



# TURNAROUND:ARTS

creating success in schools

## WHITE HOUSE COMMITTEE SELECTS MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. SCHOOL FOR PRESTIGIOUS ARTS INITIATIVE TO HELP TURN AROUND LOW-PERFORMING SCHOOLS

*Award-winning actress Sarah Jessica Parker to work in school as part of new program*

**Washington, DC, Monday April 23, 2012 (Embargoed 8:30 a.m. EST)**—Today the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities announced that Martin Luther King, Jr. School in Portland, Oregon has been selected to participate in a new arts education initiative to help turn around low-performing schools, developed in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Education and the White House Domestic Policy Council. The Turnaround Arts initiative is a new public-private partnership designed to narrow the achievement gap and improve student engagement through the arts. King school was chosen to be one of eight schools featured in the program through a highly competitive national selection process, and will receive intensive arts education resources, expertise and the involvement of high-profile President's Committee artists over the course of two years to support their educational reform effort.

The President's Committee is delighted King School, under the inspired leadership of their principal, Kim Patterson, will be participating in Turnaround Arts, said Margo Lion, Co-Chair of the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities. Ms. Patterson and her team have an exciting new vision for their school, a vision that acknowledges the vital role of the creative arts—art, music and movement—in building a school culture of engaged learning and academic success.

Turnaround Arts will work in eight elementary and middle turnaround schools across the country—public schools in the lowest-achieving five percent of their state that are receiving School Improvement Grants through the U.S. Department of Education. An external evaluation will measure the impact and effectiveness of using rigorous and integrated arts education together with other educational reform efforts in high-poverty, low-performing schools.

Educational success on a school-wide level depends on reaching and motivating all children, said Governor John Kitzhaber. Arts education is a key way to do that, and I'm proud Martin Luther King, Jr. School has been selected for this program.

Three studies released this month by the [Council on Foreign Relations](#), the [Department of Education](#) and the [National Endowment for the Arts](#) emphasized the importance of

access to arts education, citing better grades, increased creativity, higher rates of college enrollment and graduation as well as higher aspirations and civic engagement. Research shows that when students participate in the arts they are four times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement, have higher GPAs and SAT scores and show significantly higher levels of mathematics proficiency by grade 12. They are also more likely to be engaged and cooperative with teachers and peers and are more self-confident and better able to express their ideas. These benefits are particularly pronounced in high-poverty, low-performing schools.

"We are excited to be one of eight schools in the nation selected for this prestigious program," said Kim Patterson, Principal, Martin Luther King, Jr. School. "Turnaround Arts will profile the importance of holistic education with cultural literacy and humanities instruction for all students, and specifically for low income students and students of color."

As part of the program, the President's Committee and its partners will provide training and resources to Martin Luther King, Jr. and the other participating schools, including an Aspen Institute summer leadership program, in-school professional development, partnerships with community arts education and cultural organizations, art supplies and musical instruments and community engagement events. Presidentially-appointed artists on the Committee, Chuck Close, Sarah Jessica Parker, Kerry Washington, Forest Whitaker, Yo-Yo Ma, Damian Woetzel and Alfre Woodard, will "adopt" one of the selected schools for the length of the program, working with the schools and communities and highlighting their successes.

"Working with King School over the next two years will be an amazing honor," said Sarah Jessica Parker, actress and PCAH member. "I have seen the power of the arts transform the lives of students and I am excited to help create an engaging, inspiring place for King children to learn. I look forward to helping Principal Patterson build momentum and create a well rounded arts environment, an essential component of a complete education for every child."

The partners in Turnaround Arts include the National Endowment for the Arts, the Ford Foundation, the Herb Alpert Foundation, Crayola, NAMM Foundation, the Aspen Institute and Booz Allen Hamilton. Intel and SKDKnickerbocker are providing additional support and resources. Turnaround Arts is being run and managed by Arts Education Partnership, a national coalition administered by the Council of Chief State School Officers, the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, the National Endowment for the Arts and the U.S. Department of Education.

Participating schools were competitively selected from nominations by state and municipal authorities. In addition to being recipients of a School Improvement Grant, criteria for selection included demonstrated need and opportunity, strong school leadership with district support and a commitment to arts education. Turnaround Arts schools represent elementary and middle schools from across the country and encompass a diversity of student demographics and urban and rural settings. They are:

- (1) Batiste Cultural Arts Academy at Live Oak School in New Orleans, LA (PK–8)
- (2) Findley Elementary School in Des Moines, IA (PK–5)
- (3) Lame Deer Jr. High School in Lame Deer, MT (7,8)
- (4) Noel Community Arts School in Denver, CO (6,7)
- (5) Orchard Gardens K-8 School in Boston, MA (K–8)
- (6) Savoy Elementary School in Washington, DC (PK–5)
- (7) Martin Luther King, Jr. School in Portland, OR (K–8)
- (8) Roosevelt School in Bridgeport, CT (K–8)

More information about the TAI and profiles of selected schools can be found here:

<http://turnaroundarts.pcah.gov> (no www.)

More information about the PCAH can be found at [www.pcah.gov](http://www.pcah.gov)

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**About the President's Committee on The Arts and The Humanities**

Created in 1982 under President Reagan, the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities (PCAH) is an advisory committee to the White House on cultural issues. The PCAH works directly with the three primary cultural agencies- National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Institute of Museum and Library Services- as well as other federal partners and the private sector, to address policy questions in the arts and humanities, to initiate and support key programs in those disciplines and to recognize excellence in the field. Its core areas of focus are education, cultural exchange, and creative economy. Under the leadership of the First Lady and Honorary Chairman, and through the efforts of its federal and private members, the President's Committee has compiled an impressive legacy over its tenure, conducting major research and policy analysis, and catalyzing important federal cultural programs, both domestic and international.