

APR-JUN
2025

CAPA

Education & Engagement



Happy Spring!



In this edition of our newsletter, we spotlight our 2025 CAPA Marquee Awards Showcase, introduce you to Elyse Kassa, our new Community Engagement Manager, share our Dynamic Storytelling Workshops, and highlight some of our upcoming programs.



Join us for the 2025 CAPA Marquee Awards, the brightest night of the year! Photo: Mitchell Multimedia



Dynamic Storytelling Workshop
Photo: Lydia Miller



MISSION

CAPA's Education & Engagement programs enrich the lives of central Ohio residents by providing free and low-cost creative experiences that are varied, diverse, and accessible. We believe everyone in our community deserves to experience the transformative power of the arts and our many community collaborations enable us to fulfill that belief.



Click the apple to learn about CAPA education!

CAPA

Marquee

AWARDS

Presented by **AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER FOUNDATION**
BOUNDLESS ENERGY™

Click on the logo to learn more about the 2024–25 CAPA Marquee Awards.



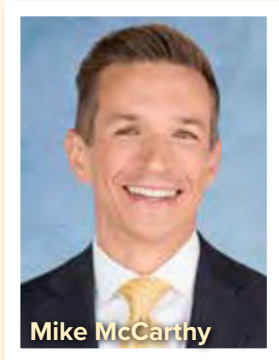
See the Broadway stars of tomorrow, TODAY!

Each year, the culminating event of our yearlong program is the CAPA Marquee Awards Showcase. Modeled after the Tony® Awards, this red-carpet event includes live performances from the nominees for Best Musical Production and

Best Performer in a Leading, as well as opening and closing numbers that incorporate students from all participating high schools. Working alongside our professional crew members backstage each year is our talented team of student technicians.



2024 Marquee student ensemble Photo: Mitchell Multimedia



Mike McCarthy

Hosted by Mike McCarthy, ABC 6 news anchor, this event will give you a chance to walk the red carpet, strike your best pose

for the paparazzi, and enjoy an evening filled with high energy performances from some of Broadway's most popular shows.

Prizes will be awarded in 13 categories and at the end of the evening, we will name our two winners for Best

Performer in a Leading Role. Those two performers will be designated as official 2025 Jimmy® Award nominees and will receive a CAPA-sponsored trip to New York City to perform on a Broadway stage and

compete for scholarships and the national title. Don't miss your chance to support some of the most talented young artists in central Ohio!



2024 Best Performer winners, Christian Strong and Allie Gomez. Photo: Harry Acosta



Members of the 2024 Showcase student technical team Photo: Mitchell Multimedia



2024 Marquee student ensemble Photo: Mitchell Multimedia



2024 Best Performer in a Leading Role Finalists Photo: Mitchell Multimedia

Tickets on sale now

CLICK HERE

Broadway in the CLASSROOM

Click on the logo to learn more.

CAPA's Broadway in the Classroom program introduces students from Title 1 schools to musical theatre during an engaging curriculum-based program.

The goal of Broadway in the Classroom is to use the power of Broadway to serve as a tool to enhance curriculum and introduce Broadway to the next generation.

Participating schools engage in six weeks of show-related curriculum developed by their teacher and CAPA and aligned with Ohio Department of Education standards. At the end of the six weeks, students attend a Broadway show, share their final projects, and have the chance to connect with cast

and crew members from the tour.

This year, one Columbus City high school participated in the program. Students from Columbus International High School worked on curriculum designed around the musical, & Juliet. To help extend learning further, CAPA sent teaching artists, Krista Stauffer and Amy Handra to work with students on lessons exploring theatre games, Shakespeare, and musical theatre.

On February 21, students attended a pre-show reception, a performance of & Juliet at the Ohio Theatre, and a post-show talkback with company members.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors and sponsors, the program covers all costs, including tickets and transportation.



Click on the screen to watch a highlights video.



DÍA DE LOS NIÑOS

DAY OF THE CHILDREN

Click on the logo to learn more about Día de los Niños.

JOIN US FOR DÍA DE LOS NIÑOS!

On Sunday, April 13, we will celebrate **Día de los Niños/Day of the Children** by hosting a family-friendly event at the Lincoln Theatre.

The event begins with cultural and arts activities from 1:30–3:00 pm in the Lincoln Ballroom. Activities will include performance and instruction by Ballet Folclórico Xochihua, crafts with the Girl Scouts of Ohio's Heartland and CAPA, balloon art with Evan Smith, science



Click here to learn more..

demonstrations with COSI, “meet an instrument” with the Columbus Symphony Orchestra, and a Milagro Intention Wall in which the participants can create their own inspirational art piece. Food will be available for purchase from the Dos Hermanos Food Truck.

A free performance of **123 Andrés** will follow from 3–4 pm in the Lincoln Theatre. After the performance, we will raffle off an assortment of family-friendly prizes.

Activities and performance are **FREE**; however, space is limited, so **registration is strongly suggested.**



Register Here!



123 Andrés



Click here to learn more about Schooled on Poetry.

