



## Institute for the Development of Education in the Arts

# News Letter



### Special points of interest:

- Morgan Village Kids Rap, Dance and Act out what's on their minds
- Jazz in the City of Camden
- IDEA Takes on After-school

### Check out our Funders!!

- PNC bank
- Comcast Communications
- City of Camden NJ
- NJ State Council for the Arts
- McDonalds
- NJ After 3
- Just Four Wheels
- Camden Empowerment Zone

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**IDEA and the Morgan Village Circle Community Development Corporation Present a Neighborhood Summer Arts Program** by David Goodman

**Camden, NJ** - Kids from the Morgan Village section of Camden sent a clear message as to what is on their minds. On Thursday August 31, 2006 at Malandra Hall in Camden NJ, The Institute for the Development of Education in the Arts (IDEA) in association with the Mor-



gan Village Circle Community Development Corporation (MVCCDC) held the finale of a month long summer program themed, "Don't Slip, Hold Tight, Live Life!"

Wanting to provide their kids with a summer program, MVCCDC found funding and called upon IDEA, an arts education organization, to bring in their arts programming for a month long summer camp. One of the goals of IDEA is for youth to "claim their voice" and it was the student's voices that created the theme "Don't Slip, Hold Tight, Live Life!" Through dialogue, group development activities and the arts (dance, hip-hop and drama), IDEA's artists worked with the kids to develop an original play that focuses on a young girl's struggle with her mother's drug and alcohol abuse. The kids worked extremely hard in creating the play and had a wonderful time performing at the finale that Thursday night.

The camp has not gone without challenges. The first week of camp began during the hottest part of the summer with temperatures exceeding 95 de-



grees. The plan was to use a small tented area outside and air conditioned space inside the Morgan Village Community Center; however, the air-conditioner was stolen from the center. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "The good neighbor looks beyond the external accidents and discerns those inner qualities make all men human and, therefore, brothers." Well Waste Management Corporation continued to be a good neighbor and opened up their doors and allowed MVCCDC and IDEA to use their air-conditioned space to hold the camp.

Additional support for the camp was provided by City of Camden Department of Health and Human Services.

## Jazz Music in the City of Camden

**Camden, NJ** - The Institute for the Development of Education in the Arts (IDEA) an arts education organization completed the 5<sup>th</sup> year of its Music By the Sea Summer Jazz Camp. The camp is a partnership between IDEA and Chicken Bone Beach Historical Foundation, Inc. (CBBHFI), a non-profit organization in Atlantic City. The purpose of the camp is to provide a medium to pass on the legacy of Jazz and to use that legacy as a thread to connect generations. This approach provides a lifeline for communicating values that extend from past generations to the present and strengthens these lines for the future.

The camp brought together middle and

high school music students from the Delaware Valley for a four week intensive music workshops with jazz professionals. The classes took place on Thursday's and Friday's from June 29<sup>th</sup> to July 21<sup>st</sup> at the Newton Friends Meeting House on the corner of Cooper St and Haddon Ave. The Meeting House provided a beautiful environment that was dubbed by the participants as an "Oasis" in the downtown section of Camden.

The partnership with CBBHFI allows the students to have an opportunity to par-



ticipate in a master class with one of the jazz greats scheduled to perform at the CBBHFI Jazz concert on the boardwalk in Atlantic City. One such artist was Denis

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Di Blasio, Director of Jazz Studies, Executive Director of the Maynard Ferguson Institute of Jazz at Rowan University and a saxophonist, composer, arranger and musical director for the Institute. He is an internationally acclaimed

performer, clinician and educator for the Yamaha Music Corporation of America. Denis spent time with the students at the Newton Friends Meeting House before performing at the Chicken Bone Beach Jazz concert held in Atlantic City. Additional master classes were held at Dante Hall Arts Center in Atlantic City followed by the students performing as well at the CBBHF concert.

