

## ***Our Kids and the Arts – A Great Early Start*** **Fact Sheet**

**OVERVIEW:** Studies have proven that an arts-rich environment helps children succeed in school. Practitioners and experts alike have highlighted the need for arts education from preschool on, as the arts have been shown to be an engaging base in promoting learning across all curriculum areas.

**HIGHLIGHTS:** *Our Kids and the Arts – A Great Early Start* will:

- **Serve approximately 2,000 children** and their families in preschool programs throughout Greater Cleveland
- **Commit \$2 million in grants** that will provide each of the four arts partners an equal share of the funding pledged by PNC over three years and will include an independent evaluation of the program
- **Leverage the experience of these institutions** and create new programs in preschool teacher training and arts activities designed to reach more children in the metropolitan area
- **Enable all four institutions to collaborate** on a series of professional development days as part of a robust teacher development curriculum
- **Provide preschool children and their families** several opportunities to visit the cultural institutions throughout the year
- **Place artists in preschool classrooms** where they are able to teach and share their passion for the arts
- **Provide several opportunities for PNC employees to volunteer** – a hallmark of *PNC Grow Up Great* – in support of the programs

### **PARTNERS & PROGRAMS:**

- **Cleveland Museum of Art – StART SmART**
  - Artists within the museum will help teachers weave the museum’s assets into their lesson plans
  - Children and families are invited to monthly field trips
  - Artists within the museum will work with teachers and families to design a parade ensemble for the annual Parade the Circle and to participate in the fall Chalk Festival.
- **The Cleveland Orchestra – Musical Neighborhoods**
  - Children and teachers will attend monthly Musical Rainbow performances at Severance Hall; families are invited to participate in weekend family programs
  - Musician visits and “Learning through Music” lessons and activity plans for classrooms
  - Teacher Workshops to create in-classroom Musical Neighborhoods (including a music corner of low-cost, free and “found object” instruments), as the basis for integrating music into the pre-school curriculum to support school readiness skills
  - “Quarter Note” newsletter for parents highlighting free community resources, free musical performances & helpful websites
- **PlayhouseSquare – Grow Up Great at Playhouse Square**
  - Children will attend performances and benefit from in-classroom visits by teaching artists
  - Families of participating students will be invited to weekend performances free of charge and to participate in interactive sessions before and following performances
  - In depth professional development for Head Start educators provided by teaching artists, arts professionals and PlayhouseSquare education staff. This will include workshops and activities to help enhance curriculum and skill building exercises
- **Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum – Toddler Rock**
  - More children will experience the Toddler Rock program through an expansion of the existing schedule that nearly doubles the number of classes
  - Session locations will alternate between Museum and the Head Start centers
  - Four demonstration/teacher coaching sessions will be scheduled for 20 additional schools