

For Immediate Release

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**TRENTON PUBLIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION'S
SECOND ANNUAL THEATER EVENING AND RECEPTION FEATURES**

**TRENTON'S OWN DIVA SARAH DASH
AND PHILLY RAPPER CHILL MOODY
WITH STUDENT PERFORMERS**

FROM TRENTON SCHOOLS, WESTMINSTER COLLEGE OF THE ARTS OF RIDER UNIVERSITY

**Benefits Trenton's Role in the Kennedy Center's Any Given Child Program
And Honors The McCarter Theatre Center**

LAWRENCEVILLE, NJ (April 7, 2017) --- Because the arts matter, the Trenton Public Education Foundation (TPEF)'s Second Annual Theater Evening and Reception will be an artistic cavalcade of talent from Trenton's own Diva Sarah Dash (of LaBelle fame) and Philly's Star Rapper Chill Moody to students from several schools including the Trenton schools. It will take place on Saturday, April 29, 2017 to benefit the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts' Ensuring the Arts for Any Given Child (AGC) program of the Trenton Public Schools. It will take place at the Bart Luedeke Center on the Rider University campus from 6 PM – 9:30 PM.

The Trenton Public Education Foundation, TPEF, is honoring The McCarter Theatre Center because it is a guiding force on the Any Given Child, Trenton Community Arts Team and provides multiple drama-based programs in Trenton Schools including Washington Elementary, Trenton Central High School VPA Campus, Trenton West High School, and Joyce Kilmer, Rivera, and Hedgepeth-Williams Middle Schools.

Ellen Mushinski, Executive Director of the TPEF is thrilled that McCarter Theatre is being recognized. She said, "It is so thrilling to be part of the Kennedy Center's Any Given Child Program and, if it weren't for Erica Nagel, director Education and Engagement at McCarter, leading the efforts with our Community Arts Team, we would never be able to accomplish all

that we have. To date, Trenton remains the only New Jersey city to be selected for the Kennedy Center arts program”.

Nagel is very proud to accept the award on behalf of McCarter Theater. She said, “It has been an honor and a joy to work with so many exceptional people and organizations to advance the goals of Any Given Child Trenton,” says Erica Nagel, director Education and Engagement at McCarter. “The community and district goals for the arts were clarified and strengthened through ACG’s strategic planning process last year, and during that process McCarter has also specifically developed our programs to ensure that our educational offerings in Trenton align with the long-term vision for arts access and arts equity in the district. The students in Trenton are truly exceptional, and we are thrilled to be part of this important collective action work to facilitate their success through arts education.”

The evening will begin with a reception and be followed by a theater performance with special guest, Trenton's Own Sarah Dash (of LaBelle fame), who will sing _____, a song written for TPEF’s Any Child Given with Grammy-winning producer/songwriter Marc Swersky. Critically-acclaimed Philadelphia Rapper Chill Moody will also perform. There will be more entertainment provided by the Trenton Public School District Community Orchestra, Trenton High School Dancers and the Westminster College of the Arts of Rider University.

Tickets are \$125.00 for the Reception and Theater Performance and \$50.00 for the Theater Performance only. Tickets may be purchased online at www.tpef.org. For further information contact Ellen Mushinski at mushinkie@comcast.net.

The TPEF is a 501 (C) (3) non-profit education foundation which works to increase education opportunities to benefit the Trenton public school children.

The TPEF is the backbone organization which administers the Any Given Child program in the school district. The Kennedy Center Any Given Child program aims to provide a quality and equitable arts education program for all school children. Any Given Child, Trenton was established in 2015 in memory of Kenneth S. Gould, MD.

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Background Information:

Sarah Dash is a founding member of Patti LaBelle and the Bluebelles along with Patti LaBelle, Nona Hendryx, and Cindy Birdsong who later joined The Supremes. Patti LaBelle and the Bluebelles, later becoming Labelle, became one of the 1970’s groundbreaking funk bands. The group’s 1974 album *Nightbirds* yielded the massive hit and now classic “Lady Marmalade.” Sarah’s illustrious career includes recording and performing live with some of the greatest names in the industry including The Rolling Stones, Alice Cooper, Laura Nyro, the O’Jays, Wilson

Pickett, and Bo Diddley to name only a few. She was inducted into The Rhythm and Blues Foundation's Hall of Fame in 1999. _____ She grew up in _____ Trenton and attended Trenton High School where her interest in the arts was kindled. ????

McCarter Theatre Center for the Performing Arts in Princeton is one of the most active cultural centers in the nation, offering over 200 performances of theater, dance, music and special events each year. McCarter's audience is truly a regional one. Over 200,000 people come to McCarter each season from all twenty-one counties in New Jersey as well as Pennsylvania, New York and twenty-three additional states. McCarter is supported by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Princeton University, and over 3,000 individuals, corporations, community leaders, and foundations.

The Trenton Public Education Foundation, Inc. (TPEF) exists to serve all students in the Trenton School District by being active in the community and creating partnerships that will guarantee a bright future for Trenton's students. It does so by brokering, fostering, and leveraging resources that enhance and promote educational opportunities for the students in the Trenton School District.

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