



Office of Fine Arts

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To: Members of the Kronkosky Charitable Foundation

On behalf of Northside ISD and its over 77,000 students currently enrolled in Fine Arts, I am writing in support of ARTS San Antonio and its submission to the Kronkosky Charitable Foundation.

Northside is the fourth largest school district in Texas, with a current student enrollment of 101,477 and with 52% of student population on free and reduce lunch. Northside is extremely grateful for the opportunity to partner with ARTS San Antonio through its many programs.

Through ARTS SA's ARtsTEach arts education program, Brandeis High School's ballet company was able to visit with renowned Joffrey Ballet Artistic director, Ashley Wheater on what it takes to be a member of the Joffrey Ballet. These students were also invited to take a movement and ballet class on stage with Ballet Masters Nicolas Blanc and Gerard Charles before attending that evening's performance and meeting with the Joffrey dancers thereafter. This captured so much excitement among our students. As senior Brittany Vales states, *"These are people we read about in dance but to have them live before us, teaching us and performing it's amazing!"*

ARTS SA with its World-renown artists, conductors, clinicians, and consultants constantly make meaningful connections to our students not only on stage but in the classroom. Last year, 24,564 patrons and 5,060 ARtsTEach students participated in ARTS SA's educational performances and events. With the help of ARTS SA, Northside was able to offer its students dance workshops with UK's Foremost Dance Theatre Motionhouse, attend The Nutcracker, as well as allowed some of our middle school students meet and interview Luka and Stjepan of 2CELLOS.

ARTS SA believes in *Arts for All* from the special education student to the GT student. Most recently, ARTS SA provided Rayburn Middle School, one of Northside's Title 1 middle school campuses the opportunity to hear Charles Yang in concert. Twenty-nine students attended the performance and as fine arts teacher, Heather Gonzales writes, *"I had half of them with their elbows on their knees, head in hands, with eyes wide - they were so into it! I even had one student that I kept hearing under his breath, 'awesome, oh man, wow, look at his vibrato'. And to top it off...I had 3 girls actually cry during the performance during the 1st piece Czardas (LOVED his rendition!) and during Vocalise! The biggest surprise for the kids was his final piece 'House of the Rising Sun', which he sang and played at the same time. The moment he started to sing there were excited gasps throughout my group :)"* This is truly a testament of the impact that ARTS SA has on our students at Northside and City of San Antonio. They truly understand the importance the arts have in educating the whole child and elevating their role *as lifelong consumers of the arts.*

Northside thanks you for your most careful consideration of this organization.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Sanchez-Lopez
Supervisor Dance and Theatre
Northside Independent School District