



Promoting self-growth and effective life skills through art-making

In Review

End of Summer 2007

Dear ArtSpring Friends:

Is it still summer? It's almost over, but where has it gone!?! I hope this summer issue (just getting it in under the wire!) finds everyone rested and rejuvenated as school gets back into session and a new season is about to begin. We have been busy as the dickens these last few months... read on to learn more about the exciting things we are doing.

We just learned that Eve Ensler will be here with us in Miami on October 18th to perform in our production of the project she conceived: *Any One of Us: Words from Prison*. We are also blessed to have acclaimed song-writer Amy Carol Webb, who wrote two songs and an original score for the script, joining us to perform live on stage alongside Eve and local artists, advocates and community leaders. Florida Department of Corrections Deputy Secretary Dr. Laura Bedard, Miami-Dade County Commissioner Katy Sorenson and television host Hunter Reno are just a few in this impressive cast.

So come out and see your friends perform in this one-time event, benefiting ArtSpring, Women's Fund of Miami-Dade, the Bridging the Gap program and V-Day. We know this powerful and moving performance will be a great success with your support. Special thanks to our Diamond Sponsor, the Seminole Tribe of Florida, and to all of the Sponsors and Co-host Organizations making this event possible. Can't wait to see you there!

Videy Bible, Executive Director

In this issue:

- *Current Event - Any One of Us: Words from Prison: Miami*
- *Spotlight on: Marcia Frazier*
- *Programming Initiative: Bridging the Gap update*
- *Featured Artwork: Thank You Women's Fund of Miami-Dade*

ANY ONE OF US: WORDS FROM PRISON A VDAY EVENT :MIAMI

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2007 AT 8 P.M.

Conceived by **Eve Ensler** Playwright and Founder of V-Day

Staged and Directed by **Leslie Neal** ArtSpring Founder and Artistic Director

Original Score written and performed by **Amy Carol Webb**

Performed by **Eve Ensler** with
Local artists, celebrities and community leaders

Gusman Center for the Performing Arts
174 East Flagler Street, Miami

Tickets: 305.274.4772
or e-mail: evntures@aol.com

For more information on this exciting event, go to:
<http://www.womensfundmiami.org/A1U.htm>

www.artspring.org



Pre-Production
under way!
Above, ArtSpring
Artistic Director Leslie
Neal directs a casting
call for performers;
below, *Inside Out*
alumna Jessica Gibbs
reads her lines



Spotlight: *Inside Out* alumna Marcia Frazier

We are proud to spotlight Marcia Frazier, a former *Inside Out* participant released from Broward Correctional in April 2007. ArtSpring staff has kept in close touch to assist in her transition back to the community. Upon her release, she was accepted as a resident at the Lotus House, a shelter providing transitional housing for women in Miami-Dade County, operated by Sundari Foundation, Inc.

Sundari Foundation and Soul Gallery hosted an exhibition of contemporary artists residing at Lotus House. Marcia was selected to present her artwork *Prison Chic*, a conceptual piece inspired by her incarceration. The opening reception was well attended with many local dignitaries including Miami-Dade County Commissioner Michelle Spence-Jones, art collector Martin Margolies and committee members from Art Basel. The exhibit, which also features the work of two other Lotus House residents, will be open through September 30 and can be viewed by appointment.

Call Soul Gallery 305.984.9975 or visit the website:

<http://lotushouseshelter.org/index.html>

Throughout her 8 years of incarceration in Florida's state prison system, Marcia completed many vocational and certificate programs and was also assigned to teach the transitions curriculum offered by the state to those close to their release date. Marcia has participated with us in several *Bridging the Gap* writing workshop readings around town and will perform in the upcoming *Any One of Us: Words from Prison: Miami*. On August 8th, she was a guest speaker on NPR WLRN Topical Currents, discussing issues surrounding ex-offenders and their reentry into society.

