



UAP Acts as Catalyst to Preserve Manhattan New Music Project

October 12th, 2012: This week **Urban Arts Partnership** entered into a **strategic alliance** with the innovative non-profit **Manhattan New Music Project**, where Manhattan New Music Project will become a **wholly owned subsidiary of Urban Arts Partnership**. Two years ago Manhattan New Music Project, in partnership New York City's Special Needs school district 75, won a prestigious Investing In Innovation (i3) grant from the US Department of Education. The program, called **EASE - Every Day Arts for Special Education** - uses arts based strategies to improve student achievement in the areas of communication, socialization, academic learning, and arts proficiency and has already made waves within the educational community.

Philip Courtney, Urban Arts Partnership's Executive Director, says "**This is a strategic expansion of Urban Arts Partnership into a compelling educational field.** We are excited to expand our reach to have a broader impact on students with an even broader array of needs and goals. For fifteen years now Manhattan New Music Project has been leading the way in developing innovative strategies for working with students on the autism spectrum and a range of other cognitive and physical disabilities. Now in its third year of funding, EASE is the only large scale federally funded research grant that focuses on how to reach these students through an arts integrated approach. The early results have been promising and I am excited to work with the EASE team on continuing to develop the program. With a shift in focus to incorporating more special needs students in general education classrooms, teachers are going to need an expanded toolbox for differentiating their instruction - for this reason I believe the work currently being done through EASE is critical to the field of education, and will have national significance in the years to come. I also want to thank The New York Merger, Acquisition, and Collaboration Fund, as well as The Robin Hood Foundation whose strategic and financial support has made this transaction possible."

Nancy Kleaver, Executive Director at MNMP added, "After meeting with a number of high quality organizations, it was clear that Urban Arts Partnership would be a great partner. **UAP has a proven track record of moving struggling students towards academic success. As one of the most forward-thinking and well-established arts education providers in the city, I am confident that an alliance with UAP will strengthen our ability to deliver services to the kids who need them the most.**"

Both organizations are working on integrating MNMP into UAP, and MNMP staff will be moving into UAP's headquarters by the end of this month.

For more information, visit www.urbanarts.org.