Weaving Our Stories

As part of The Minnesota State Academy for the Blind's (MSAB) 150th anniversary celebration this past month, COMPAS artist Chiaki O'Brien completed a weaving residency with 1st - 12th grade students. Weaving is a beneficial tactile activity for the students and has been an integral part of MSAB's history. As you can see from the photos above, the results were exquisite and the process was fulfilling for the students. Jennifer Pelletier, MSAB Music Therapist, said "We are having a GREAT residency with Chiaki. This is another perfect fit for our students and we are so pleased. The work that students are creating is absolutely beautiful, and the stories that are being told about our historical weaving programs are fun to hear, too. Not sure who is enjoying themselves more-students or staff!"

Creative Conversations

Artist Spotlight: Scintillating Storyteller, Kevin Strauss

"Verbal storytelling gives me the chance to create a world with word images. It transports us to new places and can inspire us to dare great things, even when we're feeling scared. Stories are also powerful lessons, showing us how to solve problems and face overwhelming odds."

What makes a good storyteller? Read the full interview to find out.

Update: United Way Art Project

The United Way Arts for All projects have been going extremely well. All workshops for Wilder's Center for Aging, Pillsbury United's Oak Park Center and Rise are complete and the final pieces of the projects are coming together. Mica Lee Anders, COMPAS' artist directing these projects says "working with the community and the clients served by each organization was a super fun and very rewarding experience." To celebrate all that the communities have accomplished, there will be an official unveiling celebration for each site early in the new year.

The fourth and final site has been identified. The Saint Paul & Ramsey County Domestic Abuse Intervention Project will have a piece installed outside so it will not be completed until spring 2017. However, workshops to create the mosaic will begin this winter. Dates will be posted soon!
Have you checked out the blog lately?

November's weekly blog posts have been full of useful and fun information. Read about the Intersection of Art, Science and Learning and why that's where innovation happens; learn more about COMPAS writer Kelly Barnhill and her book The Girl Who Drank the Moon being turned in a hybrid live-action/animation by Fox Animation; discover Janet's story of her imagination blossoming while working with COMPAS Artful Aging artist Rachel Moritz and fighting through her battle with Parkinson's; and finally a special thank you message and how COMPAS can be a resource for your holiday giving.

Right Around The Corner...

Join us for COMPAS' celebration and reading of our 37th anthology of student writing, A Bird That Swims & Flies. Each composition in the anthology was created by a Minnesota student during an artistic residency with a COMPAS writer, songwriter or spoken word artist.

Saturday, December 10th, 2016 at 1pm
Saint Paul's Landmark Center - First Floor Cortile

Want more details? Click here.

Cover art by Mica Lee Anders.

Does your employer participate in workplace giving through Community Shares?

If so, you can support COMPAS by making a gift to Community Shares!
Learn more at communitysharesmn.org.

If you're reading this - way down at the bottom of our newsletter - then you are one of us: a person who knows creative education is essential for every age.

Already this fall more than 1,000 older adults have experienced the life-changing POWER of creativity. Your donation connects all Minnesotans with creativity and helps them to thrive.

Will you help us connect even more older adults with the power of creativity?

COMPAS, Art for Life's Sake

COMPAS.org

Tell the world about COMPAS!