

The



2012 / Snapshot



## Motivation High School

Picasso's 2012 grantees—15 elementary, middle, and high schools throughout Philadelphia—participated in an impressive array of creative projects.

Students engaged in artistic experience through **theater, drumming, poetry performances; visual art exhibitions, mural design, art books, quilting, collage, arts entrepreneurship, audio recording, Middle-Eastern and West African dance, and film making.**

“

*The program is a positive way to help students become leaders.*

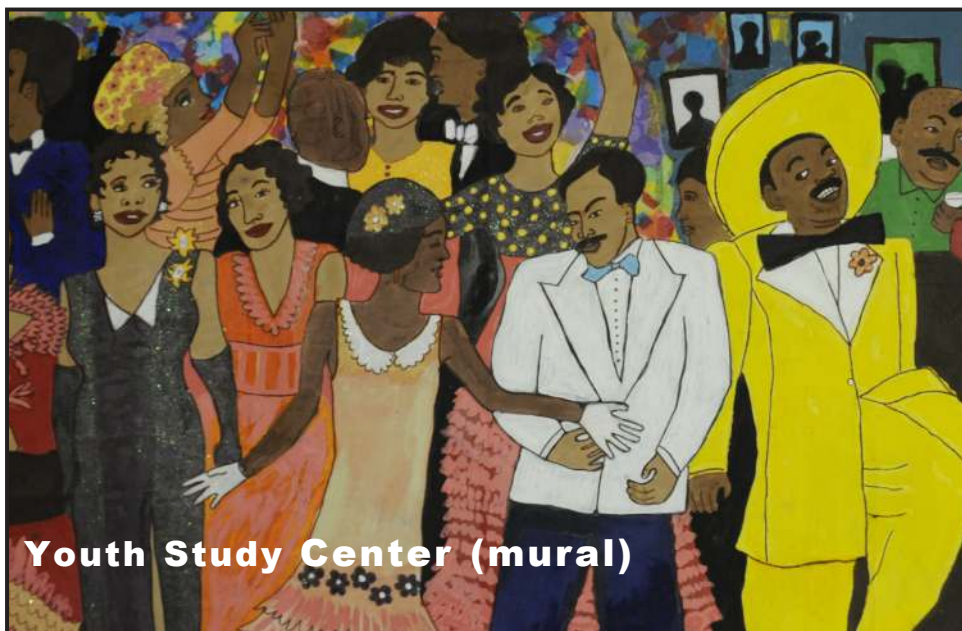
*It helped me learn who I really am.*

”

- Student, Robeson HS

## 2012 Picasso Grantees

Bregy Elementary School  
Cassidy Middle School  
Cleveland Elementary School  
Excel Academy South  
Greenfield School  
Harrison Elementary School  
Houston School  
Jackson School  
Mifflin Elementary School  
Motivation High School  
Nebinger Elementary School  
Powel Elementary School  
Robeson High School  
Sankofa Freedom Academy  
Charter School  
Youth Study Center



**Youth Study Center (mural)**

“ The students were **engaged**, enthusiastic, and eager from the first day. It was wonderful to see their talent and abilities in action. I believe many students left the project feeling **proud** and **accomplished**. For many of them, this is the first time in a long time that they had that kind of **self-confidence**.

-Volunteer Project Liaison

## NEW: Student Advocacy for the Arts

### ART ADVOCACY BOOKS

At **Harrison**, students compiled their work into a photo book, to send to area legislators. Students also submitted work to the Artistic Rebuttal project--a collection of text and images describing the importance of art to individuals, artists, and communities.

### MEDIA COVERAGE

At **Mifflin** and **Cleveland**, student work received newspaper coverage, while those from **Robeson** and **Powel** took to the airwaves to record radio interviews with students and teachers. **Greenfield** youth recorded a podcast about their school's project and **Jackson** students were featured on an ABC News broadcast highlighting community arts.

### STUDENT-LED PANELS

**Sankofa** students hosted two film screenings of their video project and a panel discussion about the importance of the arts in their lives, school, and community.

### SRC TESTIMONY

Two **Excel** students testified before the School Reform Commission, urging Commissioners to support continued funding for arts curricula in schools. A representative from Action Harvest, the community organization partnering with **Houston** School, also testified about the arts' positive impact on students and communities.



## Projects At-A-Glance

### **A PEACEABLE KINGDOM- BUILDING COMMUNITY** Cassidy

To begin to create a peaceful and safe learning environment, students read books and then created their own on the subject of conflict and peace for the school library. Students created a mosaic mural for the lunchroom/gym while working with the mosaic tile mural artist, Esther Cohen-Eskin and a WePac volunteer.

### **SYMBOLIC SELF-PORTRAITS** Harrison

Students developed mixed media self portraits and personal artist statements, guided by local artists Nikki Virbitsky, Ron Wandering Feather and Raphael Fenton-Spaid. Harrison's grant was particularly poignant, as their school closed its doors in June. The infusion of an exciting arts project provided a necessary, positive experience students will carry with them from their Harrison School experience.



### **FROM THESE ROOTS** Robeson

In collaboration with teaching artist Issac Maefield and West Philadelphia Cultural Alliance's Paul Robeson House, 50 ninth and twelfth grade students explored the history of the internationally known, singer, artist, actor and advocate Paul Robeson, as well as other influential African Americans. Students created works of clay and designed large scale, permanent display panels about Paul Robeson which were shown at the school.



# CELEBRATING: 10 YEARS 100 GRANTS!

As a new pilot project to increase sustainability of arts programming, six schools received funds to extend their 2012 projects in the fall.

Picasso has now funded over **100** schools in **10** years.

Celebrate with us all year long at [www.pccy.org](http://www.pccy.org)!

“ My students learned the **power of their voice** when it comes to solving a big problem. They realized that they can make suggestions in a formal way and **be heard** by important people. ”  
-Teacher, Harrison



## Project Impact

Student respondents to our end-of-year-evaluations reported:

- increased participation in class.
- greater interest in the arts.
- greater opportunities for increased cooperation and collaboration among peers.

See full evaluation results--

>>[www.pccy.org/picassoproject](http://www.pccy.org/picassoproject)

## Keeping Arts Strong In Philly Schools!

Picasso has been working together with **ArtsRising** to increase advocacy for the arts in schools and communities in Philadelphia.

Together, students and teachers and families from both initiatives collected 1,500 signatures to present to the School Reform Commission.



Picasso Project is funded by individuals, foundations, and corporations. You may donate at [www.pccy.org](http://www.pccy.org)

**PCCY:** *Improving the lives and life chances of children in our region through thoughtful and informed advocacy.*

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