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ARTREACH ANNOUNCED AS WINNER OF MAYOR'S ARTS AWARDS
Corcoran's community art program recognized for Innovation in the Arts



WASHINGTON, D.C.—The **Corcoran Gallery of Art and College of Art + Design** is pleased to announce that ArtReach After School, the Corcoran's community art program, has been awarded the Mayor's Arts Awards in the category of Innovation in the Arts. The award is the highest honor conferred by Washington, D.C., and recognizes artistic excellence and service among artists, arts organizations and arts patrons in the city.

ArtReach was nominated for this honor by the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities for its innovative use of resources in developing a new Master Class, which involved a collaboration with undergraduates from the Corcoran College of Art + Design's *Wear.Strut.Occupy.*, a fashion design and performance art class, culminating in the ArtReach Soundsuits project.

For over twenty years, ArtReach has provided free arts instruction to youth in underserved D.C. neighborhoods, creating an enriching environment where students can engage with art and find new ways to express themselves within walking distance of their homes.

In 2011, educators noted many ArtReach students had matured to the point where they needed more advanced training. In an effort to continue to grow and innovate, ArtReach developed a new Master Class. Held at THEARC—a home away from home for children “East of the River”—the Master Class provides students ages 13-18 with advanced studio practice, professional-grade materials, portfolio development guidance, and the opportunity to meet and collaborate with professional artists and art students on larger community projects. In its first two years, Master Class students have worked with painter Nina Chanel Abney, sculptor Nick Cave, and photographer David Laundy.

Last autumn, ArtReach Master Class students worked on a full collaboration with *Wear.Strut.Occupy* to explore the ways in which the body is outwardly perceived. Over a 14 week period, *Wear.Strut.Occupy* students met with the Master Class every Monday and mentored each student throughout the planning, design, and creation of their own “soundsuit” inspired by the work of artist Nick Cave. The collaboration culminated in a performance and celebration at THEARC, where students and their college mentors presented, discussed, and performed within their soundsuits before a live theater audience that included Cave.

Equipped with the full resources of the Corcoran's collection and college, the Master Class is designed to provide students with unique opportunities like this collaboration, projects, and event. At the beginning of this Academic year, the program expanded to include a three-hour Saturday session and a new collaboration and community project with Corcoran students and installation artist Mia Feuer. Feuer's solo exhibition, *An Unkindness*, opens at the Corcoran on November 2.

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ABOUT ARTREACH

In 2013, ArtReach, the Corcoran's community art program, celebrates its 21st year of high quality visual arts education for the underserved youth in our community. The program extends the resources of the Corcoran Gallery of Art and the College of Art + Design to diverse neighborhoods in our city. Partnering with community organizations around Washington, ArtReach provides after-school programs, summer classes, and art workshops to underserved youth and their families, and reaches 17,000 students annually. To learn more, <http://www.corcoran.org/youth-family/corcoran-artreach>

ABOUT THE CORCORAN

Established in 1869, the **Corcoran Gallery of Art** was one of America's first museums of art—dedicated, in the words of founder William Wilson Corcoran, to “encouraging American genius.” Today it is Washington, D.C.'s largest nonfederal art museum, known internationally for its distinguished collection of historical and modern American art as well as contemporary art, photography, European painting, sculpture, and the decorative arts. A dynamic schedule of special exhibitions complements a range of education programming, which together enrich the perspectives of the visiting public, support the local arts community, and encourage thoughtful interpretation of today's most compelling social issues. **The Corcoran College of Art + Design** was founded as a school of art in 1890 and stands as Washington's only four-year accredited college of art and design. The College is one of the few in the nation whose educational model includes an integral relationship with a museum, fostering the talent of the next generation of artists. For more information about the **Corcoran Gallery of Art and College of Art + Design**, visit www.corcoran.org



Image: Photo by Matthew Horton.