



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

In Review

Spring 2007

Dear ArtSpring Supporters:

We are pleased to embark on our first major fundraising event in ArtSpring's fifteen-year history—*Any One of Us: Words from Prison*—to be presented October 18 at Gusman Center for the Performing Arts in downtown Miami. It is with a great deal of pride that we are able to partner with Women's Fund of Miami-Dade to present this production, originally conceived by playwright Eve Ensler. We are even more proud that Leslie Neal, our founder and artistic director, will stage and direct this riveting portrayal of writings by women in prison. We have now achieved the institutional stability that enables us to undertake an event of this magnitude, giving us the opportunity to envision even greater benefits for the communities we serve. Among them, the *Bridging the Gap* (BGAP) writing workshop, which represented a new programming model for ArtSpring—the ability to join forces with other organizations to serve a common goal, in this case to connect incarcerated women with girls in detention through a partnership with the Girls Advocacy Project and the Florida Departments of Corrections and Juvenile Justice. Another BGAP partner, Project Coordinator Vicki Lopez Lukis, a member of our advisory council, spearheaded these partnerships that have proven so instrumental to the success of the program and paved the way for the *Any One of Us* production. With this upcoming event, we honor the accomplishments of the women we have served over the years, bearing witness to their profound personal transformations. Their truths form the basis for this production. I hope that you will share in these proud moments by joining us in October and at the many community events we have in store for you. Thanks for your support!

Nicole K. Bible, Executive Director

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Any One of Us

ArtSpring Key Staff

Founder and Artistic Director
Leslie Neal
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ArtSpring Honored as Women's Fund 2007 Grantee

ArtSpring was honored to again receive funding from the Women's Fund of Miami-Dade County, with the support of Funding Partner Deborah Hoffman. This year's funding will support ArtSpring's *Inside Out* and *Breaking Free* programs for women and girls in Miami-Dade County. The Women's Fund also awarded a grant to CHARLEE of Dade County that will enable CHARLEE to contract with ArtSpring to provide *Breaking Free* programming to girls in CHARLEE homes. CHARLEE—Children Have All Rights: Legal, Educational and Emotional—is the single largest foster care provider in Miami-Dade County's central region.

ArtSpring

Board of Directors

Board President:
Leslie Sternlieb
Treasurer:
Dipak Parekh
Secretary:
Arthur Christian Hilmer, III
Board Members:
Janice Billie
Jill Ecklund
Sophie Michael
Natasha K. Talib, Esq.

ArtSpring staff and board gather at the Women's Fund Grant-Award Breakfast in January



(Left to right:) Board members Natasha Talib and Sophie Michael, Executive Director Nicole Bible, founder and Artistic Director Leslie Neal, staff assistant Mabel Perez and board member Janice Billie.

Spotlight: New Board President and Artist Facilitator Join ArtSpring

ArtSpring is thrilled to welcome **Leslie Sternlieb** as our new board president. A South Florida native, Leslie has regularly contributed to several local and national publications as a writer and editor, including stints as executive editor of *South Florida* magazine and as adjunct professor at Florida International University’s School of Journalism and Mass Communication. She is the senior editor of *The Journal of Decorative and Propaganda Arts*, published by The Wolfsonian-FIU and distributed by the MIT Press. In addition to serving on our board of directors, Leslie is a volunteer for the Miami-Dade writing workshop *Bridging the Gap*, which recently concluded at Homestead Correctional Institution (HCI) in Florida City.

