



# In Review

Winter 2005

Dear ArtSpring Supporters:

Our previous newsletter chronicled the many steps ArtSpring was undertaking as it moved towards expanding its Board of Directors. In this edition, we are proud to announce the latest milestones in our organizational evolution, not the least of which includes: the hiring of the organization's first full-time, salaried Executive Director; the implementation of a program evaluation logic model developed with a professional program evaluator; and the establishment of new program partnerships that are bringing ArtSpring's unique arts-based programming to more women and girls.

These accomplishments are only a portion of the important work that is being done to fulfill the strategies and goals as defined in the recently completed Strategic Plan for ArtSpring. As the culmination of more than a year's Board sessions and focus group discussions, this plan succinctly details ArtSpring's dynamic stage of development and the groundwork that has been established for sustainable program delivery in the context of Community Arts, and how it may be incrementally expanded. With clarity and focus, this organizational plan describes the strategies and goals that will help ArtSpring achieve its mission and vision.

On behalf of the Board and staff I thank you for your support of ArtSpring's vision of a just, humane and healthy society in which people are accorded respect, dignity and the opportunity to achieve their full potential, free from stigma and prejudice. ArtSpring visualizes a society where art and culture are fundamental aspects, and through arts-based programming directed to underserved communities, we may take steps towards realizing this vision. I encourage you to show your support for the women and girls that ArtSpring serves by becoming a Member today.

Gloria Romero Roses  
President, ArtSpring, Inc.

### ArtSpring Board of Directors

President: Gloria Romero Roses      Board Members: Sophie Michael  
Treasurer: Dipak Parekh              Natasha K. Talib, Esq.  
Secretary: Arthur Christian Hilmer, III

#### *In this issue:*

- Welcome New Staff
- ArtSpring honored with Reflections in Excellence Award
- A Visit from England
- Thank you to ArtSpring Supporters

#### *Coming soon:*

Check out ArtSpring's new website scheduled to launch January 2006!

[www.artspring.org](http://www.artspring.org)

## ArtSpring hires first fulltime Executive Director

75% of women currently behind bars are mothers, two-thirds of them with children under 18. Children of mothers in prison are five times more likely than their peers to end up in jail.

As one of the original founding members of ArtSpring, Nicole Bible has a strong passion and knowledge about ArtSpring, its programs and its participants. She served the organization for many years on the Board of Directors as Treasurer and Member, and in 1995, began assisting in the *Inside Out* program at Broward Correctional Intuition. Nicole was named Executive Director in 2004, serving in a part-time capacity until earlier this year when she was hired as ArtSpring's first fulltime Executive Director.

Nicole is a licensed CPA and graduate of Florida International University with Bachelor degrees in Accounting and Dance and a Master of Science in Taxation. Her

professional experience includes nine years with Alan S. Ehrlich, CPA, PA, and over seven years with Ernst & Young, LLP, a multinational "Big 4" accounting firm, where she specialized primarily in tax services for nonprofit organizations.

Through her association with the FIU Dance Ensemble and Repertory Company, Nicole had the opportunity to work with Leslie Neal and other founding members of ArtSpring. This involvement afforded her many performance opportunities, most notably as part of the 1996 Olympic Art Festival in Atlanta, GA, and the 1996 National Coalition Against Domestic Violence Conference in Charleston, SC.

## ArtSpring hires first fulltime Executive Director, Cont.

To date, Nicole's accomplishments include guiding ArtSpring through its first Financial Statement Audit, formalizing organizational administrative and accounting policies and procedures into a structured manual, converting bookkeeping records from personal finance software to a formal general ledger package, and completing the second phase of

ArtSpring's evaluation initiative. Professional evaluators assisted in the adoption of standardized, research-based instruments to measure participant progress, the implementation of a comprehensive quantitative evaluation component for all of ArtSpring's programming, and the completion of a logic model for the organization.

