



MONSANTO FUND

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Arts and Education Council receives \$30,000 grant from Monsanto Fund in support of rural arts education

St. Louis, MO/February 27, 2008 The Arts and Education Council has received a grant from the Monsanto Fund to administer "The Monsanto Rural Community Arts Education Program." This program will bring life-enriching arts experiences and opportunities to underserved populations in the outlying areas of our metropolitan region. The focus of the projects is arts/arts education outreach that is open to the public or provided in a school setting.

James F. Weidman, president, Arts and Education Council said, "This funding will provide education programs that would otherwise go unfunded in the rural areas of our region. Research proves that participation in arts education programs greatly increase a child's success in school and, later in life, at work."

The Arts and Education Council enriches the vibrancy of the St. Louis community by investing in arts organizations and growing the base of local arts supporters. In 2008, the Arts and Education Council will invest in 80 organizations that will in turn provide over 5,000 performances, events and classes to 5.1 million attendees throughout our community.

"For those organizations providing services outside of St. Louis city and county, funding can be difficult to acquire," said Deborah Patterson, President, Monsanto Fund and Director of Social Responsibility. "Monsanto is pleased to provide access to funding to increase arts education in these areas. We are very proud of the stewardship the Arts and Education Council brings to this program ensuring organizations and programs are viable and successful."

About Monsanto Fund:

The Monsanto Fund is the philanthropic arm of the Monsanto Company. Incorporated in 1964, the fund's primary objective is to improve the lives of people by bridging the gap between their needs and resources.

Visit Monsanto Fund at <http://www.monsantofund.org/asp/welcome/asp>.

Learn more about the Arts and Education Council at www.keeparthappening.org.

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