

March 2, 2018
First Friday Update

Dear YA Trustees:

Welcome to the March “First Friday Email Update.”

Board/Staff Retreat

Thank you to all who attended the retreat last weekend. Photos can be found [here](#) and the artwork we made will make an appearance in our office soon! It was a full day—half artmaking, half a discussion of our strategic communications work, which is in its final stages. A follow up discussion will come but in the meantime, thank you all for the robust conversation, your creativity and sense of fun.

Dazzle

Thank you for signing invitations and getting them back to us in a timely fashion so they can be mailed out. If you need any further assistance with mailing invitations, please don't hesitate to reach out to Alexa ahardy@yanjep.org.

Spread the word! If you need anything to help promote the event, please use our Dazzle website as a resource to guide people to purchase event tickets, purchase raffle tickets, vote for dancers and see our awesome Dazzle “Be there” video - <https://dazzleya.org>. You can also reach out to Denyce and she can get you anything you need.

Good News!

We have been selected as a planning grant recipient by PACF for their new initiative, All Kids Thrive, aimed at reducing chronic absenteeism. Our partner school is GE Wilson Elementary in Hamilton, Bobbie Panfili's school. The highly competitive planning grant gives us time to develop a full proposal with our school partners over the next two months. If chosen, we would have a three year grant to bring a mix of professional development, artist residency, performance and family programming. We would measure the impact on chronic absenteeism and assess other important factors for children.

NJAEC Training on Arts Integration

On March 7th, the New Jersey Arts Education Collective, in which we play a major role, will present a training for teaching artists about the basics of arts integration. All the information can be found [here](#).

March 21 Board Meeting

Ann Marie Miller from ArtPride NJ (NJ's arts advocacy organization) is joining us to give us a “state of the state” report, in light of NJ having a new governor and administration, in light of NJSCA's leadership changing, and in light of repeated threats to funding for the NEA. She will be fresh from national Arts Advocacy Day in DC (3/13/18) where she and teams of arts leaders, including myself, will visit with legislators to encourage their support of arts and arts education funding and legislation.

New Collaboration

Queen Nur will be performing at the [Stand Up Together, the Power of We](#) conference (March 11th). We have a budding relationship with the grassroots organization La Convivencia who is running the conference, which is aimed at creating connections and breaking stereotypes. We hope to develop more opportunities to partner and work together with La Convivencia to advance our shared goal of helping children understand others outside of their community.

Lastly, [Queen Nur was quoted in a wonderful article in Oprah magazine](#). How cool is that??

Please everyone have a safe weekend! It's nasty out there. Looking forward to seeing you all soon and continuing our shared endeavor to bring the arts to every child, every year!