Director’s Message

Fifty years, touching the lives of millions of St. Louis children - what a milestone!!

The Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, teaching partners/artists and I are most excited that this milestone is occurring during our tenure. The anniversary celebration kicked off at our April 2015 gala and concludes at the end of the 2015/2016 school year. As we commemorate the accomplishments of the last 50 years, we are making preparations to “springboard” into the next fifty.

At the core of everything we do is the belief that meaningful, memorable learning experiences transform the worldview of a child. It is the underlying premise that fueled founder Elise “Leesy” Schweich’s passion and motivated her to recruit friends and family to share their cultural experiences with SLPS students back in 1965. It is this core belief that drives our mission to develop children’s ability to think, create, collaborate and communicate and inspires our vision that one day all children are passionate, engaged learners who experience success.

What a pleasure it was this last year to see success lived out in the lives of two former Springboard students, Sable Campbell, Director of Diversity with the Mayor’s office for the City of St. Louis and Vin Ko, Program Manager for the St. Louis Mosaic Project. Both instantly remembered having Springboard programs as children. Sable shared, “Springboard is certainly an activity that has helped so many children understand that reading is really important — and can be fun and exciting! I know. I am one of them.” Vin shared, “Springboard programs are important because they can shape a child’s future, whether they know it or not.”

As we embark on this new chapter in our history, we are confident that this 50-year foundation is strong and the potential for continued impact is great. We look forward to continuing our partnership with each of you as we work to impact millions more children over the years to come.

[Signature]
5,066
Program Sessions

973
Programs Delivered

55,887
Children Served

160
Schools and Community Venues

72%
Contact hours with economically disadvantaged students
This year marks Springboard’s 50th year in Saint Louis Public School classrooms. The summer of 2015 also registered a special milestone as Springboard’s inaugural year in SLPS summer school. Saint Louis Public School District’s summer enrichment at Kennard Classical Junior Academy hosted more than 300 students, who enjoyed four weeks of Springboard programming aimed at boosting literacy, creativity, communication, and critical thinking skills. First grade students discovered other cultures in “We Are the World” with Linda Kram and explored rhythms, sounds and patterns with Nancy Love during “For the Love of Music”. Second graders got their groove on during “All That Dance”, led by Alicia Gbaho, engaged in interactive stories with Kim Madden in “Discovering the World”, and learned classic folk tales from master storyteller Daniel Romano in “The Heart of the Story”. Mike Brandenstein’s “MusicMaker” and “Picturebook Making” with Sandra Griffin provided creative outlets for third grade students. Fourth graders learned African drums and dance from Kunama Mtendaji in “Dance to the Drum” and continued moving with Kimberly Phillips’ “Afro-Haitian Dance”. Fifth grade students caught the acting bug and learned to think on their feet in “Improv Theater!”, taught by Branislav Tomich, and “Get Ready, Get Set, Act!”, led by long-time Springboard teaching partner/artist Suzanne Broddon.

Four weeks flew by in a flash, and falling leaves soon replaced sweltering heat. We look forward to next summer and continuing the exciting summer programming for Saint Louis Public School children!
Stage lights up, house lights down. Raise the curtain on the 20th Annual WiseWrite Festival of One-Act Plays.

The Festival, held each spring at The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, culminates many weeks of learning, brainstorming, writing, editing, practicing, reading, coaching, tweaking, laughter, pain and growth by participating St. Louis fifth grade students and their Springboard instructors and coaches. Using character development, plot analysis, theatricality and more, students increase literacy skills while bringing their stories to life as original plays. Springboard’s unique, 20-year partnership with “The Rep”, along with funding provided by Mrs. Mary Ann Lee and others, facilitates the pièce de résistance - the WiseWrite Festival. With the playwrights’ works complete, scripts are published. Works are reviewed, and a couple dozen plays are selected. Professional and aspiring actors perform the plays on the Repertory Theatre’s Mainstage, complete with costumes and props, to the delight of students and their guests.

Bravo to all who came together, making two decades of WiseWrite possible!
Summer means swimming pools, snow cones and, of course, summer programming! This year, Springboard partnered with its old friend St. Louis ArtWorks, providing summer programming for ArtWorks apprentices. St. Louis ArtWorks is a year-round job training program using art to teach essential job and life skills to under-resourced youth.

During the full-time six-week summer session, Springboard teaching partners/artists Thomasina Clarke and Megan McCormack mentored 14 youth apprentices, ages 14-19, in creating fantastic stop-motion animation videos, beautiful note cards and thought-provoking poetry. Through creating unique artworks, each apprentice honed literacy, creativity and critical thinking skills, while gaining valuable job and life skills. As evidence, all guests are greeted with “good morning, my name is...”, or “welcome to ArtWorks”, and a firm handshake. Lessons included marketing the program finale - the summer sale, where student-made products are presented and sold.

Both Springboard and St. Louis ArtWorks share a goal to improve the lives of under-resourced youth through education, and we look forward to continuing our collaboration.
Introducing Thomasina Clarke

Springboard is celebrating 50 years of service due in part to the talented teaching artists who share their skills and passion with our students. This year, Springboard welcomes new teaching partner Thomasina Clarke. Thomasina recently retired from teaching drama with Saint Louis Public Schools and is an accomplished actress, director, musician and writer. She began acting in the first grade and has performed with several local theatre companies - Unity Theatre Ensemble, Metro Theatre Circus (now Metro Theatre Company), Upstream Theatre Company, Hot City, Shakespeare Festival-St Louis and Gitana Productions. She has written, directed and produced well over fifty plays and/or musicals for children and adults.

When Thomasina is not working with students in Springboard Signature Programs like WiseWrite and Read! Write! Act!, she spends as much time as money permits on her new passion - traveling. Thanks for sharing your time and talent, Thomasina!
Financials

Income

- Program Income: $396,780
- Corporations/Foundations: 150,248
- Arts Agencies: 139,398
- Individual Contributions: 130,431
- Special Events: 107,978
- In-Kind Contributions: 77,638
- Investment Income: 34,781

TOTAL: $1,037,254

Expenses

- Program Expenses: $724,058
- Fundraising: 126,068
- Management/General: 106,743

TOTAL: $956,869

Net Assets: $941,831
Where We Serve

Aim High St. Louis
Andrews Academy – Lake St. Louis
Arts Center of the Ozarks
Bayless Public Schools
Brentwood School District
Cahokia Unit School District #187
Chesterfield Day School
City Academy
Community School
Ferguson-Florissant School District
Florissant Civic Center Theater
Francis Howell School District
Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri
Grace Chapel Lutheran School
Hazelwood Public Schools
KIPP Inspire Academy
Ladue Public Schools
MICDS
Mission St. Louis
Neighborhood Houses
Normandy School District
Parkway C-2 Public Schools
Provident, Inc.
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Riverview Gardens Public Schools
Rockwood R-VI School District
Rossman School
Special School District
St. Louis Archdiocese Schools
St. Louis ArtWorks
St. Louis Charter Schools
St. Louis County Library
St. Louis Public Schools
Warren County School District
Webster Groves Public Schools
Wilson School
Wright City Public Schools

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Brenda Butler
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Wendy Flusser
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Springboard provides innovative educational resources that develop children’s critical thinking, creativity, collaboration and communication skills through the arts, sciences and humanities.

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*denotes service ended July, 2015*
Springboard
Sunburst Society

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$10,000+
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$5,000 - $9,999
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