



Friends,

Thank you all for your support during our 10th annual spring Carpe Librum book sale. The money we raised is truly invaluable for our programs. As the school year comes to a close, we are preparing for our summer field trip series. Stay tuned to see what fun summer adventures we go on with TTP families!

Funder Spotlight: DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities

The DCCAH provides funding to art programs and initiatives in the District



The [DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities](#) (DCCAH) has provided funding to Turning the Page's [Literacy Through Photography](#) program for over five years—allowing more than 2,000 students in our partner schools to participate in taking photographs and developing written work about their communities. However, the reach of the DCCAH spans much farther. With a mission to enhance and make accessible the rich culture of Washington DC through grants, programs, and education, the DCCAH provides 16 competitive grant programs to organizations and individuals, awarding 500 grants totaling over \$5.4 million in funding to arts programs and initiatives in 2010. Ayris Scales, Interim Director, explained that while the DCCAH offers between 450-500 grants annually, they also fund 10-15 permanent community art projects a year to bolster arts in the district. In addition, in 2010 they purchased roughly 50 local works of art for the DC art bank collection, which goes on display throughout the district in office buildings and public venues.

While the DCCAH offers a large variety of funding opportunities and programs, Ayris Scales explained that in 2010 the arts education program was the highest funded of the 16 grants with a 40% increase in the number of grants awarded in this category compared to previous years. Over \$800,000 in funding was awarded to these locally competitive arts education grants. Scales broke it down further: in 2010, the DCCAH touched 112 schools and parks and recreation departments across all 8 wards, providing funding ranging from \$1,000-\$30,000. In addition, responding to this shift in interest in arts education, the DCCAH is also adapting to meet the needs of the DC community in the 21st century. In particular, Scales was excited to see the DCCAH expanding and pushing the boundaries of “what is art” in their programming. Last summer through the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP), they funded multi-media and graphic design training for DC teens. This is only one example of how the Commission has worked to incorporate all forms of art and art education into the greater DC community. The DCCAH truly uses the arts as a tool to enhance communities. Thank you for your support!

Second Annual Parent Leadership Conference

Parent leaders gathered together to learn from each other and share their success

Teachers, school staff and parent leaders from TTP's seven partner schools gathered on Saturday, March 26th for our second annual Parent Leadership Conference. This conference was dedicated to the exchange of best practices amongst parents on topics such as governance, information sharing, and project planning. The conference was also a celebration of the initiatives that both parents and teachers have accomplished over the last school year and an opportunity to discuss plans for the next year with other school leaders.



The day kicked off with a presentation entitled "What it Means to be a Leader" from Ms. Dorthea Barnes from MLK Elementary. Ms. Barnes led the conference participants in an interactive activity that showed the various ways that parents can be leaders in their schools. Parents and teachers from Browne, Garfield, Payne, Terrell and Tyler also presented on a broad range of subjects, including healthy school initiatives and local school advisory teams. The afternoon also featured two panels: the first was comprised of teachers and school staff who started a dialogue on the importance of parent-teacher relationships and the second featured three parents who described their successful efforts to create Academic Nights at their schools. Mr. Emmanuel Ekekwe, a paraprofessional at MC Terrell, shared his advice for parent-teacher relationships as "Keep an open mind—teachers are people too. My advice is to find the best way to communicate with them, whether it is by phone, email, or in person."

The day ended on a collaborative note, with both Ms. Donna Stewart (MC Terrell) and Ms. Suzanne Wells (Tyler) speaking on their efforts to bring together community groups and parents to unite around a common cause such as improving libraries or increasing parental involvement within one school. Ms. Wells commented that "I believe it is very important for parents to work together to improve our public schools. There is great strength in numbers. When parents work together, others begin to see that it's more than one person who shares the concern. When you bring together other parents, you find they have many ideas and talents they can contribute to help improve our schools."

Inspired by parent collaboration across schools at the conference, Ms. Stewart successfully organized a collaborative meeting among other Ward 8 parent and community leaders held in April. The meeting was well attended with 14 parents and teachers from TTP partner schools and other community schools as well as local organizations eager to start a dialogue about how they could make a difference in Ward 8.

Literacy Through Photography Introduces Family Workshops

LTP incorporates a successful workshop for parents and students



This spring Turning the Page implemented the newest component to our Literacy Through Photography program--LTP Family Workshops!

At our LTP workshops, families enjoyed a light dinner and learned about Literacy Through Photography during a presentation in which teachers and students shared their perspectives and experiences. Following the presentation, families participated in a special family scavenger hunt where students taught their parents how to be photographers by using the different angles, subjects, and framing techniques they learned in LTP. After the contest, families gathered together to create a family "lifebook" entry, similar to the lifebook journals students have kept through the duration of the program. Together, each family responded to the question "what makes our family special" through collages and writing. These family keepsakes were saved to be put on display at their school's photography exhibit.

At a family workshop this March, one LTP family discussed how they would answer the question, "what makes our family special?" They shared ideas for a few minutes and then when it was time to present their family art project to the other families, the father stood up and said, "What makes our family special? We said, Family Time." He explained how they all had different ideas of what activities make their family special, from movies to bowling to shopping and more, so they decided to include them all. The mother added that, in doing this activity together she realized how much time they spend together, and she was touched to see how excited her children were to share it, even her pre-teen son!

Family workshops have been a hit with teachers and parents across our schools. Ms. Kelly Emminger, a 1st grade teacher at Martin Luther King Jr. elementary, had this to say about the program, "I think the parents now have a much clearer understanding of what LTP is and how it benefits their children's learning. It was so wonderful watching the families work together on the scavenger hunts and the posters, and thank you very much to Turning the Page for providing the opportunity for that to happen." With this continued success, Turning the Page will continue to bring LTP family workshops to partner schools!
