



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The [Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation](#) Awards *Community Grant* to HartBeat Ensemble in Hartford, Connecticut

Boston, MA, February 18, 2010 – The [Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Corp.](#), a nonprofit, tax-exempt entity established by attorneys from Brown Rudnick LLP, today announced that it has awarded a *Community Grant* to HartBeat Ensemble to support an after-school theater program. Specifically, grant dollars will help purchase sound equipment including three floor microphones, two overhead microphones, eight “clip” lapel microphones, and a band equalizer. This is the third grant since 2006 the Foundation has awarded to HartBeat Ensemble in support of educational theater programs.

Now in its third year, HartBeat Ensemble’s Youth Play Institute (YPI) brings urban and suburban youth together for an intensive month-long play creation process. By teaching youth to communicate with one another through theater, the program breaks down racial and economic stereotypes. Throughout the research-based curriculum, students receive one-on-one training and group instruction in playwriting, decision-making, conflict resolution, acting and theatrical design. According to Cindy Martinez, Director, Youth Play Institute, Community Liaison, and grant applicant, “We have found that maintaining professional production values for the YPI plays is an essential element to the program. When students see that their work is being supported by professional design and technology, they inevitably raise their level of commitment and hard work. We are grateful that Brown Rudnick’s Charitable Foundation will allow us to offer our students this quality production equipment.”

Al Wallis, Executive Director of the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Corp., said, “We are delighted to offer continued support to HartBeat Ensemble. The theater group’s socially-conscious play productions and educational programs provide students with a unique platform for self-expression and self-exploration. ”

Created to support front-line educators who often do not have a voice in funding decisions, the *Community Grants* subsidize small, concrete projects, which will improve inner-city education within Boston, Hartford, Providence or New York within the coming year. The Foundation will generally consider grant applications monthly and award grants in an amount totaling not more than \$2000 in any one month. The grant applications and an explanation of the program can be found at <http://www.brownrudnickcenter.com/foundation/communitygrant.asp>.



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