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## Cathedral Arts Project ARTS Ignite! classes begin for 2017-2018

September 19, 2017 – After a week’s delay due to Hurricane Irma, the Cathedral Arts Project’s ARTS Ignite! afterschool classes began this week at 19 Duval County Public Schools and community centers throughout Jacksonville.

CAP is the leading nonprofit provider of quality, comprehensive and ongoing instruction in the visual and performing arts for elementary and middle school students in Duval County. During the 2016-2017 school year, CAP provided programming to 1,033 students, due in part to a \$50,000 grant from the Hearst Foundations.

The award, which was the Foundations’ first in Jacksonville in over a decade, provided general program support for all CAP afterschool programs. The Hearst Foundations fund cultural institutions that offer meaningful programs in the arts and sciences, prioritizing those which enable engagement by young people and create a lasting and measurable impact.

CAP prides itself on using data and assessment tools to ensure the most effective programs possible. Among youth who participate in a year or more of CAP programs:

- 94% demonstrate the skills needed to produce quality art or performance
- 87% increase active participation in the classroom
- 88% strengthen their task completion
- 88% demonstrate improved communication skills
- 82% learn more effective strategies for expressing anger and resolving conflict

The Hearst Foundations support well-established nonprofit organizations that address significant issues within the areas of culture, education, health and social service. In each area of funding, the Foundations also look for evidence of sustainability beyond their support, and among cultural organizations, preference is given to arts education programs that effectively fill the void of arts programming in K-12 curricula.

“To receive such generous funding and the seal of approval it represents from the prestigious Hearst Foundations means a great deal to us,” said CAP President & CEO Kimberly Hyatt. “We are so proud of the children we’re able to serve today and thrilled with the momentum we feel as we move toward our goal of serving students in every school in Jacksonville by 2022.”

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*The **Cathedral Arts Project** is the leading nonprofit provider of quality, comprehensive and ongoing instruction in the visual and performing arts for elementary and middle school students in Duval County. The driving force behind all CAP programs is the belief that the arts matter – they provide essential skills, like creative thinking, perseverance, teamwork and self-discipline, that benefit all people in all areas of their lives.*

*Too often, certain populations of students do not have access to an arts-rich education because of limited access and resources in their schools, communities or homes. Yet these are the students for which the arts can have the strongest and longest-lasting impacts. CAP needs your support to accomplish its vision for every child in Northeast Florida to have access to a well-rounded, arts-rich education that endows his or her spirit with the imagination, self-confidence and strength of character that inspires great leadership and a will to succeed. Learn more at [capkids.org](http://capkids.org).*

***The Hearst Foundations** are national philanthropic resources for organizations and institutions working in the fields of Education, Health, Culture and Social Service. Our goal is to ensure that people of all backgrounds have the opportunity to build healthy, productive and inspiring lives. The charitable goals of the Foundations reflect the philanthropic interests of William Randolph Hearst. [www.hearstfdn.org](http://www.hearstfdn.org)*