcester for close to thirty years. Neighborhood life and gaps in public safety services.

For 12 years Mary was the Executive Director of the Pleasant Street Neighborhood Network Center (PSNNC); a grass-roots resident-led organization that centers its work on issues that most impact the lives of her constituents. Organizing, Mary is excited for the chance to extend this work as State Representative and continuing to make a difference in the lives of her constituents.

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County is a graduate of Massachusetts College of Art (BFA, 1971) and received the Worcester Telegram & Gazette Visions Award in 2006.
Corporate/Business Support of Arts Education
Johnson String Instrument, Carol Johnson, President.
Newton Upper Falls, Massachusetts

Johnson String Instrument was founded in 1976 in Newton, MA to provide quality string instruments, accessories, sheet music, repairs and more to musicians throughout New England. Founders Roger and Carol Johnson set out to create a family-owned shop that would support stringed instrument players throughout their musical careers. They have one of the best rental programs in the country, an extensive inventory of sheet music and accessories, and a well-respected instrument sales and repair and restoration division.

Their rental program and in particular their philanthropic activities are why they are being nominated for this award; they have always been committed to providing high quality rental instruments to players of all ages and economic backgrounds and worked extensively with programs in the New England area to make this possible. In 2013, Carol Johnson founded The Johnson String Project, a non-profit that works with Johnson String Instrument and the Massachusetts Cultural Council to provide high quality rental instruments to El Sistema-inspired programs throughout Massachusetts that work with underserved communities. Through these efforts, they have been able to provide over 300 instruments between 8 programs for the past 3 years.

This dedication to equal access to arts education for all by eliminating the financial barrier to an instrument faced by many is something that is sorely needed and has been appreciated throughout the commonwealth since the program’s inception and what makes their contribution to arts education so unique and necessary.

Kathy Tosolini Excellence in School Administration Award
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.

J. Curtis Warner, Jr., Associate Vice President, Community and Government Relations, Berklee College of Music

Since his days as the Director of Instrumental and Choral Music at South Boston High School, Curtis has been a tireless advocate for arts education. He carried this advocacy onward to Berklee College of Music where he was appointed the first director, then Associate Vice President, of Education Outreach, connecting higher education with the public schools in Boston and nationwide.

Curtis has dedicated his adult and professional life to serving young people in the arts, principally in music. In whichever position he holds, and wherever his role is, he uses every professional and personal connection he has to contribute to the well-being of young people on the path of arts learning. Along the way, he generously and freely shares his knowledge, intellect, and resources with his colleagues around the country. He is never selfish and honestly helps and urges others to succeed.

He is the founder of the Berklee City Music Network, a national and international consortium of over 40 music centers that are committed to providing high-quality contemporary music learning to youth in underserved communities. The Berklee City Music Network continues to reach a broader audience in this country and overseas.

He is also a co-founder of the Boston Arts Academy, the first arts high school in the Boston Public Schools and celebrating its 20th anniversary. It is still highly regarded for its standard in both the arts and liberal arts college-style study program; a majority of their graduates consistently advance to college.

Curtis has an undergraduate degree in Music Education from Berklee College, and a Master’s degree in Education from Cambridge College. He joined the Boston Public Schools as a music teacher, was appointed Assistant Headmaster, thence to Berklee in leadership roles.

From a letter of support: “While we, his friends and colleagues, sing praises of his professional skills and accomplishments, we always add: ‘We admire Curtis’ humility and generosity even more.’”

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
Meghan McLyman, Professor of Dance, Salem State University

The 2018 Award is being sponsored by Bridgewater State University

Meghan McLyman is a Professor of Dance at Salem State University and the Chair of the Music and Dance Department in Salem, MA where she received the 2017 Distinguished Teaching Award from the University. She has been instrumental in developing the dance major among other programs on campus. She graduated with a BA in dance from
Point Park University, received an MA in dance and an arts management certificate from American University, and an MFA from Hollins University in partnership with the American Dance Festival.

Meghan has taught courses at various dance programs including The Colleges of the Fenway, The College of the Holy Cross, James Madison University, North Quincy High School, Green Street Studios, and Avery Ballet. She has held master classes at Moving Target Boston, Deep Dance at The Dance Complex, Tufts University, MIT, Webster University, the American Dance Festival, the American College Dance Association, and at the Massachusetts Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. She is the co-director of Accumulation Dance and has received recognition for her work from the Boston Foundation, Somatic Dance Conference, Boston Center for the Arts, Crash Arts/World Music, Green Street Studios, the Somerville Arts Council, Concord Academy and at the American Dance Festival.

Meghan has performed with The Caitlin Corbett Dance Company, 4 Square, The Falling Flight Project, Digby Dance, The Moving Laboratory, Flip Side Dance Theatre, Sister's Trousers, and with The Avery Ballet. She continues to develop her craft by immerse herself in various workshops, conferences, and master classes.

Meghan McLyman has been a member of a number of dance advocacy groups and initiatives. She is a board member of the New England Region of the American College Dance Association that fosters dance scholarship and studies at the collegiate level. At the state level, she has served on the board of the MA Dance Education Organization (MADEO) since 2011 as either the President or Vice-President. Her responsibilities have included emails to members informing them on arts advocacy action items and messages from other partnering organizations from the National Dance Education Organization, MassCreative, and Arts/Learning. Under MADEO, she is also responsible for organizing workshops that focus on developing teaching practices.

**Dennis Wrenn Distinguished Music Educator Advocacy Award**

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.
Dennis Wrenn Distinguished Music Educator Advocacy Award

The 2018 Award is being sponsored by the MA Music Educators Association

Jack Corbett, Framingham Public Schools and Worcester Youth Orchestras

Jack Corbett advocated for a string program in the elementary school where he teaches. Because of the success for this pilot program, the string program is now expanding to two other buildings. He worked hard to find instruments that lower-income students could borrow in order for every student had access to the new program who wished to participate. He also advocated for allotted time in the schedule for cross-disciplinary planning to integrate all subjects, including the arts, in cross-curricular projects. This was included in the school’s improvement plan.

