



The Festival Reaches its Largest Year-Ever!

Wrap-Up eNews, June 2006

Each year the Flint Hills International Children's Festival creates a lifetime of memories for all who take part. This special edition of our Education and Community Engagement Newsletter captures a few of our memories and our thanks.

As part of Ordway Center's Education and Community Engagement mission, The Flint Hills International Children's Festival is designed to bring new audiences to the theater and to deepen arts experiences children share with friends and families. We start by hosting the world's best artists performing for children, and then we work with educators and regional artists to design special pre-Festival projects. Each Festival is unique because each year's International Artists are unique. Yet every year's Festival has one thing in common: astounding work performed by artists from all over the world! **This year, more than 40,000 patrons joined us during Festival week-the largest number in all our six years!**



... But one week in May is only half of the story ...

It might seem like the Festival simply bursts on to the scene for six glorious days each spring. But long before each year's Festival begins, projects and programs start in neighborhood centers, schools, churches, libraries and museums. **Between January and May this year more than 2,000 young people, their families, and teachers worked diligently on a broad spectrum of Festival projects and submerged themselves in the cultures, art-forms, and themes highlighted during the event. Our first thank you must go to the more than 350 artists and hundreds of teachers and parents who utilized Festival programs for learning through the arts.**



Left: April's Bike Donation Day became the Festival Kick-Off at Ordway Center and resulted in fifteen donated bikes in just one day! Under the marquee Ordway Center artists Leah Horvath and Mandy Hankerson helped children begin work for their ARTmoves Parade entry.

Left Center: Edna Stevens Talton worked with students at Longfellow Community School in Minneapolis, a partner school in the Arts Explore program. She introduced students to African and hip-hop movement styles in preparation for their field trip to see *Children of Uganda*.

Right: Students at L'Etoile du Nord French Immersion Magnet School made drums and shakerés during an ArtStart residency conducted by William Atchouelou in an Arts 25 Partnership between Art Start, Ordway Center, and French Immersion Magnet. This project culminated in student field trips to *Children of Uganda* and a special French language performance of Fawzy Al-Aiedy's *Dounya*.

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 for the Performing Arts
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