



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 12, 2014

Paramount Arts Center Receives Nearly \$70,000 to Grow Its Arts Education Programs

Ashland, KY - The Paramount Arts Center's noted arts education programs have received a major boost this past month, with grants and gifts totaling \$69,198. These new funds will allow the PAC to expand its programs for area students and teachers, enabling it to serve more schools and reach more children who have limited access to the arts.

The largest gift of \$41,900, from an anonymous donor, will enable the PAC to continue its successful Arts Immersion project which was initiated last season. The project provides a wide range of music, theater and dance activities for every student in a targeted school which has limited arts resources. Experiences extend over a full school year to enhance learning and enable the arts to be used in a variety of classes. The gift will enable the PAC education team to continue to work with children and teachers in the Fairview school district while adding two new schools, Crabbe Elementary in Ashland and Summit Elementary in Boyd County, allowing the expanded Arts Immersion project to reach over 1,800 children.

The Paramount also received grants of \$17,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts and \$6,298 from South Arts. The NEA award supports a month-long "Big Read" project in April, 2015 joining the Paramount with the Boyd County and Ironton Libraries, area schools, OU Southern and the Greenup Extension Arts Council in performances, lectures and literary activities centered on F. Scott Fitzgerald's novel "The Great Gatsby". The Paramount was one of only three Kentucky organizations to be awarded a "Big Read" grant this year. Support from South Arts will enable a community residency and the regional premiere of the celebrated African-American Step Dance company "Step Afrika!" in January, 2015. The company will work with area schools, local step dancers and patients at the VA Hospital in Huntington during their stay.

Two area businesses are also underwriting PAC educational programs this year. Marathon Petroleum Company is providing \$3,000 to sponsor the center's 31-performance Youth Education Series, which attracts more than 20,000 children in the Tri-state area each year. Ashland Credit Union is also providing \$1,000 to support K-12 teacher development activities.

The Paramount Arts Center's Education Programs, led by Melanie Cornelison, reach more than 38,000 children each year with programs including Youth Education performances, touring shows for rural schools, artist residencies, teacher training and the PAC's Arts Academy and Summer Arts Camps.

For more information about the new Youth Education Series, Arts Academy, Big Read and Arts Immersion, visit our website at www.paramountartscenter.com or call Melanie Cornelison @ 606.324.3175 ext. 311.

###