



# NetworkArts

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FALL 2006

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*Dedicated to expanding childrens' opportunities to express themselves, explore science, art, and the humanities, and create art that permanently transforms their communities,*

*This year has been monumental for NetworkArts. We have created educational tile mosaics at The Franklin Institute; The Philadelphia Zoo; schools in Philadelphia and Camden; a nursing home; a bus terminal; and The Ronald MacDonald House in Camden. With over 135 such mosaics now completed throughout the region, our messages of environmental stewardship and world culture are seen annually by hundreds of thousands of area residents and visitors each year.*

*NetworkArts and its students blend the study of the arts, sciences, and humanities to address many areas such as vital environmental issues, social history, and intergenerational experiences. We hope you enjoy reading about these projects, and that you have the opportunity to view them in person.*

*Our website [www.networkarts.org](http://www.networkarts.org) will give you an overview of NetworkArts and its accomplishments over the past 13 years.*

*The Annual Fund plays a large part in enabling this work to reach students and the public throughout the region and, on behalf of our students, we thank you for your support.*

*Mary Broach, Board Chairperson  
Josey Stamm, Educational/Artistic Director*

## NETWORKARTS WORKS WITH T.M. PEIRCE SCHOOL STUDENTS TO CREATE A NEW WORK FOR THE CHILDREN'S ZOO

A 55-foot long by 9-foot high educational mosaic entitled *Animal Neighbors* now greets visitors to the Philadelphia Zoo. Located at the "Tastykake Children's Zoo," it contains over 100 sculptures by T.M. Peirce School students and Zoo interns, designed to acquaint the visitor with the variety of our local animal life. Over 50 Peirce students

participated in this project, and received a "behind the scenes" tour of the animals in the Zoo's educational collection. The mosaic was constructed by NetworkArts, with the students, Children's Zoo personnel, and other volunteers. It is hoped that parents, teachers, and children will enjoy identifying the animals depicted on the wall. This mosaic represents the third science-based program that NetworkArts has designed with students from T.M. Peirce School in the last five years. The other programs explored topics in astronomy and oceanography.

*Sponsored by Comcast Corporation*



## TWO FRANKLIN INSTITUTE MOSAICS EXPRESS STRATEGIES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

For all schools and groups visiting the Franklin Institute, two adjacent new educational mosaics on the first floor offer instruction in environmental stewardship. The first mosaic celebrates the *Power of One Person* to change the world and highlights the legacy of three environmental heroes – Rachel Carson, Wangari Maathai, and George Washington Carver. The second mosaic suggests steps we all can take to help solve our most pressing environmental problems.

NetworkArts worked on this project with the Institute's PACTS students, a program designed to encourage students to consider careers in the sciences. The students explored the subject matter and created sculptures and drawings to bring them to visual life. During the installation of the mosaic, those students were joined by staff from the Institute, as well as members of the public.

Thousands of children, teachers, and parents will have an opportunity to examine the mosaics' visual educational message and text.

*Made possible through the generosity of Rohm and Haas Company.*



## BLANKENBURG SCHOOL STUDENTS CREATE A MODEL FOR A GREEN CITY

NetworkArts worked with four classes of sixth and seventh graders at Blankenburg School to design a *Model for a Green City*. The project included a study of international trends of urbanization; alternative energy sources; green space and the preservation of open space; urban transportation issues; strategies for preserving water quality and wetlands; and green architecture, with an examination of LEED architectural standards.

Students designed their own “green buildings” out of common materials such as CD jewel cases and sculpted our local aquatic life. They took field trips to: Tinicum Nature Center to learn about the green features of its educational center and the importance of wetlands; The Seaport Museum to learn about the history of the Delaware River and its importance to the founding and sustenance of our region; and to the Mercer Museum to see how ceramic tiles can be used to tell stories.

The final work contains extensive text and labels of all of the green features studied and illustrated.

The entire school participated in the construction of the educational mosaic.

*Made possible by Microsoft Corporation and The School District of Philadelphia.*

## NETWORKARTS' BLANKENBURG STUDENTS MEET 2004 NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNER WANGARI MAATHAI

In October, NetworkArts and a small group of students and teachers from Blankenburg School were chosen by the Delaware Valley Green Building Council to meet with 2004 Nobel Peace Prize winner Wangari Maathai during her visit to Philadelphia. The students had an opportunity to both meet and speak with her. They presented her with a PowerPoint booklet documenting

their NetworkArts mosaic project, and a donation from the entire student body to her Green Belt Movement.

