

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Curtain call! CASE for Kids students to perform at Kids' Day at Hobby Center

Summertime is show time on June 23 for students who are part of the Kids' Day at the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts. Students from 10 area schools are enrolled in summer enrichment programs coordinated by the Center for Afterschool, Summer and Enrichment for Kids, or CASE for Kids, a division of Harris County Department of Education.

What: Kids' Day at Hobby Center for the Performing Arts

Who: 100 students in elementary through high school from Alief, Aldine, Sheldon, Waller, Pasadena, Galena Park and YES Prep West Charter. Nonprofit artists include musicians, dancers, artists, photographers, puppeteers, and stage combat actors.

When: Thursday, June 23,

2 media times either from **2-3:30 p.m.** (practice/dress rehearsals) or **6-8 p.m.** (performance)

Where: 800 Bagby Street, Houston, TX 77002

Etc.: Media contact for interviews with artists/students--Carol Vaughn, 281-660-9205 or Lindsey Sanders, 903-563-1649

CASE for Kids sent nonprofit organizations and professional artists to work with students in their Texas Afterschool Centers on Education (ACE) 21st Century afterschool programs in elementary, middle and high school this summer at their campuses. Kids' Day at Hobby Center is the culminating event to give students opportunities to show off what they learned. Artistic mediums include puppetry, dance, drumming, art, photography and theatre.

Students attending are from Aldine, Sheldon, Waller, Pasadena and Galena Park independent school districts, as well as YES Prep West Charter School.

Kids are spending the day in dress rehearsals and learning the nuts-and-bolts about professional theatre productions with presentations and tours from Hobby Center staff. Later that evening, family and friends arrive for live performances.

Artists or arts organizations participating include Healthy Hip Hop, Ben Desoto Photography, Ensemble Theatre, Puppet Pizzazz, Cookie Joe (choreographer), Leraldo Anzaldúa (fight director), Dinky Drum Company, Multicultural Education and Counseling through the Arts, and the Brazilian Arts Foundation.

"We believe that experiences like this with the fine arts are important to children, and afterschool supplies that possibility," said Lisa Thompson-Caruthers, CASE for Kids director. "Equally important is the experience of attending an event in our eminent Houston Theatre District, an opportunity that many of these kids might not have without the generosity of the Hobby Center."

Kids' Day sponsors include Hobby Center for the Performing Arts, Texas ACE (administered by the Texas Education Agency), the Education Foundation of Harris County, Kroger, Potbelly Sandwich Shop and Pappas Restaurant.

About the Center for Afterschool, Summer and Enrichment (CASE) for Kids: CASE for Kids, formerly the Cooperative for After-School Enrichment, was launched by Harris County Department of Education in 1999. CASE for Kids is an after-school intermediary which leverages community resources and strengthens the capacity of the out-of-school time field. Services benefit approximately 12,000 kids in greater Harris County. CASE for Kids programs happen before and after school, on weekends and during the summer. Go to www.afterschoolzone.org for information.

About Harris County Department of Education (HCDE): Serving students, teachers, schools and communities