

February 26, 2018

## Arts & Culture Program

### Check out our latest events!

- “Ernie G” Empowerment Comedian
- “Careers in the Arts Workshop: Endless Possibilities in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”
- Visit to the “Capital Area Food Bank”
- “The Sound of Music”
- Visit to the “National Museum of African American History & Culture”
- “Hip Hop Nutcracker”
- “Library of Congress” Tour

### Fall 2017—Winter 2018

The ACES “Arts & Culture Program” enjoyed a meteoric growth as it entered Year 2 this past fall 2017. With more options for our ACES students to attend exciting visual and performing arts events at major Washington venues, new ventures into offering an arts career workshop, and volunteer options, the program was able to empower our students! As always, we are grateful to our “generous” performing arts community/colleagues. We secured discounted and/or complimentary tickets to cultural events experiences which included the magic of Young Artists of America at Strathmore’s exquisite performance of “The Sound of Music” at the Clarice Center at University of Maryland, and the magnificent creativity of “Black Violins”, “Hip Hop Nutcracker”, and “Step Afrika” at the Strathmore Music Center. Also, thanks to the National Philharmonic at Strathmore, complimentary tickets were given to our students to attend their multimedia production, “Cosmic Designs”.

### Ernie G– Empowerment Comedian, October 2, 2017

The ACES “Arts and Culture” program is aware of celebrating those artists who represent our cultures. In collaboration with the leadership/sponsorship of Brad Pabian, ACES Academic Coach at Northwood High School, we participated in their National Hispanic Heritage Month Event by co-presenting “Ernie G”, Empowerment Comedian. Ernie G’s performance exemplified how one can use their talents to empower students to reach their highest potential. Listening to our students “before” and “after” the presentation again reconfirmed how his comedic talent truly can transfer to empowerment!



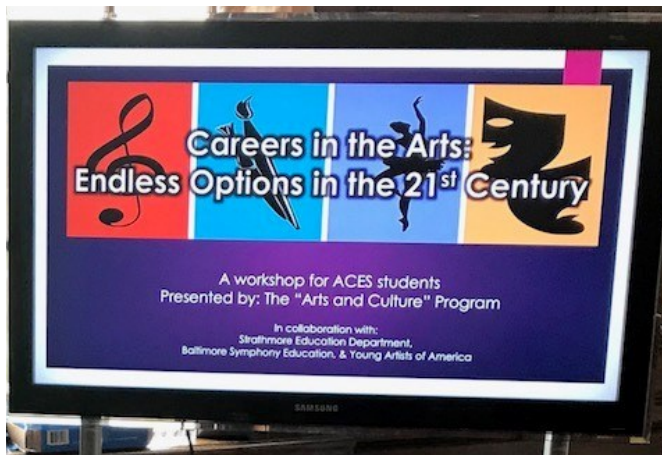
Left: Ernie G giving his autograph to an ACES student  
Above: ACES students at the Ernie G performance

## **“Careers in the Arts Workshop– Endless Possibilities in the 21st Century” October 23, 2017**

Our newest program venture was a collaborative sponsorship for an arts career workshop. On October 23, 2017, we launched our first annual “Careers in the Arts Workshop: Endless Possibilities in the 21st Century”. Thanks to our gracious colleagues at Strathmore Education Department, represented by Betty Scott, director of Strathmore’s AIR program, The Baltimore Symphony Education Department, spearheaded by Carole Wysocki, and Young Artists of America’s Producing Artistic Director, Rolando Sanz, 50 of our ACES students who were considering a college and/or career path in the visual, digital, dance and performing arts attended a round table discussion/workshop with panelists who are presently flourishing in the arts. Panelists included:

- ◆ **Kathryn Pilkington, Co-Artistic Director: Company | E**
- ◆ **Be Steadwell, singer/songwriter; filmmaker**
- ◆ **Christylez Bacon hip hop/spoken word/language artist**
- ◆ **Joanne Carl Professor, Media Arts & Technologies, & Coordinator for TV, Radio & Digital Media, Montgomery College**
- ◆ **Kendra Rubinfeld, Founder & Co-Principal KRPR**

One of the ACES students attending the workshop summed up the empowerment and importance of this career workshop in her own words: *“I enjoyed seeing the variety of talents from the guest speakers. It encouraged me to see how they with their talent are making it into the world. I don’t feel as worried as I was before if I will make it in my own career”*. Already, plans are in progress for our second annual workshop next fall 2018 to continue the momentum of this important community dialogue.