Nicole's leadership emphasizes her strong vision for ArtSpring to provide an arts-based educational curriculum to underserved and institutionalized female adult and youthful offender populations. ArtSpring's curriculum minimizes recidivism, increases self-esteem, and results in improving the quality of life returning to our communities.

## Welcome, New Artist Facilitators

We are excited to announce three talented individuals who joined ArtSpring's team of community artists this year:

- Catrina Choate, an alumnus of Florida International University, is trained in Feldenkrais awareness through movement and brings this unique approach to the *Inside Out* curriculum at Broward Correctional.
- Teo Castellanos is an actor/writer/director who works in theatre, film and television. This internationally acclaimed artist won the Fringe First Award, the most prestigious theatre award of Edinburgh Fringe Festival for his solo performance act *NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue*. Teo facilitates *Inside Out* at Homestead Correctional and is also currently piloting a program for male inmates at Dade Correctional.
- La Vonne Canfield is in her final year at FIU, pursuing a degree in Theatre. Her focus on theatre and vocal work and personal interest in the issues faced by the incarcerated women create a wonderful connection with the participants of the *Inside Out* program at Broward Correctional.

## Reflections in Excellence

ArtSpring seized an opportunity to educate a new audience about Community Arts, when, on October 7, ArtSpring hosted a luncheon discussion and community forum on the role of community arts in South Florida. This successful event was a part of the Reflections In Excellence program sponsored by the Conrad Miami Hotel and the Miami Today newspaper. Miami leaders, philanthropists, grant-making organizations and human service providers were in attendance. Artist Facilitator Deborah McEntegart (pictured at right, second from left with Artistic Dir. Leslie Neal, Executive Dir. Nicole Bible, and Youth Program Dir. Shirley Julien) captivated the audience with the story of her personal transformation from a former *Inside Out* participant to a contributing member of society. She depicts a true success story of the incredible potential ArtSpring's programming provides.

Attendees also learned about Community Arts and ArtSpring's belief that each individual is inherently creative and that social meaning and expression can be found in every community. ArtSpring is committed to the principles of Arts-Based Community Development (ABCD), placing focus and emphasis on the role of women and girls in expanding their concept of Self. Through ArtSpring's specialized programs, which promote creativity, personal growth, effective life skill development and confident self-expression, women and girls are becoming empowered to be effective community builders and leaders. Art has the power to transform individuals and communities!



"...And in the midst of all the darkness, a light has been showered upon us, Reminding us that there are some who care, love, remember. Some who are more than willing to help, who don't judge us by our past, But who we are...today. They come from the outside in and give from the inside out. They bring smiles, hugs, love and support. They give freely, and in this one true act of devotion, They have shown us we are not alone. They bring to life our talent, show us that we have so much to offer society, And that though we've made mistakes, Our lives are not over, just merely beginning..."

Sarah, Homestead Correctional Institution, *Inside Out* participant 2004

## ArtSpring Gains International Attention!

This past July, ArtSpring was thrilled to host Kate McCoy, a visiting artist from England who has taught in prisons in the UK and Europe since 1992. Kate is the projects director for TiPP (Theatre in Prisons and Probation Centre) based at the University of Manchester. She teaches students there how to use theatre and group work as a creative tool to explore with prisoners issues such as: drug use, conflict management, resettlement issues and offending behavior. She received a professional development grant from The Arts Council of England to travel to the US to learn about arts programming within the criminal justice system. The main purpose of the visit was to expand her knowledge of artistic practice within prisons and make links with artists in the field. She contacted our staff at ArtSpring to visit our programs in the adult prisons, having heard about our work for several years. Kate's visit was a real pleasure. She attended both *Inside Out* programs at Homestead and

Broward Correctional, met with the women in our programs and taught a wonderful guest artist class. She met with our Artist Facilitators and everyone shared information on their work. Kate also visited prison arts programs in Connecticut and California. She was very impressed with our classes and the quality of work the women shared with her. As a result of her visit, she has now included *Teaching Arts Behind Bars* by Rachel Williams (a book on prison arts with a chapter by ArtSpring Artistic Director Leslie Neal) as text in her graduate classes at Manchester. She plans to return next February to complete her research and again serve as a visiting artist in our adult programs.



