Preparation of Arts Organizations for the “Age Wave”

Professional Training Development offered to Eight Minnesota Arts Organizations

MINNEAPOLIS, MN (September 27, 2013) - Eight Minnesota arts organizations have been selected to receive training to prepare them to work with a rapidly changing demographic - the age wave - of older adults. The training workshops are presented by ArtSage, a Minnesota nonprofit that serves as a catalyst for the field of arts and aging and is funded through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board.

The selected arts organizations will participate in four day-long workshops that will help them to learn how to develop effective programming for older adult audiences, explore alternative arts delivery models that encourage arts access for older adults, and develop partnerships with senior serving organizations. These training workshops are offered from October through March, 2014. Workshops will be led by Jane Tygesson, a nationally known leader in the emerging field of arts and aging who developed the Open Doors to Memory Program, and works with the Minneapolis Institute of Arts and the SPARK! Alliance in Wisconsin.

“Arts organizations in Minnesota have been reaching out to ArtSage to help them develop programming for older adults. They are looking for help in serving older adults with memory loss and physical challenges but also older adults who want to be move from being seen as passive audience members to engaged and creative contributors. This is especially relevant in greater Minnesota where there are more older adults.” says Tammy Hauser, ArtSage interim executive director.

Arts Organizations Selected:

- COMPAS - St. Paul, MN
- MacPhail Center for Music - Minneapolis, MN
- VocalEssence - Minneapolis, MN
- Minnesota Discovery Center - Chisholm, MN
- Caponi Art park & Learning Center - Eagan, MN
- Rosemount Area Arts Council - Rosemount, MN
- Paramount Theatre and Visual Arts Center - St. Cloud, MN
- Zenon Dance Company - Minneapolis, MN

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“The ArtSage goal for the training is focused on changing organizational cultures to provide more institutional access and a person-centered approach for older adults. That is why our selected arts organization teams of three staff members include a teaching artist, an arts education program manager and a senior staff person. The team of three will participate in all activities together and therefore be able to impact organizational changes more effectively,” adds Hauser.

ArtSage this year received a second Partnership Grant from the MN State Arts Board to provide professional development for professional artists and arts organizations working with older adults. There is no cost to participants for workshop training.

Since its inception in 2003, ArtSage has worked to further the field of arts and aging in Minnesota. For more information, visit www.artsagemn.org

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board and the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

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