

Canarsie Courier

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Local Schools Get Grants To Boost Parental Participation

By Neil S. Friedman

Two District 18 elementary schools will receive a portion of nearly \$450,000 in Parents As Arts Partners (PAAP) grants from the Center for Arts Education awards program.

Public School 219, the Kennedy-King School in East Flatbush, and P.S. 279, the Herman Schreiber School in Canarsie, will get \$3,000 each, a CAE spokesperson told the Canarsie Courier last week. Brooklyn schools received 52 of the 150 grants recently awarded.

The PAAP grant for P.S. 219 on Clarkson Avenue will be used to introduce parents to the school's new Urban Voices chorus that is being implemented in grades 1-3 in partnership with the Metropolitan Opera Guild. Students and parents are encouraged to participate in the program that will include several vocal workshops led by a teaching artist from the Guild. The program will include at least one trip to another school using the same program to see a joint performance of the Urban Voices chorus.

Symphony Space facilitates the "Arts Sampler" PAAP program at P.S. 279. Parents will get similar art instruction that is programmed for the school's third and fourth graders. They will also be invited to attend a hands-on multicultural workshop in Caribbean dance, African storytelling and Native American art, plus an artist-guided tour of the National Museum of the American Indian in Lower Manhattan to see artistic



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depictions of nature and environment.

The Parents As Arts Partners grant program was created in response to research that demonstrated the positive impact of parental involvement on a child's success in school and the effectiveness of arts as a means of improving that involvement. The program allows families to experience the entire creative arts spectrum, explore other subjects through the arts, as well as take advantage of New York City's abundant cultural resources.

Since it was established in 1996, with over \$40 million in private and public funding, the Center for Arts Education has been committed to restoring, stimulating and sustaining quality arts instruction as an integral part of a quality education for all students.

Jill Braufman, board chair for CAE, said, "Parents who are directly involved with schools arts programs often become advocates for arts education...as they see firsthand the important role the arts play in their children's learning."

For more information, go to: www.cae-nyc.org.