



St. Paul Public Housing Agency

PHA News

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The Music, Arts, and Community Connection: The Twin Cities Mobile Jazz Project

The Saint Paul Public Housing Agency (PHA) and Youthprise present Mobile Jazz After School, an after school program for youth ages 12 to 17. Mobile Jazz After School is being offered at Mount Airy Community Center in St. Paul, in a new three-hour, 8-week after-school pilot program and promises to teach students music production, collaboration and how to create the soundtrack of their lives.

“We have a passion for music and the performing arts and we are enjoying this opportunity to offer kids an experience to spark and express their creative imaginations.”

-Andre Fischer, Executive Director, TCMJP

“This program gives me the freedom to do what I want to do artistically; this class [Mobile Jazz After School] has opened my world.”

-Deondra Johnson, student, Creative Arts Secondary School

Mobile Jazz After School, is an existing after school and summer school music arts initiative created by Grammy-award winning producer and educator, Andre Fischer and Associate Professor, Ross VeLure Roholt, Ph.D. Director, School of Social Work and Youth Studies, College of Education and Human Development, University of Minnesota. Fischer is well known for producing Natalie Cole’s “Unforgettable” and “Take A Look” albums, multiple albums for both Rufus & Chaka Khan and Tony Bennett as well as the music soundtrack to the movie “Pretty Woman” starring Julia Roberts. The program is a collaboration between Saint Paul Public Schools (SPPS) Office of College and Career Readiness, Youthprise and the Public Housing Agency of St. Paul, MN and integrates core aspects of creativity, performing and multimedia arts and music education to stimulate students’ critical thinking, self-expression and engagement.

Fischer, Associate Professor VeLure Roholt and a team of master instructors expose students to different genres of music, American musical history, collaboration and the necessary technology to help them develop the skills and confidence needed to design and produce their beats and sounds into a music soundtrack of personal expression. Each week Mobile Jazz invites a master artist to perform and mentor the students, inspiring greatness from youth participants. Spoken word artist Lioness, renown saxophonist Kirk Whalum, vocalists Ashley Dubois, finalist from the Voice and actress & vocalist, Thomasina Petrus have all dedicated their time and talent to participate in Mobile Jazz After School. Students are encouraged to perform in front of instructors and visiting artists who act as mentors, helping students fine tune their skills and delivery.

“Mobile Jazz is currently providing students with the opportunity to take their creative skills and talents beyond the classroom; the program is exposing [students] to real-life opportunities, which exponentially enhances their skills and confidence.”

Valerie Littles-Butler, former principal at Creative Arts Secondary School, SPPS.

Mobile Jazz After School in partnership with PHA is being offered from 4:00 – 7:00 pm each Monday and Wednesday at Mount Airy Community Center and runs from January 20 until March 14, 2016.

For more information go to: www.stpaulpha.org, www.mobilejazzproject.org, or please contact, Twin Cities Mobile Jazz Project at (651) 274-9956.

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