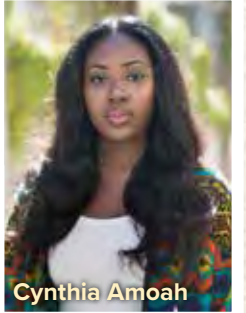
Schooled on Poetry, a collaboration between CAPA, the Thurber House, The Ohio State University, The Poetry Foundation, The Columbus Foundation and poet-educator Peter Kahn is the culminating celebration of a year-long Spoken Word poetry project at Lincoln Park Elementary School, AIMS Middle School, Walnut Ridge High School and the Arts and College Preparatory Academy.

At the culminating event at the Davidson Theatre on **May 3**, there will be intra-school group pieces and individual original poems by slam champs from each school. Students will be joined by Columbus poets Hanif Abdurraqib, Steven Waddell and Cynthia Amoah, Nashville-based poet-rapper Chris Byrd, and

New York Times Bestselling author Kwame Alexander.

We hope to showcase the power of poetry to the Columbus community in a diverse way so that writers of all ages and backgrounds can see poetry as a meaningful and accessible form of expression.

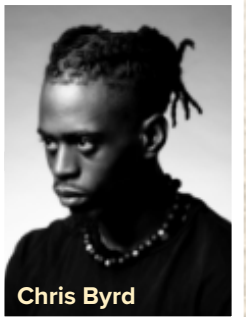
Tickets to the event are **FREE** for students and educators!



Cynthia Amoah



Kwame Alexander



Chris Byrd



Hanif Abdurraqib



Steven Waddell



A BIG THANKS TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS!

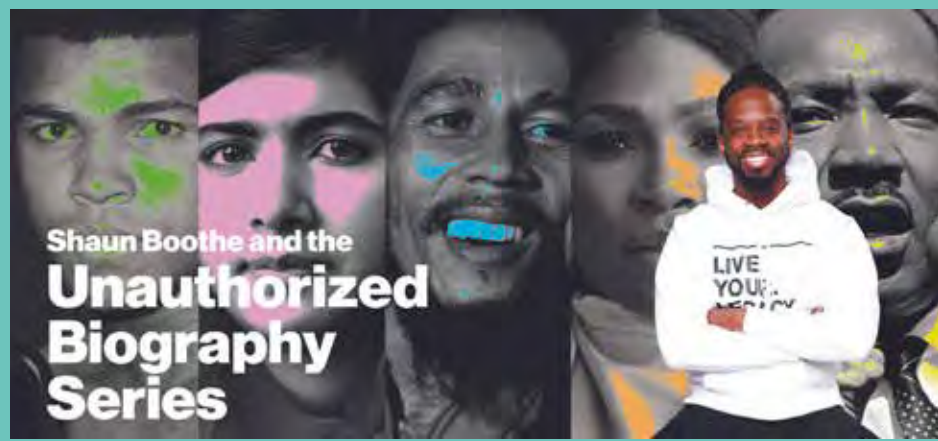


SEASON SUPPORT PROVIDED BY:



Social Justice Series

In mid-March, CAPA had the pleasure of presenting Shaun Boothe's *The Unauthorized Biography Series* to over 1,100 people. Students and adults alike were captivated by the hip hop biographies of some influential icons like Serena Williams, Malala Yousafzai, Bob Marley, and others.



Before the performance, we connected the community to Shaun Boothe's work through a two-week Intro to Dynamic Storytelling workshop facilitated by local author Mandy Shunnarah at the Columbus Metropolitan Library Northside Branch.



Eight participants ranging in age from 13–70 participated in the workshop series. Inspired by *The Moth*, a program that celebrates the human experience through the art and craft of personal storytelling, the 2-hour sessions focused not only on what makes an entertaining, gripping, or satisfying story, but also helped participants practice some tricks of the trade to make their performances “Moth”-ready.

Mandy shared anecdotes about their live storytelling experiences, discussed how body language can help communicate tone and influence interpretation, and encouraged our participants to practice telling their stories to one another.

The workshops culminated with participants sharing their 5-minute stories for an invited audience. Each participant also received complimentary tickets to the community performance of *The Unauthorized Biography Series* which was followed by a Q & A with Shaun Boothe later that week.



Are you a high school student with an interest in the fine arts?

Looking for an opportunity to work with a professional arts organization?

Want to earn volunteer hours?

ARISE (ARts through Intergenerational Social Engagement), a collaboration between CAPA, GrowIN, and The Ohio State University, is a five-week intergenerational program focused on storytelling through the fine arts.

The ARISE Scholars Program will provide teens who are currently in grades 9–12 with the opportunity to earn 20–25 service hours, to volunteer in the community, and to experience how the fine arts can be used as a tool for wellness.

The central theme of ARISE is storytelling. Throughout the program, we will explore how theatre, music, dance, and the visual arts can help us share our stories with others.



Click on the logo to learn more about ARISE.



Photo: Lydia Miller



Photo: Lydia Miller

Click here to Apply Now!

Each student who completes the program will earn a \$100 TRAVEL STIPEND.

