

Organization of the Year: Flagstaff Arts and Leadership Academy
Website: <http://www.flagarts.com/>

Thank you for considering our nomination for the Organization of the Year Viola Award. Our community has a strong arts ethic and we're proud to be part of this essential piece of Flagstaff's culture.

The Flagstaff Arts and Leadership Academy (FALA) offers more than 40 fine and performing arts classes for students from 7th-12th grades. No other school in Flagstaff offers such a comprehensive selection of dance, fine arts, film, theater, writing, and music classes. Our Core Arts Requirement Emphasis for high school students requires each student to take at least one class in each artistic discipline. In addition to arts-specific classes, our teachers collaborate to integrate the arts into each subject- such as history cases that include study of the period's art as well as its events. Our audience includes 290 students in the 7th-12th grades, their parents, and the Flagstaff public. Our students perform several times each year throughout the community. Additionally, we often offer public workshop with artists that we bring to campus as part of our artist-in-residence program.

FALA events, exhibitions, programs (2010-2011 school year plus fall 2011)

- ❖ 13th annual art exhibition at Brandy's Restaurant
- ❖ Middle school art exhibition at Willow Bend Environmental Center
- ❖ Art exhibition for First Friday at AZ Bikes
- ❖ Art exhibition for First Friday at Café Daily Fare
- ❖ Entries in the Celebrate Youth exhibition
- ❖ Fall and spring dance and music concerts (approximately 8 per year)
- ❖ Student choreography show (Students choreograph, organize, and perform this concert)
- ❖ Fringe Festival- Advanced Creative Writing students write half-hour plays that are performed by Theatre students throughout campus over two nights (last year, one of the plays was performed at the Phoenix Fringe Festival and the previous year one of the plays was performed at the Capitol Fringe Festival in D.C.)
- ❖ Middle school Creative Writing students wrote, and Theatre students performed, 10 minute plays
- ❖ Theatre and Musical Theatre productions (approximately four per year)

Using Art to Support Our Community

- ❖ Advanced Creative Writing students worked with NAU researchers to write a play called "Yellow Belly Ponderosa" about forest health. Several local artists working with Art students to create costumes and props. Theatre students performed the play at 12 FUSD elementary schools and as part of the 2011 Science Festival

- ❖ FALA donated student art to the Governor's Arts Awards silent auction
- ❖ Music students regularly perform at Ponderosa Pines Care and Rehabilitation, Loyaltan, and Peaks retirement facilities
- ❖ Empty Bowls to benefit St. Mary's Food Bank – students create ceramic bowls and also get bowls donated by local artists. The sale of these bowls during First Friday in Heritage Square has raised approximately \$2,000 each year for 10 years.
- ❖ Students organized and performed at a fundraiser for Invisible Children- raising \$800 for this non-profit that build schools for former child soldiers in Uganda
- ❖ Students created and sold candles- raising \$900 for Northland Family Help Center
- ❖ Art students created an installation and African Drum and Dance students performed at international potluck, created art and a peace mural, and taught African Drum & Dance to children at the Flagstaff Family Food Center as part of the Martin Luther King Day of Service

FALA high school students must complete 30 hours of community service per year and need 120 hours of service to graduate. Some of these hours are obtained through our Service Learning program, which works with teachers to tie service into classroom curricula. Other hours are earned doing service that our students organize themselves. FALA takes every opportunity to teach students how to use their talents and energies to serve our community-both local and global.

Recognition

- ❖ Mark Sanchez Memorial Award from the Flagstaff Fire Department for our play, "Yellow Belly Ponderosa."
- ❖ Former recipient of Governor's Arts Award

Collaboration

- ❖ St. Mary's Food Bank for "Empty Bowls"
- ❖ Vora Financial Services for "Empty Bowls"
- ❖ Sambatuque dance and percussion troupe for "Empty Bowls" and our spring dance concert
- ❖ Grand Canyon Music Festival for FALA artists-in-residence Due Dinelli-Ferman. These musicians are world-renowned in the world of Tango as both performers and composers.
- ❖ Artists Emma Garnder, Shonto Begay, David Grandon, Sean Skabelund, and Gwen Waring for "Yellow Belly Ponderosa"
- ❖ Coconino Community College for artist-in-residence Tony Coppola
- ❖ Theatrikos Theatre Company for guest lecturers, props, costumes and rehearsal space

Workshops Open to the Public

- ❖ FALA partnered with CCC to bring dancer Tony Coppola to Flagstaff to teach at FALA and CCC with additional class open to the public. Tony is a tap dance virtuoso, all-American gymnast, and professional percussionist. He has choreographed for television, commercials, and theatre. His students include dancers from many of the successful productions shows, including *Cirque du Doleil* and *Phantom of the Opera*.
- ❖ Public dance class with Mabiba Margne, an internationally acclaimed teacher, drummer and choreographer of traditional and contemporary African Dance.
- ❖ Two public classes with Billbob Brown, a dancer and choreographer who has created and directed shows at the Utah Shakespearean Festival and choreographed and performed in TV work and commercial and toured with a national dance company.
- ❖ FALA presented an Art Education and Careers panel discussion open to the public and advertised at area high schools.
- ❖ Public class with Ibou N’Gom, from Senegal, who is a master drummer and dancer and taught a Saber dance class.

We believe that our broad offering of arts classes combined with our robust artist-in-residence program and our commitment to using our art for the benefit of our community- local and global, make us worthy of consideration for this honor.