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Trenton selected for Kennedy Center's arts program



Kennedy Arts Center

By [David Foster](#), *The Trentonian*

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TRENTON >> The capital city has received a significant bump from a major performing arts organization.

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts announced Wednesday that it selected Trenton for its Ensuring the Arts for Any Given Child program. Becoming the first city in the state to receive the honor, and adding to an already growing arts scene, the K-8 program will combine resources from the Trenton Public Schools, local arts organization and the Kennedy Center to highlight arts education, according to a press release.

“The Kennedy Center’s Any Given Child grant offers a wonderful opportunity for our school children and the City of Trenton.” Mayor Eric E. Jackson said in a statement. “It will showcase the talent of our children and teaching staff, and highlight the rich and diverse artistic and cultural community which calls Trenton home.”

The program — billed as affordable — will be carried out through two phases.

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First, an audit of Trenton's existing resources will be conducted to find gaps, which is expected to take up to nine months. Then, recommendations are made locally as to how to carry out the program, allowing the community to utilize resources from the Kennedy Center.

"The Trenton School District looks forward to working with the local arts organizations and local leaders on the development of the district arts education strategic plan," Trenton Superintendent Francisco Duran said in a statement. "I strongly support the goals of this initiative which are aligned with the District's short and long-term goals for arts education"

The Kennedy Center received a significant contribution from Georgeanne "Georgie" Gould Moss in honor of her late father, Dr. Kenneth S. Gould, a former professor at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, in order to implement the program in Trenton.

"I am thrilled Trenton was chosen as the 19th site for the Any Given Child program," said Georgeanne Moss, a Princeton resident and member of the Kennedy Center National Committee for the Performing Arts. "As a National Committee member, I've seen firsthand how this wonderful program offers artistic resources for children in underserved communities. Two years ago, I had a vision and dream to bring the resources of the Kennedy Center to our local community. I am honored that so many others felt the same way and helped to turn this vision into reality."

Rider University is also another partner for the program.

"Rider University's Westminster College of the Arts supports the fundamental belief that all students should have the opportunity to participate in the arts, both in school and out of school," said Matthew Shaftel, dean of university's arts program. "Students participating in the arts are engaged in life and are empowered to be fulfilled, responsible citizens who make a profound, positive impact on our world."