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## **Patel Conservatory gives free arts experiences to community**

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TAMPA, Fla. – Nearly 40 local organizations have been selected by the Patel Conservatory at the David A. Straz, Jr. Center for the Performing Arts (formerly the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center) for its esteemed Community Partnership Program for the 2010-11 academic school year.

The Patel Conservatory's Community Partnership Program provides ongoing performing arts experiences for selected Tampa Bay area agencies, schools and organizations. Organizations underwent an in-person application and selection process, with 38 winners chosen.

Each partner will receive at least one artistic experience and some up to six, depending on the level of partnership. Services include on-site and off-site shows, workshops, residencies and other activities.

Examples of past partnership activities include tap dance classes for children at the Boys and Girls Clubs, a songwriting class for underprivileged youth and visits from guest artists such as Step Afrika. Hundreds of tickets to shows at the Straz Center for the Performing Arts were also given to partners.

"We are so happy and proud to announce that the Patel Conservatory will once again be providing meaningful and engaging artistic experiences to almost 40 schools and organizations. Our current and former partners have told us how they've gained immeasurably from the experiences we've provided and we're thankful to be able to continue," said Wendy Leigh, vice president of education at Straz Center for the Performing Arts.

This year's advanced partners include Morgan Woods Elementary, Redlands Christian Migrant Association Academy, YMCA/Sulphur Springs Elementary, Muller Elementary School, Young Middle Magnet School, Mendez Center and East Henry Academy, Metropolitan Ministries, Metropolitan Ministries Partnership School, Dorothy Thomas School, Lockhart Elementary, Blake High School and Philip Shore Elementary.

This year's intermediate partners include Redlands Christian Migrant Association, First Baptist Church of College Hill, Preschool Experience/Community Preschool, The Spring of Tampa Bay, Academy Prep Center of Tampa Bay, St. Peter Claver Catholic Church, Boys and Girls Clubs of Tampa Bay and USF Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders Center.

General partners include Weinberg Village, University Area Community Development Corp., Hillsborough County Department of Aging Services, NLF Youth Education Town Centers of Tampa, MacDonald Training Center, City of Tampa Housing Authority, Children's Board of Hillsborough County and Mount Pleasant Middle School.

Affiliate partners include Florida Institute on Community Studies, Inc., Jack and Jill Greater Tampa Chapter, Police Athletic League, Seminole Heights Elementary, Hillsborough County Department of Children's Services, Envisage Abundance, Inc., Rampello Downtown Partnership School, Hillel School, Inverness Middle School and Walton Academy for the Performing Arts.

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The Community Partnership Program is funded by Bank of America, Chapman Foundation, Glazer Family Foundation, Hinks and Elaine Shimberg Charitable Lead Unitrust, Joy McCann Foundation, JP Morgan Chase Foundation, MetLife Foundation, The St. Petersburg Times Fund and Wachovia, a Wells Fargo Company.

As part of the non-profit David A. Straz, Jr. Center for the Performing Arts, the Patel Conservatory offers summer camps and classes for children and adults of all experience levels in all kinds of dance, music and theater. More information is available by visiting [www.patelconservatory.org](http://www.patelconservatory.org) and by calling 813.222.1002.

The Community Foundation of Tampa Bay, Glazer Family Foundation, Joy McCann Foundation, JPMorgan Chase Foundation, MetLife Foundation, Hinks & Elaine Shimberg Charitable Lead Unitrust, The St. Petersburg Times Fund and Target.  
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