Education & Engagement

Spotlight

Elyse Kassa

Community Engagement Manager

Tell us a little bit about yourself and your background. I am an East Coast-er, and I moved to Columbus almost three years ago after a summer working as an Artistic Associate on the animated film “Dear Anna Olsen” directed by Dean Lennert. Since then, I have been fortunate to immerse myself in Columbus’ rich artistic community as a choreographer, performer, dance educator, and performing arts advocate.

How did you get started in the arts? My mother is an artistic jack-of-all-trades—she paints, potters, designs, and dances—and it was in her nature to encourage my sister and I toward creative pastimes. Our childhoods were colored by pencils and pastels and documented in stop-motion videos that took up entire SD cards. She enrolled us both in dance classes when I was around two years old, and now I’ve been dancing almost non-stop for about 22 years.

What was your favorite subject in school and why? English! When I was in grade school, I could not stop reading! My obsession was so disruptive to my sleep and other schoolwork that my parents genuinely grappled with whether to ground me and take away my reading privileges. I fell immediately in love with any and every story, every new world I encountered, every character that seemed like a new friend.

What is the most exciting thing about working for CAPA’s Education & Outreach department? I am most excited about doing what I love—using my imagination and love of performing arts practices to create lasting impacts and meaningful connections in my community. My role focuses on developing new arts programs that serve the Columbus community and spread awareness about CAPA’s mission and offerings. This position is not only incredibly relevant to the work I already love to do, but is supported by a team of enthusiastic, passionate arts professionals that I am lucky to call my coworkers.

HOMETOWN
Simsbury, CT

DEGREE
Bachelor of Fine Arts
in Dance: Performance
and Choreography,
Ohio University

FUN FACTS

- I am co-parent to a tuxedo cat named Lacey.
- I am an Aries Sun/ Libra Moon. 😊
- I am a former Kids Lit Quiz National Champion.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



APRIL

- April 2 **CAPA Marquee Awards**, Applications close for Outstanding Student Designer, Backstage Excellence and National Student Reporter
- April 3–5 **CAPA Marquee Awards**, Bexley High’s *Big Fish (School Edition)*
- April 3–5 **CAPA Marquee Awards**, Bishop Watterson’s *The SpongeBob Musical*
- April 3–6 **CAPA Marquee Awards**, Pickerington Central’s *Little Shop of Horrors*
- April 4–6 **CAPA Marquee Awards**, Marysville High’s *Mamma Mia!*
- April 4–6 **CAPA Marquee Awards**, Olentangy High’s *Mamma Mia!*
- April 7 **CAPA Marquee Awards**, Best Performer in a Leading Role Semi-finalists Notified
- April 8 **CAPA Marquee Awards**, School Convening #3, 4–5pm, Zoom
- April 10 **CAPA Marquee Awards**, Nominations Announced, 3pm
- April 12 **CAPA Marquee Awards**, Best Performer in a Leading Role Panel Audition, 10am–3pm, Ohio Theatre
- April 13 **Community Engagement**, Día de los Niños, Arts and Cultural Activities and FREE performance of *123 Andrés*, 1:30–4pm, Lincoln Ballroom & Theatre
- April 14 **Passport to Learning**, *123 Andrés*, 10am & 12:30pm, Lincoln Theatre
- April 22–27 **Broadway APPLAUSE Program**, *A Beautiful Noise*
- April 22–27 **CAPA Marquee Awards**, Showcase Rehearsals, Ohio Theatre

MAY

- May 1 **Community Engagement**, One Columbus Culture Day, 4:30–7:30pm, Liberian Community Center
- May 1–8 **CAPA Marquee Awards**, Showcase Rehearsals, Ohio Theatre
- May 3 **Community Engagement**, Schooled on Poetry, 7pm, Davidson Theatre
- May 9 **2025 CAPA Marquee Awards Showcase**, 7:30pm, Ohio Theatre
- May 23 **ARISE**, Applications close at Noon
- May 27–29 **ARISE**, Teen Scholar Interviews

JUNE

- June 2–5 **ARISE**, Teen Scholar Interviews
- June 13–25 **CAPA Marquee Awards**, Jimmy Awards “Week,” New York City
- June 23 **CAPA Marquee Awards**, 2025 Jimmy Awards, 7:30pm, Minskoff Theatre & Livestreamed

All of CAPA's Education and Engagement programs are 100% funded by donations. You can be a part of this magic. [Donate today!](#)

“The world is a complicated place, and there’s a lot of division between people. The performing arts tend to unify people in a way nothing else does.”

—David Rubenstein

100%



Columbus International High School students attend *Juliet* during Broadway in the Classroom. Photo: Mitchell Multimedia



CONTACT

Amy Handra
Director of Education
& Engagement

Main: 614-469-1045
Direct: 614-719-6732
education@capa.com

The CAPA Education & Engagement Bulletin Board is produced quarterly, to help you stay up-to-date on the exciting things happening!

A BIG THANKS TO OUR COMMUNITY SPONSORS!

24-25 CAPA MARQUEE
AWARDS SPONSOR:



CAPA SEASON SPONSORS:

