# 'Arts' Keep Students In Schools

WASHINGTON, D.C. — During the past year, there has been a great deal of energy generated by community arts groups in the Washington, D.C area.

These grass-roots programs, like hundreds of other blossoming throughout the country, embody the new-found pride and strength of the people in these communities.

Many of these projects were given the vital support they needed to become self-sustaining institutions through grants from the Expansion Arts Program of the National Endowment for the Arts.

**Outstanding Quality**

The Expansion Arts Program, directed by Vantille E. Whitfield, channels all of its funds into such programs

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In Washington, D.C., line programs of outstanding quality and service to the community were funded.

These include:

Workshops for Careers in the Arts, which received a $30,000 grant and had received a grant the previous year.

**Cultural Center**

"Workshops" is a Community Cultural Center offering free professional training to high school students through departments in dance, theatre, visual arts and film-making.

The program, which runs all year, allows students to participate during the school year for a half-day basis on released time and during the summer on a full-time basis.

For their participation, students received up to 50 per cent of their credit towards high school graduation.

**Tours Neighborhoods**

In addition to the classes, students participate in performances, film and art exhibits, which are an extension of their training.

During the summer, the WCA Street Theatre Company tours neighborhoods all over the D.C. area, terminating with a performance at Lincoln Center and performing in another city.

WCA provides other services: college placement and counseling and apprenticeship with professionals.

**New Thing Art**

The New Thing Art and Architecture Center, in the Adams Morgan Community, received a $30,000 grant this year (they have received grants before).

The programs are in four major areas: children's program, learning center, At-Large program and economic development program.

Expansion Arts is primarily concerned with the children's program, which provides personalized motivation and instruction in graphics, filmmaking, creative writing, African dance and percussion to youth and adults.

**School Alternative**

The Learning Center provides, with a major emphasis on the arts, an alternative to the public education system for hundreds of young people who have rejected that system.

The At-Large Program projects a positive image of black culture through performances, exhibits, production of radio shows, concerts, lecture series and film series.

The above two projects, because of their status as community cultural centers providing alternative certs, lecture series and educational programs, have each received an additional $20,000 from the Educational Programs Division of NEA.

**Talented Dancer**

The Capitol Ballet Guild received a grant of $21,700 and has previously received two other grants.

The Guild is a pre-professional dance center which provides excellent training and performing experience for talented young dancers in Washington, D.C.

They have a fellowship program, which began in 1971, that enables talented and needy dancers, under 16 years of age, to train and perform with the company while continuing to live at home.

**Ongoing Vehicle**

The New Theatre School of Washington, D.C. The Black American Theatre Company received a grant of $20,000 and also one the year before.

The company seeks to utilize the talents of black actors and actresses from the Washington Community, and to provide an ongoing vehicle for their efforts.

**Black Creativity**

The theatre seeks to legitimize black creativity in drama by institutionalizing it. In addition, the products of this creativity can be honored instead of exploited.

The program is divided into two categories: producing company and workshop training program.

The producing company, whoes members are selected on the basis of auditions, joins the entire company for one year. During this season, six plays and — or musicals are presented

**Polish Skills**

The Workshop Training program is in two parts: a program to develop and polish the skills of the resident performing company, and a Student Theatre Workshop composed of university students and young adults from the community, who learn basic theatre skills.

The Back Alley Theatre received a grant for $15,000.

It is a semi-professional community theatre, which involves community residents in all aspects of production, from back stage work to acting.

**Topics Chosen**

The topics chosen in the plays represent issues pertaining to the Washington community, as well as current conditions prevalent in society.

A non-racial policy governs all productions. People are free to complete for any role they wish to play.

Some of the works which Back Alley's Theatre Ensemble has presented are original children's musical plays; original works by local writers: Imamu Baraka's "Dutchman;" Lonnie Elder III's "Ceremonies in Dark Old Men;" various anti-war plays; and plays from the modern repertoire, i.e., "Slow Dance on the Killing Ground."

**Professional Staff**

The Ebony Impromptu Theatre Company, Inc. received a $15,000 grant.

It is comprised of a staff of local theatrical professionals working with high school and college drama students in intensive studio sessions.

The group's ultimate goal is to become a repertory touring company, offering a variety of plays and presentations to the community, performing in area schools, clubs, service organizations to the communschools, clubs, service organizations, hospitals, etc.

**Creative Outlet**

nity, performing in area

Fides Neighborhood House received a grant of $15,000.

Fides House provides leisure time activities to youth in the neighborhood and a creative outlet for young people through training in the uses of portable video tapes.

The goal of the project is to try to give people control over the content of programming which affects their lives.

**Street Corner Rap**

Some of the tapes which were produced are regular visits to the Anacostia museum and other cultural institutions:

Coverage of local government (i.e., school board, city council) meetings; street corner rap sessions on various subjects;

Community cultural and artistic events; instructional tapes which can be used in schools, community action groups and special interest groups.

**'Summer Hut'**

"Compared To What?" received a grant of $5,000.

"Compared To What?" is an organization designed to provide meaningful outlets for community talent in music, art, drama, dance, writing, filmmaking recording and photography.

Toward this end, it has sponsored a 12-week "Summer Hut" program in which large tents housed ongoing activities, which included concerts, art shows, lectures, seminars and workshops with specialists in 18 different art forms.

RODNEY GREEN, "Project Dance" choreographer at Coolidge High School previewing his "mother's Daughter."

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# Kenosha. ..Its Public Schools

KENOSHA, Wisc. — Kenosha is ideally located on Lake Michigan approximately midway between Chicago and Milwaukee.

It is Wisconsin's fifth largest city, having a population of about 78,000.

The metropolitan area, most of which is served by the Unified School District, has an estimated population of 116,000.

**Two Colleges**

Racine, Wisconsin's third largest city, is eight miles north of Kenosha, and Waukegan, Ill., which is approximately the size of Kenosha, is 17 miles away.

Located in Kenosha are the University of Wisconsin-Parkside, offering a four-year program similar to that of its parent institution in Madison.

Carthage College, a church-affiliated liberal arts school and the two-year Kenosha Area Technical Institute are also located in Kenosha.

**Higher Education**

Within reasonable commuting distance are the great institutions of higher education situated in Chicago and Milwaukee; for example:

The University of Chicago, DePaul University, Loyola University, Northwestern University, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and Marquette University.

There are schools of art, business, music, religion, technical studies, vocational education, etc. located in these two large, American cities.

**Glimmer Glamour**

Kenosha and the neighboring communities abound in churches of all denominations, libraries, museums, symphony orchestras, galleries, community concert series, dramatic productions, professional athletics, good restaurants and the glimmer and glamour of night life.

An excellent park system, as well as beaches, golf courses, playgrounds and recreation programs are available in Kenosha.

The public school system offers all of its 1,100 teachers excellent opportunities for personal and professional growth through its new teacher orientation program, special assistance to beginning teachers in the areas of supervision and the location of suitable housing facilities, a program of optional in-service workshops, service on various committees and in educational organizations, and its promotional policy of giving preference to candidates within the district.

**Individual Needs**

A wide variety of educational facilities and programs are provided to meet the individual needs and desires of Kenosha's 22,000 students in kindergarten through senior high school.

Of significance are a Head Start program, team teaching, a learning disculty television, the use of aides to supplement the instructional program, student work-experience opportunities;

Computer mathematics; outstanding building maintenance, enviable class size, "specialists" in elementary school art, music, and physical education; and unusually fine programs in the several areas of special education.

**Total Premium**

Teachers in Kenosha are placed on the salary schedule according to training and experience.

Advanced status is allowed for work beyond the bachelor's degree to the master's degree plus twenty-four credits.

Also, credit is allowed for prior teaching experience, including three years for active military service, to a maximum of 10 years.

The board of education pays the total premium for single or family Blue Cross-Blue Shield Insurance and a partial premium on a life insurance policy.

**Metropolitan Centers**

Teachers may also earn tenure, obtain illness leave at the rate of 10 days per years andcumulative to 120 days at full salary, are members of the Wisconsin Teachers Retirement Fund as well as Social Security, have the opportunity to participate in a tax-sheltered annuity program, and are eligible for various kinds of leaves of absence.

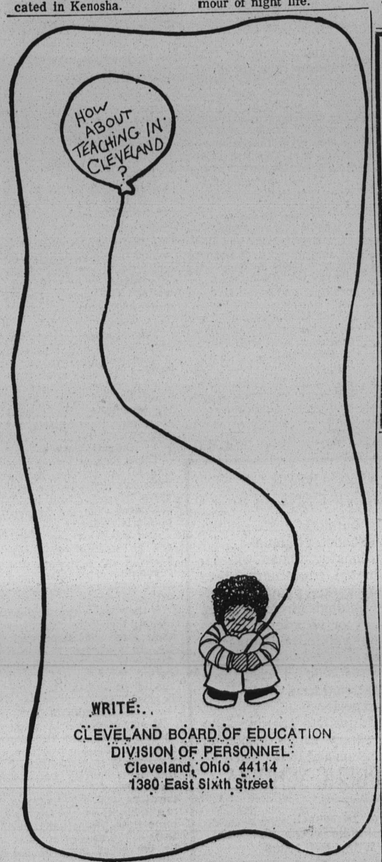
Kenosha has unusual opportunity for professional athletics: Green Bay Packers; Milwaukee Brewers and Bucks; Chicago Bears, Black Hawks, Bulls, Cubs and White Sox; and Excellent transportation facilities, through Interstate Highway 94, providing access to major metropolitan centers, O'Hare Field in Chicago and Mitchell Field in Milwaukee.

**Professional Growth**

Kenosha's forward-looking schools, organized on a 6-3-3 plan, reinforce Wisconsin's leadership in all phases of education;

Curriculum overviews and guides developed and revised on a continuing basis; twenty-eight elementary schools, 5 junior highs, 2 senior highs, and supporting service centers, three new schools opened since 1963;

Innovative programs for learning disabilities and moderately retarded, central instructional materials center, central libraries in all schools, supporting staff psychologists, nurses, teacher aides, counselors, home visitors, and home-bound instructors; and outstanding year-round maintenance program.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