

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
The Diversity Awareness Partnership
Contact Reena Hajat
Executive Director
Phone: 314-436-7628
rhajat@dapstl.org

25 STUDENTS EXPLORE DIVERSITY THROUGH DANCE, SPOKEN WORD, THEATER AND MEDIA & FINE ARTS

St. Louis, MO- 25 students from high schools across the St. Louis region participate in a 10-day program in July to explore diversity through the arts on the campus of Washington University. Youth participants engage with hip hop, zines, video, murals, theater, spoken word and more to learn and share about important social justice and diversity issues in the St. Louis community. Diversity Awareness Partnership partners with Metro Theater Company and local artists and community leaders to present this unique arts immersion program. Teaching artists include, Emily Petkewich Kohring, Education Director/Artistic Associate at Metro Theater Company, Keith Buchholz, visual artist and Maya Escobar, digital media and performance artist. Other community members that engage students in social justice dialogue include, the men of Peter & Paul's CollabArtive, community leader Charisse Jackson, local artist and art teacher, Keith Westbrook, dancer Aparna Kalyanaraman, the Holocaust Museum, and Paraquad, community-based Center for Independent Living.

Join us for our culminating Open Mic featuring the imaginative self-authored works that are the result of 10 days of artistic and personal exploration and sharing. *Admission is Free.* It will take place **Saturday, July 18th at 7 pm at the Regional Arts Commission,** 6128 Delmar Blvd. St. Louis, MO 63112.

The Diversity Arts Program is funded by the Regional Arts Commission and the Missouri Arts Council. Other supporters include: Blick Art Supplies, Target, ArtMart, Companion Bakery, Pepsi America, and a special thank you to Washington University, including the Mildred A. Kemper Art Museum, Sam Fox School of Design, George Warren Brown School of Social Work and the Performing Arts Department.

The Diversity Awareness Partnership (DAP) promotes the value of diversity through programs and initiatives that focus on embracing acceptance. Our vision is to become a leader of collaboration between community partnerships to promote diversity, heighten cultural awareness, and create an environment of respect and harmony for all people. For more information, visit www.dapstl.org or call (314) 436-7628.