

PRESS RELEASE

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The Whiting Receives \$5,000 Community Foundation of Greater Flint Grant

Flint, MI – We are pleased to announce the *Community Foundation of Greater Flint* has awarded a \$5,000 grant from the *Community Impact Fund of the Community Foundation of Greater Flint* to support *The Whiting Educational Outreach Program*. The *Community Foundation of Greater Flint* serves Genesee County and portions of neighboring counties. The Foundation manages assets totaling over \$130 million in 350 funds for a wide range of charitable purposes. The Whiting is a member organization of the Flint Cultural Center Corporation (FCCC).

The purpose of *The Whiting Education Outreach Program* is to bring artists deeper into our communities and schools to share elements of our collective national and international musical and theatrical history that are not currently offered in public schools. Enriching the lives of more than 9,000 young people and adults, *The Whiting Educational Outreach Program* offers performances, workshops, lectures and demonstrations in area schools and other community locations that benefit those who face barriers in accessing high-quality cultural experiences. For the 2008-09 season, The Whiting will hold major community engagement activities with nine performing artists, including two separate appearances by the American Place Theatre and appearances by LA Theaterworks, Harmonia, Dance China NY, Vagabond Opera, Sophie Milman, Vance Gilbert and Lil' Ed and the Blues Imperials.

American Place Theatre presents professionally staged verbatim adaptations of significant American literacy works and will provide week long performance-based literacy programs that include school performances, public performances and student workshops. One residency will feature a

professionally staged theatrical adaptation of *The Kite Runner* set in 1970s Afghanistan, and the second residency will feature *Zora*, a biography of the African American woman Zora Neal Hurston.

LA Theaterworks, pursuing its mission to provide access to significant works of theatre for nation-wide audiences, will present *War of the Worlds* and *The Lost World* double feature that includes a school performance and actors workshop.

Harmonia and *Dance China NY* is part of The Whiting's international program *Global Rhythms Fest* and will involve week-long residencies that will provide multiple school performances and workshops along with a public performance presented by The Whiting. *Harmonia* presents traditional folk music of Europe from the lands that inspired such legend as Count Dracula and the tales of the Roma Gypsies. *Dance China NY* is the renowned resident company of the New York Chinese Cultural Center.

Vagabond Opera, *Sophie Milman*, *Vance Gilbert* and *Lil' Ed and the Blues Imperials* are part of The Whiting's Jazz, Blues and Beyond series. Mini-residencies and outreach activities are scheduled with each of these groups prior to their public performances presented by The Whiting.

The Flint Cultural Center Corporation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting the ongoing development and vitality of the Flint Cultural Center. In addition to maintaining the Cultural Center campus, the FCCC operates and governs its member organizations: Longway Planetarium, Sloan Museum and The Whiting, and coordinates campus-wide marketing, planning and activities.

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