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The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Announces

San Juan, Puerto Rico as Partner City for
Any Given Child

Program Creates a Long-Range Arts Education Plan
for Students Grades K-8

(WASHINGTON)—The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts has chosen San Juan, Puerto Rico as the 21st site and first school district in Puerto Rico for Ensuring the Arts for Any Given Child, a program that creates a long-range arts education plan for students in grades K–8. The program will incorporate existing resources of the San Juan city schools, local arts organizations, and the Kennedy Center to create a plan for arts education specific to the city.

Any Given Child seeks to bring access and equity to each student’s arts education, using a model that combines the resources of the school district, local arts and community organizations, and the Kennedy Center. With the assistance of expert consultation services provided by Kennedy Center staff and counsel, community leaders develop a strategy for arts education that is tailor-made for the school district and community. Fundación Banco Popular will serve as the lead organization for Any Given Child San Juan.

“Powerful educational programs are at the core of the Kennedy Center’s mission to inspire the next generation of art-makers to inform and influence our society with their creativity,” said Mario Rossero, Senior Vice President of Education at the Kennedy Center. “We know that access to the arts provides essential learning as a part of every child’s education, because of programs like Any Given Child that generate a measurable impact in student’s lives both in and out of the classroom. We are grateful to Mayor Cruz-Soto, Superintendent Malavé-Sanjurjo, Fundación Banco
Popular, and the local arts community for meeting our commitment to this program, and look forward to seeing these students respond to the benefits of a strong arts education.”

“This program shares our vision of supporting and promoting the arts as a fundamental aspect in every child’s education. We are committed to contributing to the social well-being of our country’s young talent. Partnerships like this one are a direct reflection of what we can achieve if we all work together toward the same goal”, said Beatriz Polhamus, executive director of Fundación Banco Popular.

By working with other local arts organizations and using existing resources, the program aims to minimize administrative overhead, thus remaining affordable. The Kennedy Center covers the majority of the cost, and also requires sites to contribute $25,000 toward the first four years of the program. The first phase of the program is the community’s comprehensive audit of existing arts education resources and needs assessment facilitated by Kennedy Center staff and consultants. Data collection will reveal what arts education resources currently exist and where the gaps are for students. Based on this information, the community creates a plan to bring more access to arts education for all K-8 students. The strategic planning process takes approximately nine months.

During phase two of the program, a committee of community members makes recommendations to the school district and local arts groups on how to best implement the recently-created plan, focusing on increasing arts opportunities for K-8 students. In addition, educators and artists can take advantage of a wealth of resources available from the Kennedy Center, such as classroom lessons with online interactive learning modules and videos available on the Kennedy Center website, and professional development for teachers and teaching artists. The goal of this second phase is to provide a tapestry of arts education, strategically weaving together existing arts resources within the schools with those available from community providers and the Kennedy Center in order to reach every child.

Since the program’s inception, Any Given Child sites have reported numerous successes: some school districts have hired additional teachers or added staff positions; new sources of funding for arts education have been established;
communities have expanded arts offerings for students; and sites have provided professional learning for classroom teachers, arts specialists, and local arts organizations to build their capacity to deliver high quality arts education to students.

In February 2015, the Kennedy Center announced a $1 million gift from Newman’s Own Foundation in honor of A. E. Hotchner and his many contributions to the success of Newman’s Own. The grant established an endowment to help underserved communities participate in the Center’s Ensuring the Arts for Any Given Child program.

In 2009, the Kennedy Center and Mayor Kevin Johnson announced the first formal Any Given Child program in Sacramento, California. The following cities joined subsequently:

- Springfield, Missouri, February 2010
- Portland, Oregon, June 2010
- Southern Nevada, December 2010
- Tulsa, Oklahoma, May 2011
- Sarasota, Florida, June 2011
- Austin, Texas, August 2011
- Iowa City, Iowa August, 2012
- Baltimore, Maryland, September 2012
- Fresno, California, October 2012
- Juneau, Alaska, February 2013
- Madison, Wisconsin, July 2013
- Missoula, Montana and Jacksonville, Florida, August 2013
- New Orleans, Louisiana and Harrisonburg, Virginia, August 2014
- Houston, Texas, August 2015
- Indianapolis, Indiana; and Trenton, New Jersey, September 2015
- San Juan, Puerto Rico, September 2016
Additional cities will be announced later this month, September 2016. The Kennedy Center accepts applications between January 1 and March 31 of each year for a program launch in the fall of the same year.

ABOUT EDUCATION AT THE KENNEDY CENTER
The Kennedy Center retains its commitment as the nation’s cultural center to educating and enlightening children and adults in Washington and around the country. The Center’s national education programs include: Ensuring the Arts for Any Given Child, which works with 23 municipalities and their school districts around the country to develop a long-range strategic plan for arts education; ARTSEdge, a website that offers standards-based materials for use in and out of the classroom; Partners in Education, which forges relationships between an arts organization and its neighboring school systems to build effective arts education programs for teachers and teaching artists; Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education Network, works with 30 state organizations on arts education policy issues; Explore the Arts, which provide insight into the cultural and historical context of the works presented on stage and sparks dialogue between audiences and the artists who have created the performances through participatory workshops, demonstrations, panels, master classes, and open rehearsals; the Kennedy Center/Stephen Sondheim Inspirational Teacher Awards, which acknowledge teachers of grades K-12 whose efforts have made a significant impact on their students; and Kennedy Center Theater for Young Audiences on Tour, which brings original Kennedy Center productions for students and families into communities and performing arts centers around the country. In 2016, the Kennedy Center and the President’s Committee on the Arts and Humanities announced a strategic partnership to bring the Turnaround Arts initiative to the Center, which empowers high-need, low-performing schools with innovative arts programming and resources to help address broader school challenges and close the achievement gap.

In and around D.C., the Kennedy Center’s programs include Changing Education Through the Arts, a program that works with seven schools in the area to affect long-term change in school culture through professional learning in arts integration; Professional Development Opportunities for Teachers, which trains Washington-area educators to teach the arts or other subject areas through the arts; and Washington, D.C. Partnership Schools, where the Center provides resources and teaching artist residencies to 22 elementary, junior, and senior high schools in Washington, D.C. The Center also mounts more than 100 events and performances of theater, music, dance, and opera throughout the season for more than 100,000 local school-aged children.

In addition, the Center offers multiple skill development programs for young artists and professionals both locally and nationally, including the National Symphony Orchestra’s Youth Fellowship Program, Summer Music Institute, and High School Competition; Washington National Opera’s Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program, Opera Institute, and Kids Create Opera Partnership; the biennial New Visions/New Voices forum for development of new plays for young people; Exploring Ballet with
Suzanne Farrell; Betty Carter’s Jazz Ahead; VSA’s Playwright Discovery Program, Young Soloists, and Visual Arts Programs; arts administration internships; and the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival which impacts hundreds of thousands of college-aged theater students across the country and marks its 49th anniversary in 2017.

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**PRESS CONTACTS:**
Brittany Laeger
The Kennedy Center
(202) 416-8445
balaeger@kennedy-center.org

Kelly Carnes
The Kennedy Center
(202) 416-8441
Kmcarnes@kennedy-center.org