



# A Center For Youth Enterprise

Volume 1, Issue 4

Spring 2010

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### A Message From Our Executive Director

Just like many non-profit organizations, ArtsTech struggles with meeting the increasing demand for youth services while pinching pennies to make ends meet. Instead of focusing on the dour economic conditions beyond our control, ArtsTech's Board of Directors and staff have begun developing a strategic business plan that will be our map to increase the number of youth served through our successful existing art and technology programs as well as to reach urban core underserved populations. Through a Compassion Capital Fund Collaborative (CCFC) grant by UMKC's Institute for Human Development and the Midwest Center for Non-Profit Leadership, ArtsTech will be able to develop new marketing and revenue plans to support our mission. The Board of Directors has committed to leading and managing this process expected to be completed by October 2010. Thinking of how ArtsTech can better serve our youth, patrons, and partners in the future will help us get through the present economic uncertainties.



~ Dave Sullivan



Keep up with us on  
**LAST MONDAYS!**  
 A Newsletter Special Edition

### ART MONDAYS WITH ReSTART

Once a month youth from the ReStart homeless shelter gather at ArtsTech for two hours to forget all the obstacles life is throwing their way and learn how to use their creativity and imagination. There is an artist in all of us and these young people learn how to express their ideas on canvass, produce a music CD, or make a ceramic mask. ReStart youth have met many community artists that offer a variety of expressive therapies in the form of art. Best of all, the youth have fun while learning new skills.



### ArtsTech has Office Space Available!



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**New Vending Machines are a hit!**



ArtsTech gets new vending machines in April.

Snack time favorites are now available.

“Now we don’t have to stop at the gas station to get a soda or snack before coming to work!”  
—MyARTS Employee



**KC Fringe Festival Back at ArtsTech!  
July 23 - August 1**



The KC Fringe Festival— now in it’s sixth year— is jam packed with live theater, dance, performance art, visual art, spoken word, puppetry, story-telling, film and fashion. The 2010 festival, like its predecessors, is a celebration of local, regional, and national artists, presenting events at venues throughout Kansas City. With the 2010 Festival almost here we grow from eight days to ten.

The festival develops audiences, simulates economic growth and supports the creative community at large. By making the arts readily visible, available and affordable, the festival supports and inspires local organizations year– round. The KC Fringe Festival is a service to the community, building bridges between audiences, artists, businesses and civic organizations.

For a schedule and quick summary of the festival visit, [www.kcfringe.org](http://www.kcfringe.org)



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*Brother John Anderson, performs as FLASH at McCoy Elementary, 1524 White, in KCMO for the last time. (school closing this year)*

*McCoy is also the home of the Panda Dental Clinic overseen by Dr. April Washington, with Samuel U Rodgers Health Center.*

*Best wishes to the staff and students as many transition to J.A. Rogers next year.*

“Flash 20/12 –N- Your Super Grill” is totally different than any known project to encourage Kansas City urban core youth to take care of their teeth. It’s flashy, unorthodox, and off the hook. Working with a team of high school students, ArtsTech-A Center for Youth Enterprise and Storytellers Inc., Artist Collective have created an oral health focused comic book and DVD that is interesting, meaningful and relevant to middle school youth.



# Spotlight on MyARTS

## Welcome the New Artist Mentors!

Nate Bogert and Mallory Rapp are the newest additions to the MyARTS mentoring staff. Both hired in February this year, Nate took over the photography department while Mallory took over the graphic design studio. "We came in as a team with different strengths," says Mallory. "When we came on board, the studios needed revamping. There was a shift change of responsibilities as I took over the digital part of photography and Nate took over all the framing and matting."



"I think it's been good to have a newbie energy around here," says Nate. "We don't know how it was before so we're just working together and doing things our own way; figuring out how things work."

Mallory agrees. "He's picked up my slack and I've picked up his slack. It was nice to have another new person."

Nate and Mallory were hired just in time to begin working on MyARTS most important show of the year: the fundraising event. "I took them to urban landscapes for ideas to kind of go along with the theme of "Urban Expectations," Nate tells us. As for Mallory, "Whatever they're excited about I try to push. It's important that they're excited and passionate about what they're doing." Mallory says she has a real passion for teaching graphic design; "You can incorporate all aspects of art into graphic design – drawings, scanning in images you found that you like... you can use it all."

Nate: "I don't really have to always do lesson plans. I usually introduce a technique and do some work side by side with the kids so they can see what can be done. It's very much a group project." Mallory: "Yeah, I'm always just thinking about it. Mainly all my lesson plans focus on getting the kids to think outside the box." Nate agrees: "The point of our instruction is pretty much just how to go from concept to product and even to the entrepreneurial side."

Mallory graduated from CMSU in May 2008 with a degree in Commercial Art Graphic Design. Before she came to MyARTS she did a lot of freelancing including wedding photography, designing websites and logos and volunteering for Community Link where she designed all of their graphics and posters for events. She has also worked doing layout for the Campus Leger at Kansas City Kansas Community College. "This is the best job in the world. I couldn't ask for anything more," says Mallory. "Here I'm challenged and pushed to do research. It's nice to be pushed."

Nate already had experience working with Jade Osborne in the Kansas City school district and detention center before coming to MyARTS. "It's nice, because even though I answer to Jade in this job, we already have a lot of camaraderie from working so closely in the past." Previously Nate also worked in recording videos of depositions. "I would edit the videos and take them to trial and run digital exhibits." He also mixed videos for performance artists. Currently he enjoys playing bass in a band. "My favorite part about working here is the whole 'getting paid to go back to school' type experience. The unusualness of getting paid to do something I'm passionate about."



**Just because you missed the "Urban Expectations" fundraising event on May 7 doesn't mean the sale is over!**

**Stop by the MyArts Store Tuesday through Thursday, Noon—6:30 p.m.**

## SPOTLIGHT: M.A. Alford and Chloe Willett!

Mark Alford, Jr. better known as "M.A.." has been with MyArts since the Spring of 2009. He currently works in the Photography studio and enjoys working with film.



M.A. is a senior at Lee's Summit North High School. Throughout high school, M.A. has been involved in broadcast journalism and was featured in an exhibit in entitled "Sex Ed: A Progressive Art Installation." which held great media reviews. M.A. also created his own website *maalford.com*, which displays his artistic profile and upcoming events. M.A. plans to attend Pepperdine University in the fall in Malibu, California, double-majoring in Fine Art and Telecommunications.



Chloe Willett has been an artist with the MyArts Visual Arts studio since 2008. Chloe's passion is sewing and small detailed creations. She has sewn various messenger bags, hair pieces, jeweled items and coin bags that have been sold at the MyArts store and fundraisers.

Chloe is a senior at Raytown High School. Although she's taken classes in English and Psychology from Penn Valley Community College, she plans to attend Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri to pursue a degree in fashion design with hopes of one day working for a company that makes custom dress wear.

## URBAN EXPECTATIONS FUNDRAISER

Held May 7, 2010

**Special thanks to all for supporting the MyARTS Fundraising Event!**



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