



# TURNAROUND ARTS: BRIDGEPORT

creating success in schools

## For Immediate Release

Contact: Tania Kelley (203) 275-1367  
[tkelley@bridgeportedu.net](mailto:tkelley@bridgeportedu.net)

Dawn Cole (203) 275-1001  
[dcole@bridgeportedu.net](mailto:dcole@bridgeportedu.net)

Bridgeport, CT – October 13, 2015

### Bridgeport Schools Selected for Presidential Initiative: Tracy Reese and David Blaine to Visit 'Adopted' Turnaround Arts: Bridgeport Schools

**Bridgeport, CT** – This year, Bridgeport Public Schools was chosen to be the local program partner for Turnaround Arts. Turnaround Arts is the signature program of the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities (PCAH), an advisory committee to the White House on cultural issues created in 1982 by President Reagan. Under the leadership of its Honorary Chair Michelle Obama, PCAH recently announced the program's expansion to continue turning around the country's lowest performing schools by using the arts as a tool for reform. Participating schools were competitively selected by program partners according to national guidelines. Selection criteria included demonstrated need and opportunity, strong school leadership with district support, and a commitment to arts education.

Roosevelt School in Bridgeport was one of the original 8 schools in the program. The four new schools selected to join the program - Barnum School, Hall School, Hallen School, and Jettie S. Tisdale School - will receive arts education training and resources to address their individual needs. Resources include teacher training from national partners like the Wolf Trap Institute for Early Learning through the Arts, arts supplies from Crayola, music instruments from the NAMM Foundation and Little Kids Rock, musical theater kits from Music Theater International, and funding for partnerships with community arts education and cultural organizations. These four schools were each "adopted" by Turnaround Artists Tracy Reese, Thom Mayne, David Blaine, and Bernie Williams.

On Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, Tracy Reese will visit her adopted school, Barnum School, and David Blaine will visit his adopted school, Hallen School. During these visits, the Turnaround Artists will visit both classrooms using arts integration strategies, as well as music classrooms.

The school visit will end with a program launch and student performance at the Klein Memorial Auditorium, followed by a meet and greet. This visit will also be a chance for students, staff, parents and family members to meet and engage with the artists, who have “adopted” their schools to support and promote the use of the arts as a way of turning around student performance and school climate.

**WHAT:** Turnaround Arts: Bridgeport Launch

**WHO:** Kathy Fletcher, National Director, Turnaround Arts  
Tracy Reese, Turnaround Artist, Fashion Designer  
David Blaine, Turnaround Artist, Magician  
Tania Kelley, Local Director, Turnaround Arts: Bridgeport

**WHEN:** Tuesday, October 13, 2015  
11:30 AM to 2 PM

**WHERE:** Klein Memorial Auditorium  
910 Fairfield Ave, Bridgeport, CT 06605

### **About TurnaroundArts**

Turnaround Arts is funded through a \$5 million public-private national partnership, which includes the U.S. Department of Education, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Ford Foundation, the Herb Alpert Foundation, the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation, the Rosenthal Family Foundation, the Keith Haring Foundation, Crayola LLC, the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation, and Music Theatre International. New national partners to the program include AOL, Little Kids Rock and JC Penney. The program is administered in partnership with Americans for the Arts. The program leverages approximately an additional \$10 million contributed in local funds over the same period. Connecticut-based SpreadMusicNow provided additional funding to support the program launch in Bridgeport. Turnaround Arts schools represent elementary and middle schools from across the country and encompass a diversity of student demographics in urban and rural settings.

### **About the President’s Committee on the Arts and the Humanities**

*Created in 1982 under President Reagan, **the President’s Committee on the Arts and the Humanities (PCAH)** is an advisory committee to the White House on cultural issues. Its core areas of focus are education, cultural exchange, and creative economy. Under the leadership of the First Lady and Honorary Chairman, and through the efforts of its federal and private members, the President’s Committee has compiled an impressive legacy over its tenure, conducting major research and policy analysis, and catalyzing important federal cultural programs, both domestic and international. For more information, please visit <http://www.pcah.gov/>.*

Please email Dawn Cole at [dcole@bridgeportedu.net](mailto:dcole@bridgeportedu.net) to RSVP to this event (required).

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