

Feb
2003

Our Continuing Mission

In the cold frost of winter, in the midst of the greatest fiscal crisis for state governments since World War II, according to a November report by the National Governors Association, how does a 33 year old arts organization, or any organization for that matter know it has remained relevant and faithful to a primary mandate to be of service to New York's most vulnerable residents? It is an amorphous question, however it is just the type of question faced by HAI. How can we provide more services, reach more New Yorkers and extend access to the benefits that live arts experiences provide?

The primary litmus test for the effectiveness of an organization is the response of individuals and communities who directly participate in its programs. Feedback from *Peace by Peace*, a dramatic performance with follow-up workshops geared toward violence prevention among youth populations included the following comments from school audiences and faculty members:

The students of Canarsie High School truly thank you... We have been struggling hard to change our school culture. Your program was made to order for our transformation... As per our discussion, kindly pencil us in again ASAP!

The students and faculty at Brandeis High School want to thank you... There is no question that your Peace by Peace performance impacted on our students. They are still talking about how real and relevant the performance was... There is no doubt that learning how to resolve issues in both appropriate and healthy ways is the single most important lesson that our students must learn. Having your wonderful and professional staff work with us will certainly work towards achieving that goal.

Jessica Sher, Youth Development Specialist at Samuel Gompers High School in the Bronx had the following comments:

Monday's performance was fabulous. The actors seemed to be truly depicting their lives, instead of presenting fiction... During the workshops the students were especially excited about getting the opportunity to act [in roleplaying skits] themselves. The discussion of the issues seemed to be more effective when the students were able to visualize scenarios.

And Isabell Hall, Project Coordinator at Grace Dodge High School wrote:

The performances were real and true to life. Our students were mesmerized by the message and the talents of the participants.

We rely on the support of private foundations and individuals to ensure the sustainability of programs such as *Peace by Peace*. In the past three months financial assistance has come from a diverse set of private foundations. Our thanks to each of these contributors as they have entrusted HAI with the critical capacity to provide greater access to the arts and the healing processes they promote. They include:

The Howard Bayne Fund, The Charina Foundation, The Tribune New York Foundation, The Brodsky Family Foundation, The New York Community Trust, The Starr Foundation, The Harkness Foundation for Dance, The Charles & Mildred Schnurmacher Foundation, S.H. & Helen R. Sheuer Family Foundation, The ASCAP Foundation, The Marquis George MacDonald Foundation, The Jarx Foundation, The Leo Rosner Foundation, The Moore Charitable Foundation, The Joseph C. & Clare F. Goodman Memorial Foundation and The John & Daniel Tishman Family Fund.

We are fortunate to have this support and to be able to share the healing energies of live arts experiences with so many.

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This February, HAI will provide Hope And Inspiration to an audience of more than 26,050 people at more than 980 events by offering opportunities...

...to enjoy dance, theater, concerts and more

* In February, the **Cultural Events Program** will make arrangements for over 4,000 people to attend over 50 events including:

New York City Ballet
The Harlem Globetrotters
Oklahoma
AIDA
World Wrestling Federation

New York State Theatre
Madison Square Garden
Gershwin Theatre
Palace Theatre
Madison Square Garden

HAI's Annual Valentine's Day Disco at Club Exit will be held on February 11th from 6:30-9:30 pm.

* HAI's **Describe Program** makes live theater performances accessible to visually impaired and blind individuals. In February, participants will enjoy audio described Broadway performances of *Cabaret* and *The Graduate*.

* The **Omni*Bus Program** had over 500 trips in 2002, for approximately 9,500 elderly people residing in nursing homes and care centers throughout New York City. In February, Omni*Buses will enable over 500 individuals to participate at 20 events that include HAI's Annual Valentine's Disco, The Judaic Museum as well as trips to cinema shows and excursions to area shopping malls.

* **Tickets to Go** provides New York City seniors, age 60 and over, with greatly discounted tickets to renowned cultural and entertainment events. In February, 150 registered members of the program will enjoy *The New York City Ballet* and *The Brooklyn Philharmonic*, at six performances.

* The **On-Site Performance Program** will entertain more than 8,300 people at over 166 performances in February. Scheduled events range from a Black History celebration with the solo theater performance of Christine Campbell, to an Asian Dance performance in honor of the Chinese New Year with Margaret Yuen.

...to develop competence through artistic expression

* In February, 700 **Arts Workshops** will take place, achieving an attendance level of 10,300. HAI will present a solo exhibit of paintings by the late Frances "Lady Shalimar" Montague, an exceptional Outsider Artist who developed her style in HAI workshops over many years. Montague's work is included in the permanent collection of the American Folk Art Museum and on view at HAI's gallery loft space until February 14th.

...to acquire skills for supportive/independent living

* The **HAI Prevention Education Program**, which uses theatrical role-play to develop decision making skills with respect to HIV/AIDS, Homelessness, Youth Leadership/Violence Prevention and Medicaid Managed Care, will coordinate more than 40 workshops reaching over 2,800 individuals in the month of February. *Peace by Peace* performances, HIV Prevention and Housing Readiness workshops will take place at Health Opportunities High School, Monroe High School, Covenant House, The Eddie Harris Residence, The Lee Goodwin Residence and the Institute for Community Living. Also in February, a new cast of young actors will begin exploring issues of personal loss in a theater workshop with renowned Director and Playwright Elizabeth Swados. *Loss & Gain*, a year-long project, will culminate in a performance tour throughout New York City high schools.

...to gain access to information and to learn more about our mission

* HAI has developed various publications designed to aid disabled and elderly people, and to enlighten and stimulate the general public. Visit HAI's website, www.hospitalaudiences.org, and search *Access for All: Guide for People with Disabilities to New York City Cultural Institutions*, its update, *Addendum 2001*, and *On the Go: A Guide to New York City Culture at a Discount for Seniors*. Hard copies of these publications are also available by writing to HAI. The third edition of *Live Arts Experiences: Their Impact on Health and Wellness* can also be viewed on HAI's website.

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