

# Press Release



For Immediate Release  
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## Significant Work Gets Significant Support

*Blooming Art Champions Youth Art Programs in E. Mass.*

**CAMBRIDGE, Mass.** – Media are invited to attend a free festive garden party celebrating youth arts hosted by Swanee Hunt and Charles Ansbacher at the third annual *Blooming Art: Growing the Future*, scheduled for Sept. 29, 2007 at 1 p.m.

Nearly 30 arts organizations from Eastern Massachusetts will join about 300 potential donors in an event that will showcase vibrant exhibits and live performances by young artists. Including the match, last year's event raised \$1.5 million.

Blooming Art, a showcase supported by **ARTWorks for Kids**, a program of Hunt Alternatives Fund, strives to increase the private and public funding of arts organizations that transform kids' lives in Eastern Massachusetts. The program promotes the arts in classrooms, after-school programs, and the larger community to encourage young people to stay on track. A small group of arts supporters jointly match contributions between \$1,000 and \$25,000 made at Blooming Art to any of the youth arts organizations represented. This event provides substantial funding to 27 organizations serving more than 300,000 kids ages three to twenty-two.

The arts can be life-changing for kids; however, arts organizations working with children and youth need more support. A wealth of evidence has consistently proven that a high level of arts involvement narrows the achievement gap between students from low and high socioeconomic backgrounds. Students who take four years or more of arts classes while in high school score 90 to 100 points higher on their SATs than students who take only one-half year or less.

“Thriving cultural institutions bring sizable financial and spiritual returns: they build neighborhood identities, lift local economies, boost student achievement, and bridge social divides,” said ARTWorks Program Manager Janna Schwartz.

**The following organizations are scheduled to participate in the showcase:** Actors' Shakespeare Project, Cambridge; Artists for Humanity, South Boston; BalletRox, Jamaica Plain; Books of Hope, Somerville; Boston Arts Academy, Boston; Boston Children's Chorus, Boston; Boston Children's Chorus, Boston; Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra, Boston; City of Boston Mayor's Office of Arts, Tourism, and Special Events, Boston; City Stage Company, Boston; Community Art Center, Cambridge; Community Music Center of Boston, Boston; Conservatory Lab Charter School, Brighton; Dorchester Community Center for the Visual Arts, Dorchester; Express Yourself, Peabody; From the Top, Boston; Hyde Square Task Force, Jamaica Plain; The Max Warburg Courage Curriculum, Boston; OrigNation, Roxbury; Raw Art Works, Lynn; Revolving Museum, Lowell; Troubadour, Chestnut Hill; United South End Settlements, Boston; The University of Massachusetts – Lowell String Project, Lowell; Urban Improv, Jamaica Plain; Young Audiences of Massachusetts, Somerville; Zumix, East Boston.

For more information, visit [www.huntalternatives.org](http://www.huntalternatives.org).

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*Editor's Note: Media interested in attending should contact Lisa Hennings at 617.995.1925. The event address is 168 Brattle Street, Cambridge, MA, 02138 and will take place from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Interviews with program staff members, coalition members and featured artists can be arranged.*