ArtSpring's team of facilitators meet with Kate McCoy (center).

*More than half of women in state prisons have been abused, 47% physically and 39% sexually (with many survivors of both types of abuse). Moreover, 80% of girls in the Juvenile Justice system are victims of physical abuses and 70% are victims of sexual abuse or assault.*

## Thank You for Making ArtSpring Programs Possible

We thank you for your previous support of ArtSpring and ask that you please consider making a donation today. As ArtSpring continues to fill the gaps in community prevention and rehabilitation programs, our need for community support increases.

With a change in the tax law in effect through December 31, 2005 (see alert at right), there is now a great opportunity to become a member of ArtSpring. We hope that through our new membership program, patrons such as you will provide a sustainable future for ArtSpring. Your gift will ensure the continuation of ArtSpring's programs and resources in our Florida communities. As ArtSpring's membership grows, our successes and community involvement will also grow. Please complete the enclosed form and show your support today!

### ALERT: Change in Tax Law Creates Incentives for Charitable Donations

Under current law, individuals may deduct charitable donations up to 50% of their adjusted gross income. Deductions for charitable donations are further limited by the phase-out of itemized deductions at higher income levels. The "Katrina Emergency Tax Relief Act of 2005" states that, at the election of the individual taxpayer, cash donations to charities are exempt from the 50% income limitation and the phase-out of itemized deductions for donations made to a charitable organization between Aug. 28 and Dec. 31, 2005.

**This election essentially allows a full deduction of up to 100% of adjusted gross income for cash donations made to a public charity!** Any individual wishing to take advantage of this window of opportunity is encouraged to consult his/her tax advisor before year-end.

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*In FY 2003-04 the state of Florida spent 8% of its budget or \$1.7 Billion to incarcerate over 75,000 people.*

**ArtSpring, Inc.**

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**ArtSpring, Inc.**

ArtSpring's mission is to support self-growth and effective life skills through art-making for underserved and institutionalized women and girls.

Since 1994, ArtSpring has been nationally recognized for providing an arts-based educational curriculum to underserved and institutionalized female adult and youthful offender populations through two principal programs: *Inside Out* for adult women and *Breaking Free* for adolescent girls.

These interdisciplinary arts programs incorporate movement, theatre games, writing, drawing, music, story telling, meditation, guided imagery and performance as transformational tools for self-reflection and personal change. ArtSpring serves a diverse, ethnic, age and racial demographic whose needs are not being met by community resources. Through programs designed to encourage a process of personal reflection, participants are provided with better tools for survival inside and upon their release.

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**In Recognition of 2004-2005 contributors:**

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*In FY 2003-04, 67% of women  
admitted to prison had never  
previously been to prison before—  
80% of women were sentenced to  
3 years or less in prison.*



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

## Membership Levels

In the context of Community Arts, ArtSpring Artist Facilitators offer specifically designed creative workshops that encourage participants to reconnect to their own creativity, explore their inner imagination and assist them in forming their own creative ideas.

**Become a member today and support Community Arts in Florida!**

### **Build & Improve**

**\$2,500 and up**

Annual invitation to special performance of ArtSpring facilitated work.  
Company logo or name will be reflected in organizational material.  
Sponsorship recognition in quarterly newsletter.

### **Nurture & Heal**

**\$1,000 and up**

Company logo or name will be reflected in organizational material.  
Sponsorship recognition in quarterly newsletter.

### **Inspire & Mobilize**

**\$500 and up**

Sponsorship recognition in quarterly newsletter.

### **Educate & Inform**

**\$250 and up**

### **Circle of Friends**

**\$100 and up**

**Please select a sponsorship level: I will give \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone**

**Daytime contact:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**We thank you for your donation and support of ArtSpring!**

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