



FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,

Here's to a new year of arts inspired learning!

Creative education was alive and well this summer in Holyoke,

in our partnerships with Holyoke Public Schools and the Holyoke Boys and Girls Club.

No time for summer learning loss for middle school students in ECT's summer **Shakespeare Academy**, or for our high school poets and news reporters engaged in the ELL (English Language Learner) **Summer of Power**.

In this coming year, Enchanted Circle will dive even deeper into the local, regional, state, and national movements of arts in education and creative youth development as we address equity and opportunity in literacy and learning.

Last year, Enchanted Circle worked in 30 schools, 4 cultural centers, and 18 social service agencies, inspiring 144 teachers and 2500 children, youth and adults. Enchanted Circle develops creative thinkers, critical thinkers, collaborators, and communicators. Our Arts Inspired Learning develops life-long opportunities!

We are delighted to step into the new school year with a new logo – an enchanted circle that weaves together arts, education, and human services. We are on the move and we look forward to inspiring each other with our creative education programs.

My warmest regards to you and yours,

Priscilla

Priscilla Kane Hellweg
Executive Artistic Director
(Photo credit: The Republican)

SUMMER OF POWER

Enchanted Circle, in partnership with the Holyoke Public Schools and funded by the Governor's Gateway Cities English Language Learner Enrichment Academy Grant, presented **Summer of Power** for rising 9th grade students who are second language learners. ECT facilitated two 5-week Artist-in-Residence summer programs.

Poetry into Performance, taught by ECT teaching artist, Amina Jordan-Mendez, engaged students in creative writing and spoken word; helping them to find their own writing styles.

Jordan-Mendez says, *"From the beginning, the students expressed interest in writing, and only needed a push to feel invited into the world of poetry. Many entered the room as strong poets already!"*

I Am More

Poet 1

I am more than you think
I am not that shy girl you think
I speak my mind.

Poet 2

I'm outgoing in my own way.

All

I am More

Poet 3

I am strong
I can go through a lot and still be positive.

Poet 4

I am a creative boy, I have a creative mind.

All

I am More than you think.



SUMMER OF POWER

News Matters, led by ECT teaching artist Kate Carreiro, engaged students in discussion of news events, both within their own community and in the larger context of the world around them. The program helped students to develop their research, writing, and self-presentation skills.

As Carreiro reports, *"Many news stories this summer revolved around racial tension and intolerance. The class did not want to base their performance piece on a negative theme. Instead we created three scenes exploring the past, present and future of racial tolerance. For the past we researched The Little Rock Nine in 1957, Arkansas, and created a photo tableau of the event. For the present, we filmed inspirational quotes from around the world and broadcast them as a newscast based on Black Lives Matter. For the future, we devised a piece titled Pay It Forward."*



As part of the class, students learned professional interview techniques and filmed an interview with Holyoke Mayor Alex Morse.

On the final day of the program they shared the interview and their performance work with their peers. Carreiro notes, *"They really shined!"*

Enchanted Circle Theater
2016-17

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Newsletter Design: Steve Angel

Founded in 1976, Enchanted Circle Theater (ECT) is a non-profit, multi-service, professional educational theater company which engages, enhances, and inspires learning through the arts.



SHAKESPEARE ACADEMY
An abridged performance of *The Tempest*



For the 8th consecutive summer, Enchanted Circle Theater held its **Shakespeare Academy** for middle school students at Peck Full Service Community School, in partnership with the Holyoke Public Schools Connections Summer Program and The Massachusetts Center for Interdisciplinary Renaissance Studies. This year we tackled *The Tempest*.



The five-week intensive, led by ECT teaching artist, Axel Cruz, challenged 5th, 6th, and 7th grade students with an exciting and unique exposure to the dramatic arts, through the work of William Shakespeare. Students had the opportunity to explore the world of theater as they became an ensemble, supporting each other, stretching their imaginations, and succeeding beyond what they thought possible.

In his Director's notes, Cruz says, *"Theater is about creating moments that will last a lifetime, and that's exactly what we have created as an ensemble. These students will remember this experience for the rest of their lives."*

The Enchanted Circle Theater Shakespeare Academy culminated in an August performance of the abridged version of *The Tempest* for family and friends at Peck, as well as at the Renaissance Center at UMASS, Amherst.

FROM PAGE TO STAGE
After School and
Out of School Time Program

On August 19th, nearly two hundred students, staff members, and families filled the bleachers of the Holyoke Boys and Girls Club gym to celebrate the achievements of the youth involved in ECT's From Page to Stage, Literacy through Theater Arts. This event was the culmination of a six week summer program led by ECT teaching artists Sarah Marcus and Terre Vandale, who worked with multiple groups of students, ages 5-12, to turn a children's book into a play.

Sarah Marcus writes: *"Each session began with warm-up games about movement, voice, focus, and ensemble-building, and progressed into activities exploring setting, characters and plot. Site directors and staff members at each site were encouraged to participate alongside students."*

"On the day of the performance, students sat nervously in the bleachers waiting for their turn to perform. The confidence, focus, and enthusiasm they showed demonstrated just how far they had come from the first day. They took their final bows before an energetic audience, cheering and applauding, and I am certain they will take that confidence boost into their new school year."



And Terre Vandale says, *"What made working with the Holyoke Boys and Girls Club so exciting this year was the creative collaboration with staff and children. Flor Matos, the Toepfert Unit Director, constructed an ingenious costume for a small boy playing an elderly man. The combination of pants 10 sizes too big, suspenders made of twine, and a wooden stick from a tree at the unit site had everyone laughing!"*