

Dear Friends,

At this time of year you may receive many requests in the mail (OK – a lot of requests!) asking you to contribute to worthy organizations.

Jackson School of the Arts would like you to consider putting us on your giving list this year to help us fund this extraordinary place where **on a weekly basis 419 students come to participate** in imaginative and innovative arts programs.

What makes us special is why we need your support. We say “yes” to every child who wants to participate in enriching after school visual arts, dance and theater programs because fees are based on a sliding fee income scale.

This means we can serve kids from the neighborhoods of Partnership Park and Ella Sharp Park. And we do. Kids are now coming to Jackson School of the Arts from even beyond Jackson County, though the majority of the kids we serve live right here in the City of Jackson.

Jackson School of the Arts needs your support to support our mission: to make the arts available to all children regardless of their financial means.

Why does this matter? Jackson School of the Arts excites and inspires **children** with creative and dynamic arts education programs. There is no other organization in Jackson that says “yes” to every child regardless of their financial means.

Families have an inspiring place to come every week where their children are exposed to arts and culture and engaged in hands-on meaningful and fun activities. There is always something to look forward to at Jackson School of the Arts whether it’s Family Art Night, a showcase theater performance or the Annual Fairy Festival.

A cultured **community** starts with Jackson School of the Arts. Our programs and the artists we hire animate our community. We bring our community together to share common experiences, stimulate imaginations and help foster a rich and varied quality of life.

We’ve grown from a little “school” that offered dance to 12 children in 2003 to a bustling arts center that offers year round classes and workshops. This past year combining on and off site programs with our partners (Girl Scouts, Jackson District Library, Jackson Public Schools and other schools throughout Jackson County) **we delivered hands-on arts experiences to over 2,000 children.**

Please consider making as generous a gift as you can. Your donation will make a world of difference for children right here in Jackson. We promise you. You can rest assured that we will use your money wisely. Our programs make a big impact. They are cost effective and despite our tremendous growth, we still operate efficiently with a lean staff (and a way too lean budget).

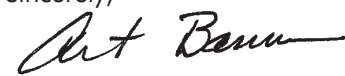
We need to raise **\$35,000 to deliver over 55 weekly art, dance and theater classes to the 419 students** we are currently serving. We still have 8 months of programming with approximately 275 more students ahead of us through the summer of 2012. Because many of our classes are full, we want to expand programming, and this means an investment in additional space and curriculum and staff development. We need money to fund our free community outreach programs. We must build up a modest cash reserve to allow us to maintain operations during challenging times. The end result of your contribution is more children will benefit.

Our programs enable hundreds of children to grow and thrive each week. If as an arts organization, Jackson School of the Arts is to grow and thrive, we must foster the support from individuals and families in our own community. The way we are financially structured (relying heavily on grants) stymies our ability to propel and sustain our growth and aspirations.

You’ve seen us grow. Now will you please help us thrive?

Thanks so much for your help.

Sincerely,



Art Bamm
BOARD PRESIDENT



Kim Hastings
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mission

The Jackson School of the Arts was formed in 2001 with a mission to make the arts accessible to all children and youth regardless of their financial means.



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P.S. To see everything that’s going on, visit jacksonarts.org (You can also give on-line.)

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