Jack is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts Amherst with a B.M. degree having made the Dean’s List each semester. He currently holds a 3.9 GPA at Ithaca College for his Master’s in music.

His love of learning is evident in his work ethic in both his own studies as well as his contributions to the Framingham Schools and the Worcester Youth Orchestras. His gentle, kind, energetic, and humorous personality make him an extremely personable and compatible colleague. He knows everyone in the building and everyone knows him. He makes positive connections with all students which builds a sense of community which emanates from his classroom. He co-chairs the Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports committee in his school.

As stated by his principal, a “quiet leader” is a great way to describe Mr. Corbett. He advocates for his students and the best interest of all students in the district, yet is always willing to listen to other perspectives.

Jack Corbett was nominated for this award because of the sheer volume of students that he makes connections with and provides them with an opportunity for an outstanding music education. He realizes the importance of his work, not only for his students, but for students across our district and communities as well. He is an advocate for music and learning.

Distinguished Theatre Educator Advocacy Award

Nicole Smith, Theatre Arts Teacher, Charles Sumner School, Boston, Massachusetts

Nicole Smith began her career with Bachelor of Arts Degrees in Dance and Psychology from Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, New York. She went on to earn a Master’s Degree in Creative Arts in Learning and Elementary Education from Lesley University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She is a Massachusetts Certified teacher in both Elementary Education and Communication & Performing Arts.

Over the past twenty years, Nicole has worked as an administrator, teaching artist in residency and classroom teacher in Chicago and Boston. Her early work was both as a consultant and teaching artist for the Lakeview Education and Arts Partnership in Chicago. In Boston Nicole worked as a collaborating artist-in-residence with Arts In Progress and then went on to become their Education Director. While in this position she spearheaded many arts partnerships in the Boston Public Schools and in many cases provided the direct service of collaborating with classroom teachers and facilitating work with students. In each of these experiences, Nicole advocated for arts programming and cultivated her partners’ understanding of the benefits of arts education.

Currently, Nicole is the Theatre Arts Specialist at the Charles Sumner Elementary School in Roslindale. During her 11 years in this position she has served as the teacher of over 600 students per year. She integrates theatre, creative movement and music and literacy instruction, and teaches each discipline on its own as well. She is always looking at what is necessary to make a difference in the life of every student from whom she comes in contact, and works tirelessly to offer the highest quality arts instruction. In addition to her work with children, Nicole serves as an instructional leader in both her school and in the district, participating on several leadership teams, serving as a mentor in the district, and leads several professional development workshops each year. Nicole has often been referred to as the “one who keeps it real” in meetings, as she always looks at the reality of each situation, and advocating for the best arts instruction and for the rights and the needs of the children she teaches.

Nicole has been a member of Arts|Learning’s Networking and Advocacy Leadership Team for over a decade, serving as photographer of the awards event, being on the awards committee, and as secretary of the Team. Her devotion and long service to Arts|Learning and arts education advocacy has made a difference in the lives of many students and their educators across the Commonwealth.

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31st Annual Champions of Arts Education Advocacy Awards 2018 -12-
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.

Helen Downey, MAEA Treasurer; Art Teacher, Marlborough Public Schools (retired)

Helen Downey, an art educator par excellence, began her teaching career the year after receiving her B.A. in Art Education from Framingham State. She worked for the Marlborough Public Schools for thirty-six-years until her retirement in 2012. During her tenure there she taught at the middle school level, served as a facilitator for an Art Frameworks study group, presented at conferences and participated in an ESE Visual Art supervisors’ group.

As a K-12 Art Coordinator for three years, she was instrumental in the development and promotion of the art department’s permanent art collection, and oversaw curriculum work as well. She was the Yearbook and Student Council Advisor for 10 years, and worked on the school’s musical for 31 years, assisting with auditions, serving as scenery and set advisor, make-up artist and hairstylist, as well as assistant director, eventually, becoming director.

In her community, she taught oil and acrylic painting to seniors, served on the environmental committee of her church, and as a merit Badge councilor for the Boy Scouts of America.

In 1994, Helen received her M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction/ Specializing in Integrating the Arts, from Lesley University.

A Massachusetts Art Education Association (MAEA) member since 1992, she joined the board of directors in 2007, and served as secretary in 2015 and became treasurer in 2016. She has been chair of the Massachusetts Youth Art Month (YAM) committee since 2014, adding a statewide venue to the regional exhibits and working to expand and connect YAM celebrations across the state.

Although retired, Helen has remained involved in art education. She currently teaches classes at the Worcester Art Museum, the Post Road Art Center in Marlborough, and for the last three years has been a Program Supervisor for teacher candidates at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth.

Outstanding Parent Arts Advocate Award

Not awarded in 2018. 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.

School of Excellence Award

Not awarded in 2018. 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

Not awarded in 2018. 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.

Good Neighbor Award

Not awarded in 2018. 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.
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 four areas of focus:

- Leadership
- Programs
- Assessment
- Advocacy

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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Please consider becoming an active Arts Education Advocate by giving your support to Arts|Learning.

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- 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!

Acknowledgements and Thanks
Arts|Learning is deeply grateful for the financial or logistical support given over the past twelve months from the following organizations:

- Americans for the Arts
- The Boston Public Schools Arts Department
- EdVestors
- MASSCreative
- MA Cultural council
- MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
Networking and Advocacy Leadership Team, 2017-18

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, several hundred 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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