Marcia is passionate about being a voice and advocate for those behind the walls as well as those coming back to our community. On August 6th, she was hired as a Job Developer/ Case Manager by Transition, Inc., a nonprofit organization providing job training and job placement services to adult Ex-Offenders in Miami-Dade. This week, Marcia was named Employee

of the Month after just one month on the job.

We are all very proud of Marcia's successes!



Marcia's conceptual piece *Prison Chic* is featured in the Lotus House Collective this month at Soul Gallery in Liberty City

Programming Update: *Bridging the Gap*

The second phase of *Bridging the Gap* (BGAP) concluded in April 2007 with a community performance at Homestead CI. Over the summer, the BGAP documentary and live readings were presented at several community events, beginning with the premier screening of the Annie E. Casey Foundation documentary at University of Miami that we mentioned in our last newsletter. We share with you now memories of several other presentations around town. It has been quite an eventful summer!!



BGAP volunteer Brenda Valencia Aldana, Founding GAP Community Co-Chair Eileen Nexer, BGAP Coordinator and GAP Statewide Expansion Director Vicki Lopez Lukis, ArtSpring Board President and BGAP volunteer Leslie Sternlieb, ArtSpring Executive Director Nicole Bible and ArtSpring Founder and Artistic Director Leslie Neal gather at the Women's Fund luncheon on April 19



BGAP participants, Project Coordinator, ArtSpring directors and community volunteers after the Homestead presentation

BGAP Community Events

Live readings at Coral Gables Books & Books, May 15th



(L-R) ArtSpring AD Leslie Neal, *Inside Out* alumna Marcia Frazier, BGAP coordinator Vicki Lukis, ED Nicole Bible, Facilitator La Vonne Canfield and ArtSpring Board Member Jill Ecklund.



Women's Fund immediate past board chair Ellen Shishko joins nine other readers to give voice to the essays of women in the Homestead program.

Documentary screening & reading at Ft. Lauderdale's Cinema Paradiso, July 24th



Two *Inside Out* alumnae, Janice Billie, (above) also an ArtSpring Board Member, and Joyce Cummings (below), join eight other volunteers reading BGAP essays after the film documentary was screened at Cinema Paradiso, part of the Ft. Lauderdale Film Festival.



To view the *Bridging the Gap* film documentary, go to:
<http://www.reentrymediaoutreach.org/gap.htm>

Inside Art: *Inside Out* participants say "Thank You" to Women's Fund

ArtSpring Executive Director Nicole Bible, Artistic Director Leslie Neal and Board President Leslie Sternlieb (far right), present to Claudia Kitchens, Executive Director of Women's Fund of Miami-Dade, a plaque featuring artwork from the *Inside Out* program at Homestead Correctional Institution.

This mandala drawing was created and signed by the participants to say "Thank You" to Women's Fund, a critical source of funding for ArtSpring's programming for women and girls in Miami-Dade.





ArtSpring's mission is to support self-growth and effective life skills through art-making. Our focus is devoted to arts- intervention programming and the value of arts education in underserved communities. Since 1994, ArtSpring has offered specially designed arts-based workshops through two principal ongoing programs: *Inside Out-Expressive Arts Workshops for Incarcerated Women* and *Breaking Free-Arts for Adolescent Girls*. In 2005 ArtSpring implemented *Rites and Passages-Theatre and Drumming Workshops for Male Inmates (RAP)*. ArtSpring is nationally recognized for offering the longest ongoing arts-in-corrections programming in the state of Florida. Our interdisciplinary arts programs incorporate movement, theater games, writing, drawing, music, storytelling, meditation, guided imagery and performance as transformational tools for self-reflection and personal change.

Our programs promote creative thinking, personal growth, effective life-skill development and confident self-expression. ArtSpring believes in the power of art to transform individuals and communities. Our creative workshops encourage personal reflection, self-awareness, acceptance, commitment, tolerance and individual choice-making that provide participants with better tools for survival while confined in institutionalized settings and upon their release.

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... and many other individual donors!!



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