



Young
Audiences
Arts for
Learning
New Jersey &
Eastern
Pennsylvania

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**Young Audiences and Target® Team Up to Offer
Arts Education Grants for Local Schools Pre-K through High School!**

*Schools throughout NJ & Eastern PA are eligible;
October 4th deadline for schools to apply*

For a fourth year, **Young Audiences New Jersey & Eastern Pennsylvania (YA)** and retail giant **Target** are teaming up to offer Arts Education Grants of up to \$10,000 each, to selected New Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania schools. At a time when schools throughout the region are suffering from budget cuts, YA and Target hope to provide some relief.

The grants are designed to bring extraordinary and inspiring arts experiences (performances, hands-on workshops, and professional development) delivered by YA's team of professional teaching artists. Designed to foster creativity within schools and communities, each customized program is developed to maximize students' experiences with quality arts programs, provide opportunities to understand the cultural importance of the arts and creativity, and connect to classroom curriculum and their lives. Each grant will also provide support for selected school to create a community celebration as a culminating event.

Grant recipients will work with Young Audiences' expert staff, and their roster of over 300 professional teaching artists, to plan high-quality arts programming tailored specifically for their schools' unique needs. Each recipient will receive funding that can be used for a variety of initiatives, including:

- professional arts performances at their school
- in-depth, hands-on workshops with professional artists
- professional development to help teachers best use the arts in their classrooms
- assistance in creating a community event celebrating students' work

All preschools, elementary, middle and high schools throughout NJ and Eastern PA are eligible for the grants. Last year, six New Jersey schools received funding for this competitive opportunity. The winning schools were of all sizes and geographic locations and the programs made a tremendous difference to their students, particularly in these stressful times. Programming at these winning schools included



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exciting performances and residencies with Brazilian dance troupes that got students on their feet and dancing, instrument making and percussion residencies that allowed older students to share their work with their school communities, and performances by storytellers that connected to school day learning through language arts and science curriculums.

“We are thrilled that Target has renewed the funding for this special program. Their generosity and belief in the importance of arts and creativity as a critical part of education for every child is inspiring.” said Larry Capo, President & CEO of YA. The grants come at a critical time, when schools throughout the region are still dealing with major cuts to their arts programs. “Our continued partnership with Target ensures that children will receive quality arts programming—and develop the creative, innovative skills they’ll need to succeed in life,” said Capo.

The Arts Education Grants are part of Target’s ongoing efforts to build strong, safe and healthy communities across the country. These efforts include Target’s long history of giving 5 percent of its profit to communities, which today equals more than \$4 million every week. As part of this commitment, Target is on track to give \$1 billion for education by the end of 2015 to help kids learn, schools teach and parents and caring adults engage.

“At Target, we are committed to serving local communities where we do business,” said Laysha Ward, President, Community Relations, Target. “That’s why we are proud to partner with Young Audiences as we work to strengthen communities and enrich the lives of our guests and team members.”

Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis, with priority given to schools in financial need. At least five schools will be selected. The deadline for applications is 3pm, October 4, 2013. All applicants will be notified via email or phone by October 18, 2013.

For more information and for grant applications, schools can visit www.yanj-yaep.org or contact:

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About Young Audiences

Founded in 1973, Young Audiences New Jersey & Eastern Pennsylvania is the premiere arts-in-education resource in the region, providing high-quality performances and artist-in-residence programs to nearly 500,000 children pre-kindergarten through 12th grade annually. Young Audiences’ extensive professional artist roster represents all art forms—from dance and theater to music, language and visual arts.

Young Audiences’ programs are accessible to all socio-economic, ethnic, cultural, and geographic communities, and are designed to strengthen the arts in schools, meet local and state curriculum



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standards, involve families in arts activities, and enrich cultural life in New Jersey and Pennsylvania communities.

Young Audiences New Jersey & Pennsylvania is the first arts education organization designated as a major service organization by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, and, as part of the national network of Young Audiences, Inc. was awarded the National Medal of Arts by President Clinton. Young Audiences provides over 4,000 programs annually and are made possible in part through a grant from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State and Pennsylvania Council of the Arts. Additional funds come from the National Endowment for the Arts, foundations, corporations and generous individuals.

To learn more, visit www.yanj-yaep.org. To be “social” with us, join us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

About Target

Minneapolis-based Target Corporation (NYSE:TGT) serves guests at 1,856 stores across the United States and Canada, and at Target.com. The company plans to open its first stores in Canada in 2013. In addition, the company operates a credit card segment that offers branded proprietary credit card products. Since 1946, Target has given 5 percent of its profit through community grants and programs; today, that giving equals more than \$4 million a week. For more information about Target’s commitment to corporate responsibility, visit Target.com/hereforgood.