

Director's Notes

Arts Education

According to *Champions of Change: The Impact of the Arts on Learning* (<http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/champions/pdfs/ChampsReport.pdf>), a report that compiled seven major education studies, engagement in the

arts nurtures the development of cognitive, social and personal skills. The report found that youths exposed to and involved

in art programs do better in school and often cite the arts as the reason they stayed in school through the secondary grades. Furthermore, this study reported that sustained involvement in the performing arts is highly correlated to success in math and reading.

Children who are empowered through the arts also develop life skills that may benefit the entire community. Studies conducted by the respected *Missoula Children's Theater*, a nationally respected program, indicate that children involved with the performing arts from the elementary grades forward, demonstrate:

- *Stronger communication skills and a healthier rapport with teachers and classmates*
- *Focused enthusiasm, better grades and higher test scores, including college entrance exams*
- *An increased sense of tolerance*

and respect for others.

- *Increased self-esteem and confidence when seeking a first job*

The Stages at Northstar will provide local students with a modern, high-quality performing and visual arts venue. More important, The Stages will provide an opportunity for positive personal growth and development.

An increased sense of tolerance and respect for others.

Outreach programs by *The Stages* through area schools, after-school programs, and camps will give Lake Tahoe youth the opportunity to:

- Exercise and expand their creative thinking abilities
- Discover musical and theatrical talents
- Learn behind-the-scenes stage crafts
- Study different art media
- Explore career options in the arts and develop direction for the future

The popular summer camps will also provide an opportunity for youth outside of the area to visit the Lake Tahoe region and participate in these life enhancing experiences.

With an exemplary performing and visual arts education strategy, students in the Lake Tahoe area and beyond will be exposed to language, literature, works of art, various media, dance, music, and film while stimulating and inspiring their minds.

Tahoe Regional Arts Foundation (TRAF) will partner with universities, schools, and arts organizations to develop programming and educational opportunities to enrich student learning. Under development are plans for a summer theater institute to provide students from across the country and around the world, with opportunities to learn directly from leading artists and professionals – both on stage and behind the scenes. The institute will also offer special theater tech programs to teach stagecraft, sound, and lighting,



Check out **The Virtual Stage** on our website. Dance
<https://www.tahoearts.net/virtual-performance/>



Where the arts reflect the majesty of nature.