In addition, we are proud to have **Victoria Angela** join our artist-facilitator faculty, teaching *Inside Out* at Lowell Correctional Institution (LCI) in Ocala, Florida. Victoria’s amazing talents and rich experience include work in dance, theater, poetry and music. She is also a Sufi master, and has a master’s degree in mental health counseling. Victoria is pleased to return to Lowell, where she previously served as a mental health counselor, for continued explorations in the arts and healing. Her workshop will focus on the healing qualities of the human voice: participants will learn how to use vocal expression as an instrument for individual empowerment and for personal healing, while examining the origins of sound as a curative modality. Victoria’s addition to our faculty has also enabled ArtSpring to reach its longstanding goal of expanding the *Inside Out* program to every female state prison in Florida.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Rites and Passages*
presentation: Dade Correctional, May 12
(by invitation only)
- Books & Books reading: Vicki Lopez Lukis will lead a presentation of essays from the *Bridging the Gap* writing workshops at Books & Books, 265 Aragon Ave., Coral Gables: May 15, 8 p.m.
- Performance Event: *Any One of Us: Words from Prison: Miami* at Gusman Center for the Performing Arts, Oct. 18, 8 p.m.

For more information about any of these events, please contact us at 305.278.1601 or artspring@artspring.org.

Inside Art

Broward Correctional Institution’s *Inside Out* participants thank you, our ArtSpring supporters, through drawings and words that portray their feelings about the workshop.



“Sometimes I’d come to class so stressed, I thought I couldn’t hold on anymore. I’ve grown inside, and am looking forward to using these tools in the free world.”



“Along with everything I’ve been doing, I am now a totally new person. I love who I am today.”

“A day with *Inside Out*: Feeling part of a Whole, New feeling of complete acceptance and Laughter.”

Florida's female prison population increased 551 percent between 1977 and 2004 .

ArtSpring, in partnership with **Women's Fund of Miami-Dade**,
presents a project conceived by playwright *Eve Ensler*

ANY ONE OF US: WORDS FROM PRISON : Miami

October 18th 2007, 8 p.m.

Gusman Center for the Performing Arts

174 East Flagler Street, Miami

Any One of Us: Words from Prison reveals the connection between women in prison and the violence that often brings them there. This event will bring forth the raw, fierce and honest writings of the women in prisons across Florida. Staged and directed by ArtSpring founder and artistic director Leslie Neal, the Miami production will be performed by South Florida artists, celebrities and community leaders. This powerful experience aims to foster greater community understanding, personal healing and change—with the ultimate goal of making a positive impact on the laws and treatment options for incarcerated women and girls in detention.

Proceeds from this ONE TIME ONLY EVENT will be used to:

- Produce an anthology of writings by incarcerated women participating in the *Bridging the Gap Writing Workshop*, a partnership that includes ArtSpring, the Girls Advocacy Project (GAP), the Departments of Corrections and Juvenile Justice and Project Coordinator Vicki Lopez Lukis; the anthology will be distributed to adolescent girls in detention as a tool for intervention and education;
- Support Women's Fund of Miami-Dade grants to programs that prevent at-risk girls from entering the juvenile justice system and that reduce recidivism of girls in detention;
- Fund ArtSpring's *Inside Out* expressive-arts workshops for incarcerated women and *Breaking Free* workshops for at-risk adolescent girls.

This performance is presented in cooperation with V-Day, a global movement to stop violence against women and girls. V-Day is a catalyst that promotes creative events to increase awareness, raise money and revitalize the spirit of existing anti-violence organizations.

For more information or to purchase tickets, please call 305.274.4772 or e-mail: evntures@aol.com

Any One of Us **Diamond Sponsor**

We are thrilled to announce that the Seminole Tribe of Florida has agreed to be the Diamond Sponsor for *Any One of Us: Words from Prison: Miami*, to be held in October. ArtSpring Executive Director Nicole Bible and Artistic Director Leslie Neal were pleased to accept the check from Seminole Tribal Member Janice Billie. A Board Member and *Inside Out* alumna, Janice presented the payment at the premiere public screening of *Bridging the Gap: A Writing Workshop* film documentary at the Bill Cosford Cinema, University of Miami, on April 23rd. Thank you, Seminole Tribe of Florida!!!





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.

Thank you! 2006-2007 Grantors and Donors:



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St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society
Women's Fund of Miami-Dade County; Deborah Hoffman-Funding Partner
... and many other individual supporters!!



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On any given day in America, more than seven million of its residents are under some form of supervision of the corrections systems.