**Pictured Above Left to Right: Brad Pabian, ACES Academic Coach at Northwood High School, Bryant Rodriguez, Northwood High School ACES student who graciously videotaped and edited our career workshop, and Gina DiMedio Marrazza, ACES Arts and Culture Coordinator at the “Careers in the Arts Workshop: Endless Possibilities in the 21st Century”**



**Pictured Left:** ACES students from Northwood High School, Montgomery Blair High School, Paint Branch High School, Gaithersburg High School, Rockville High School, Wheaton High School, and Montgomery College Rockville Campus attended the first annual Careers in the Arts Workshop at Strathmore. This exciting workshop, done in collaboration with Strathmore Education Department and Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, brought together a power panel of artists to delve into the “endless options” for visual, music, theater, and dance artists in the 21st century.

### Visit to the Capital Area Food Bank, October 26, 2017

To honor Montgomery County's Community Service Week in October, ACES students from the Montgomery College Rockville and Germantown campuses participated in the Capital Area Food Bank's volunteer program. Together, we boxed over 1500 foods to give back to the elderly throughout our Washington, DC community. A gift that came back to us was that we had the chance to meet and talk with other “community-minded” professionals and students, and gain new friendships.



**Pictured left and below:** ACES Students from Montgomery College Rockville Campus, and their dedicated coach, Stuart Bowen, volunteered at the Capital Area Food Bank during Montgomery College's Community Service Week. A joyous day of working together, conversation, and making a difference.



## **“Sound of Music”, October 29, 2017 at the Clarice Center, University of Maryland**

We give special thanks to Young Artists of America at Strathmore (YAA) for donating 25 tickets to our ACES “Arts and Culture” program for students, coaches and their families from Paint Branch High School, Northwood High School, and Einstein High School to attend their spectacular production of “The Sound of Music” at the Clarice Center, at University of Maryland, Sunday, October 29, 2017.



**Pictured above: ACES students, their families, and staff in front of the concert hall at University of Maryland prior to the performance.**

## “National Museum of African American History and Culture”, November 9, 2017

We delved more into our vast visual arts opportunities here in the nation’s capital by offering a tour to 30 of our ACES students to the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. This empowering museum visit was made possible by the generosity of the Exelon Corporation. Special thanks to Sandy Grace and Michelle McConnell for making this a reality for our students.



**Top left: ACES students in front of the National Museum of African American History & Culture.**

**Above: ACES students inside the museum**

**Right: ACES students and staff, Sharon Grey-Coker, ACES Academic Coach for Montgomery College Rockville Campus, Gina DiMedio Marrazza, ACES Arts and Culture Coordinator, and Karen Callender, ACES Director**

## **“Hip Hop Nutcracker”, December 12, 2017 at the Strathmore Music Center**

More than twenty-five students and their ACES coaches from Paint Branch High School, John F. Kennedy High School, Clarksburg High School, and Seneca Valley High School attended the exhilarating performance of “Hip Hop Nutcracker” at the magnificent Strathmore Music Center. Special thanks to the Strathmore team that provided reduced tickets to this performance. A special shout out to Strathmore team members Alaina Sadick Goss, Vice President, Marketing & Communications and Shruthi Mukund, Group Sales & Grassroots Marketing Manager for their support in making these reduced tickets available for our arts & culture program.



**Pictured above: Monica Burgos, ACES Academic Coach, John F. Kennedy High School, Gina DiMedio Marrazza, ACES Arts and Culture Coordinator, and students from Kennedy High School in the lobby of the Strathmore before the concert.**

## Library of Congress Tour, February 6, 2018

This past February, ACES students at the Montgomery College Rockville and Germantown campuses were invited to a private tour of the Library of Congress' Music Division. The Library of Congress is the world's largest library, with a growing collection of more than 164 million items on 838 miles of bookshelves. The collection also houses 3.6 million recordings, 14 million photographs, 8.1 million pieces of sheet music and 70 million manuscripts. How grateful we are to Bob Lipartito, Music Reference Specialist, who organized a tour of the Jefferson Building, and then welcomed us to view special Library of Congress music gems, including a Mozart original score, an original letter from Michael Jackson to Leonard Bernstein, and even a lock of Beethoven's hair! Mr. Lipartito also spoke to the students about his "Arts Career path", reconfirming the importance of always being aware of "adjusting" one's goals/path – no matter what career you choose. His generous, joyous and inclusive spirit, coupled with his excellence in presenting the array of scores/manuscripts truly made our visit an extra special one!



Stay tuned for more exciting and powerful Arts Experiences!