## JENKS SCHOOL STUDENTS TRANSFORM THEIR PLAYGROUND INTO A RAINFOREST

Fourth, fifth, and sixth graders transformed their playground in Chestnut Hill into a rainforest, full of animal life and ecological information. The 38 foot long by 12 foot high mosaic is now a focal point in the school playground enjoyed by the entire community. At the dedication of the mosaic, attended by Philadelphia School District CEO Paul Vallas, students recited haiku and prose they had written about the rainforest, and sang songs to celebrate their achievement.

*Made possible through the generosity of The Hamilton Family Foundation.*



## INTERGENERATIONAL PROJECT CREATES A MOSAIC TO INSPIRE

Students from Ellwood School worked together with seniors to create a mosaic at Cheltenham York Road Nursing Home focused on *Role Models* and their power to inspire.

Through imagery exploring science, arts, sports, and literature, this intergenerational collaboration has produced a mosaic to brighten and inspire all residents and visitors to the facility.

This project is part of NetworkArts' *Myrna Brind Intergenerational Program*, and represents the seventh year NetworkArts has collaborated with NewCourtland Elder Services and its

*Comfort and Joy* program to bring art into their nursing home facilities.

*Made possible by NewCourtland Elder Services.*



## JAZZ HERITAGE IS CELEBRATED THROUGH A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE FREE LIBRARY OF PHILADELPHIA AND FERGUSON SCHOOL

NetworkArts was invited by the Free Library of Philadelphia to create arts programming in ten of its North Philadelphia branches.

In response, NetworkArts designed a two-year program to explore the richness of our jazz heritage.

The first year of this project celebrated Philadelphia jazz history. During this second year, students at five library branches and Ferguson School celebrated our broader jazz legacy.

NetworkArts presented performance workshops at each library branch by jazz artists such as the legendary late Rufus Harley.

Students at Ferguson School studied jazz history and constructed a mosaic adjacent to the school's main office that celebrated their work and the work of all of the students from the five library branches.

*Thanks to the Knight Foundation and the Free Library of Philadelphia Foundation.*

## NETWORKARTS BEGINS A NEW AND ONGOING PROGRAM WITH THE CAMDEN PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

NetworkArts has launched the first of an ongoing series of programs with students from the Camden City Public School District.

At the Riletta Cream School, the entire student body (pre-kindergarten through eighth grade) participated in creating a mosaic entitled *Clean Water Depends on All of Us*.

Four classes of fifth and seventh graders explored both historic and contemporary factors that have impacted water quality. They learned about technological solutions, laws, and steps all of us can take to insure a continuing improvement in water quality for our local ecosystems and the world's water supply.

The text of the mosaic will serve as a teaching tool for future generations of Cream School students.

*Made possible by the generosity of The Lindback Foundation.*



## FRANKFORD HIGH SCHOOL EXPLORES TEN ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND SOLUTIONS

NetworkArts worked with five classes of art students at Frankford High School to explore ten of our most pressing environmental problems – habitat destruction, expanding human population, global warming, soil loss, over-harvesting of wild food, loss of biodiversity, diversion of fresh water,

pollution, invasive species, and human impact on the environment. Wangari Maathai's Nobel Laureate speech was used as inspiration, and part of its text is included within the mosaic.

Creative writing students joined the process by writing about world habitats and endangered species. Their writings were placed on tiles within the mosaic. In addition, a number of messages about environmental action steps were disbursed throughout.

Environmental students assisted in the installation, which not only communicates important information, but also brightens a previously dark hallway in the school.

*Made possible through the generous continuing support of Rohm and Haas Company.*

## CAMDEN STUDENTS CREATE OCEAN INSTALLATION FOR THE RONALD MACDONALD HOUSE

NetworkArts worked with students from The Center for Family Services to create a mosaic to beautify the Ronald McDonald House in Camden.

Twelve panels were created on ocean themes, to be installed along four stories of the main stairway. Starting from the ocean floor, continuing up to the shoreline, and culminating with the sky, stair-climbers will now have the experience of ascending through a mosaic of ocean scenery.

*Made possible through the continuing generosity of The Campbell Soup Foundation.*



## NETORKARTS STUDENTS RETURN TO CAMDEN'S RAND TRANSPORTATION CENTER

Because of repairs to the Rand Transportation Center, it was necessary to remove NetworkArts' previously constructed mosaic on *The History of Camden*. Because of public interest in the project, NetworkArts was requested to recreate it.

Funding from NJ Transit enabled NetworkArts to hire a number of Frankford High School students for the entire summer. They worked with NetworkArts staff to rebuild and refashion the 48-foot long x 9-foot high work. They are also serving as interns for other NetworkArts projects.

The new mosaic is again packed with numerous references to Camden's social history and is designed to stir the memories of many of the city's residents.

*Thanks to NJ TRANSIT and the New Jersey Transportation Fund.*