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## **Cathedral Arts Project brings guest artist Christa Sylla to Salvation Army Child Development Center**

On Monday, October 30, the Cathedral Arts Project hosted guest artist Christa Sylla at the Salvation Army Child Development Center as part of its Music & Movement class for 2-, 3- and 4-year-olds.

Sylla is a dancer, choreographer and educator who has shared the joy of cultural dance with the Jacksonville community for more than 13 years. She currently teaches West African dance for CAP at Highlands Elementary School and is also the director of Culture Moves 101 and an instructor at the Jacksonville Centre of the Arts.

Sylla and her assistant Nico Warren taught students the fundamentals of West African dancing and drumming. They learned the names, origins, pitches and make-up of African drums, and participated in a hands-on component that featured keeping tempo with one another. The students also learned and performed a West African dance combination with their friends and teachers.

CAP's Music & Movement class for early learners, which takes place at the Salvation Army Child Development Center every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon, is funded by the Chartrand Foundation. In addition to twice-weekly classes and guest artist visits, this partnership provides support materials that are provided to all students and families that participate. The class aims to harness the power of the arts to strengthen young children's cognitive, motor, language, social and emotional development.

"The Chartrand Foundation recognizes not only that the arts are essential at every age, but also that there needed to be more support and arts programming for children ages 0-4," said Allison Galloway-Gonzalez, CAP's chief program officer.

The class is led by Dana Negaran, who has 10 years of teaching experience and is certified in Pre-K/Primary (ages 3 through grade 3), English for Speakers of Other Languages, and Exceptional Student education. Negaran combines music and dance education with early education development milestones, resulting in a class that makes everyone boogie!

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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).*