In the past, such jazz greats as Jimmy Heath, Wallace Roney, T.S. Monk, Orin Evans, Lenny White and Ahmad Jamal, all performers at the CBBHF Jazz Concert series and have spent valuable time with these young jazz hopefuls.

This year the camp partnered with the Camden Farmers Market where the youth performed on July 7<sup>th</sup>, the 21<sup>st</sup> and August 5<sup>th</sup> at the Farmer's Market on Broadway and Mickle Blvd in Camden. These performances included a new aspect added to the camp this year: jazz poetry and hip-hop jazz dance both done to the music of Duke Ellington's "A-Train."

The camp was sponsored this year in part by PNC Bank, Comcast Communications, the City of Camden N J State Council for the Arts, Just For Wheels, Mc Donald's and donations from participating parents and interested citizens from throughout the Delaware Valley



## Making After-School... **COOL!**



### IDEA Takes on the Challenge of Making After-School Cool!!

For the 2005-2006 school year, IDEA was awarded a grant by NJAfter 3 and took on the challenge of creating an exciting after-school program at Cream School in Camden, NJ.

NJAfter 3 is a state wide non-profit organization dedicated to providing after-school programs for kids in NJ. By teaming with local organizations and providing financial and technical assistance, NJAfter 3 has developed a track record of successful programs throughout the state. IDEA's program was no exception.

Although this was the first venture into the world of after-school, IDEA found it's rhythm and put together an exciting program entitled "Kids Achieving Thru the Arts". A program that allowed the kids at Cream School to tap into their great potential through the wonders of the arts.

IDEA assembled a great staff of 12 para-professionals that provided academic enrichment and 6 professional artists to work with the kids. The art forms were Drums, Dance, Hip-Hop, Drama, Poetry / Spoken Word and Visual Arts.

All instructors were given the challenge to think outside the box in working with the kids. Because of this, the kids responded positively. There were even complaints from some of the kids when their parents



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came to pick them up early from the program. So much so, that in the after-school newsletter two of the 5th graders contributed in writing an article entitled, "Parents...Stop Picking me Up Early!"

Other events that took place during the after-school program included several Friday nights of "Café KATA"; an evening of performances put together by the kids. A wonderful Picasso art exhibit presented by the second graders. An exhibit that featured pictures and drawings done by the students using the style of Picasso.

The year ended with a year-end festival that highlighted many of the projects the students had been working on throughout the school year. Some of the projects included clay designs, drawings, songs, dance numbers and poetry that the kids created. The evening turned out to be a wonderful event that the entire community had a chance to experience. "It was really great to see the kids doing something positive" said one of

the parents. "Programs like this need to keep going. It keeps kids out of trouble" remarked another parent.

You can expect more after-school programming from IDEA in the future. Programs like this are a win-win situation for everyone involved: Parents have an option for their kids after-school, and kids get to experience their full potential through the arts.



Parents enjoying the After-school festival

# THE YOUTH INSTITUTE FOR JAZZ STUDIES

### IDEA and The Chicken Bone Beach Historical Foundation, Inc. Kick-off The Youth Institute For Jazz Studies.

The Chicken Bone Beach Historical Foundation, Inc. (CBBHF) and IDEA, with the support of the Atlantic City Convention and Visitors Assoc. (ACCV) will premier its Youth Studies Program starting January 2007 in Atlantic City. The Youth Jazz and Music Studies program will offer Music Lessons in Jazz to youth between the ages of (10-18) who are interested in learning music for the first time or in honing their music skills.

The program will take place on Thursday evenings from 3 to 6pm and on Saturdays from 10am to 3pm. Students will have the

opportunity to study with professional jazz teachers and will be mentored by jazz masters who will make monthly guest appearances throughout the year. Classes in Brass, Woodwind, Rhythm, and Vocals will be available. In addition to learning music, students will participate in activities such as field trips to the Lincoln Center in New York, and the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia.

Our intent is to develop students who can continue the legacy of this American art form called jazz; and possibly become the next jazz legends and contemporary jazz musician. Graduates will be given scholarships to music schools such as the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and other music schools nationally.

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