



Any Given Child Jacksonville awards \$5,000 to local arts education partners

Jacksonville, Fla. (June 22, 2016) – Any Given Child (AGC) Jacksonville is proud to announce it has awarded a total of \$5,000 to six local arts education partners – Theatre Jacksonville, the World Arts Film Festival, JASMYN, the Ritz Chamber Players, VSA Florida, and Duval County Public Schools (DCPS) Assistant Superintendent for Strategic Planning Dr. Dana Kriznar.

AGC Jacksonville received a gift of \$5,000 to be awarded to individuals, organizations or schools that are actively involved with AGC Jacksonville or are demonstrating an awareness of the AGC Jacksonville goals and working to respond to specific needs in the community, including improving access to and quality of arts education for students of color, LGBTQ students, English as a Second Language (ESL) students, middle school students and students with physical or developmental needs.

“The AGC Jacksonville mission simply does not exist without active partnerships and each of us progressing the goals and moving the needle forward for our students,” said Allison Galloway-Gonzalez, executive director of AGC Jacksonville. “As we all know, long journeys are accomplished one step at a time. It is so critical to celebrate along the way with each other because ultimately it is all our steps together that get us to our collective destination.”

Two thousand dollars was pre-allocated to support continuing programs with both Theatre Jacksonville, for its theatre residency program for Communication and Social Skills (CSS) students at Southside Estates Elementary, and the World Arts Film Festival, for providing a scriptwriting residence program for the Englewood Elementary School film club.

Members of the AGC Jacksonville Steering Committee and Working Groups then nominated and voted on who should receive the remaining \$3,000, which was awarded at \$1,000 and \$500 levels.

First and second place prizes of \$1,000 each were awarded to JASMYN, for offering free Safe Space workshops for arts educators in DCPS, and the Ritz Chamber Players, for providing free, in-class performances for DCPS music students and their consultation on the “Arts Education: Lift Every Voice” event held in January.

Third and fourth place prizes of \$500 each were awarded to VSA Florida, for providing a free workshop for music teachers to create adaptable lessons for students with special needs, and two new visual arts residencies at Lake Shore Middle School; and Dr. Dana Kriznar, for infusing AGC Jacksonville goals into DCPS strategic planning, supporting the district-wide Safe Space initiative and involving the newly formed DCPS student government in the AGC Jacksonville mission.

Additional nominees included the Ritz Museum, Lorraine Roettges with the Jacksonville Symphony, WJCT, Lake Shore Middle School, the DCPS Communications Department, Michael Glinski and CooperMorgan Dance.

###

Any Given Child Jacksonville is uniting diverse stakeholders that include Duval County Public Schools personnel and students, arts organizations and artists, and business and community leaders. We have worked ceaselessly to raise awareness and build capacity to ensure every K-8 student in Duval County receives access to a high-quality arts education. Learn more at capkids.org/agcjax.

JASMYN is a non-profit, youth-centric organization providing support, leadership development, risk reduction, social opportunities, and advocacy for LGBT and questioning youth in Northeast Florida. Over 20,000 young people have benefited from JASMYN since its establishment in 1994. Nationally recognized for its programs and services, in 2009, its mission was broadened to include the role JASMYN plays in building partnerships and collaborations that advance the human rights of the LGBT community. For more information, visit www.jasmyn.org.

The Ritz Chamber Players' mission is to foster the appreciation of chamber music through performances and educational outreach featuring preeminent African-American musicians and composers, with an emphasis on building audiences and arts inclusion that reflects our diverse society. Learn more at www.ritzchamberplayers.org.

VSA Florida provides, supports and champions arts education and cultural experiences for and by people with disabilities. A private not-for-profit organization, VSAFL conducts art education programs in schools, Department of Juvenile Justice facilities, and community centers; promotes the accomplishments of artists with disabilities through our artist registry, exhibitions, and performances; and increases access to the arts through professional development workshops. VSAFL is a member of the VSA Affiliate Network (a program of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington D.C.) and is headquartered at the David C. Anchin Center in the College of Education at the University of South Florida. Visit www.vsafl.org to learn more.

Duval County Public Schools is the 20th largest school district in the nation and the sixth largest school district in Florida. The district is committed to ensuring that students are prepared for success in college or a career, and life. In addition, the district will make sure its mission of providing educational excellence is reflected in every school, in every classroom, for every student, every day.