

## Cathedral Arts Project recognized in top 50 among thousands of arts programs



After more than a quarter century of providing quality arts education – including dance, music, theatre and the visual arts – the Cathedral Arts Project is more important than ever for children who otherwise would not have access to the arts.

Founded by Gail Weltsek and a small group of parishioners at St. John's Cathedral in 1993, CAP began with one dance class for 10 students at the former Community Connections transitional housing facility.

Thanks to a principal who heard about the first dance program and wanted something similar in their school, CAP eventually responded to a pent-up demand for arts education in Duval County Public schools and is now offered at 27 schools and several community centers each year, said the Rev. Kimberly Hyatt, president and CEO since 2002.

CAP's program portfolio includes school day and after-school instruction, arts integration and Camp Encore, a summer camp which exposes children to all the art forms. All the programs ensure students see the possibilities for creative careers, understand the importance of public investment in the arts and imagine their own futures in an arts-rich community. "We pride ourselves on providing 'gateway' experiences, and typically, close to three quarters of our students will say they went to a local museum or a live performance for the first time in their lives through our programs."

Graduates of CAP's programs have also gone on to study the arts in higher

education. "We've been told we are the primary source of strings students for Douglas Anderson School of the Arts," Hyatt said.

Since those early years, more than 28,000 public school students in grades K-8 have learned the joy of playing the violin, expressing themselves through art, acting and dancing and, more recently, learning skills in media arts.

"It changes the whole trajectory of their lives," said Hyatt. "It opens up a whole new world for them – even beyond the arts – with educational opportunities."



CAP should be a great source of pride for Jacksonville, she said. "We've been recognized by the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities as one of the best arts and humanities-based programs for youth in the country."

The Cathedral Arts Project will celebrate its 15th annual Spring for the Arts, Friday, April 26, at the River Club. CAP's signature fundraising event, featuring performances by current CAP students, has contributed to more than \$19 million raised by CAP for arts education programs throughout Duval County.

PHOTO: CAP

## Pop-up goes permanent on Park Street

A new woman's clothing boutique in the Park and King retail corridor didn't take long to go from pop-up to permanent. After Bryanetta Humphrey opened Talk of the Town at 2712 Park St. in late November 2018, she said the support of the community convinced her and her husband, Timothy, to take a permanent lease in February in the former American Beauty Florist location. "I think customers long for more retail in this area," said Humphrey, a Southbank resident.

After a career in healthcare case management, Humphrey decided to pursue her dream of providing Jacksonville women



Timothy and Bryanetta Humphrey

with designer fashions from New York and Los Angeles at affordable prices. "We serve women of all shapes and sizes, from millennials to seniors," said Humphrey, who buys a limited number of each item to ensure customers walk out wearing a nearly exclusive ensemble.

## Avondale realtors hold plant sale, raise funds for nonprofits



A rainy day didn't deter the team at Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty from beautifying the Avondale neighborhood with its inaugural #BeyondHome Plant Sale March 2. Sponsored by Plant Place Nursery, the event brightened up the Shoppes of Avondale and generated funds that will be granted back to local charitable organizations through CBV Cares. Left to right: Robert Van Cleve, Keith Sowin, Tony Caribaltes, Jennifer Tossavainen, Wade Griffin, Seth Kimball, Mariel Benn and Mona Gardella set up the sale under cloudy skies.

## Salon opens doors for Prom Project benefit

Shop owner and master stylist Sheeka Renee' Jackson of The New Corner Salon, 4292 Herschel St., is helping make a difference in the community. For the second year in a row, Jackson and salon stylists participated in the Prom Project: More Than a Dress event, helping young women look and feel their best for their proms.

Earlier in the year, Jackson hosted a wine tasting at the salon for guests who brought new or gently-used special occasion dresses, shoes and handbags to donate to the Show Me Shoes Foundation, which hosted Prom Project for the second year in a row.

The Show Me Shoes Foundation was established in 2009 in Atlanta and Kansas City and launched the Prom Project to assist high school teen girls who are unable to financially afford the luxury of the perfect prom. The Jacksonville Chapter's inaugural event was held at Sandalwood High School last year; this year it was held March 3 at the Grand Rose Ballroom.



One young lady shows off the dress she selected from Prom Project, a nonprofit that provides dresses, shoes and other prom amenities.



High school girls get their hair styled by Jamie Picciarelli, left, and Sheeka Renee', right, from The New Corner Salon, at Prom Project: More Than a Dress.



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