



# Press Release

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### THREE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS RECEIVE GRANTS FROM BROWN RUDNICK CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

*Insight/Foresight Grants Awarded to Programs in Hartford, CT and Boston, MA*

**Boston, MA, March 22, 2005** – Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Corp., a non-profit, tax-exempt entity established by attorneys from Brown Rudnick Berlack Israels LLP, today announced that it has awarded three of its Insight/Foresight Grants to The William Monroe Trotter Elementary School, Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, and Breakthrough Magnet School. The Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation's Insight/Foresight Grant Program provides funding to assist educators with small, concrete projects or needs, which will make an improvement in inner city education in Boston, Hartford, Providence or New York within the coming year. The grant applications and an explanation of the program can be found at <http://www.brownrudnickcenter.com/grant.asp>.

**The William Monroe Trotter Elementary School** will use the funds to purchase a high speed scanner for their new KURZWEIL text-to-speech equipment. The KURZWEIL scanner converts scanned, printed text into electronic text files which can then be read using text-to-speech technology. KURZWEIL allows students with learning disabilities, as well as nonreaders, to keep pace with proficient students in the same curriculum. The high speed scanner will allow for "heavy duty scanning," making it possible to cover more of the curriculum content, reaching more students across all grade levels, particularly in reading and language arts. Additionally, teachers and students can use the system to create files, which are transferable to CDs/mp3 players. Class work, content areas, original writing and stories, and practice MCAS tests become accessible before, during and after school, for tutoring sessions or homework assignments.

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According to Lynne White Robbins, special education teacher at The William Monroe Trotter Elementary School, "The grant will go a long way toward making inclusion work at the Trotter School. It will allow students who struggle with reading and writing - whether special needs or regular ed - to learn according to their ability, to understand text material, and to organize their class work and homework. By learning to scan any book, e-Book, play or classroom assignment using KURZWEIL technology, students will have equal access to curriculum.

The grant will go a long way towards engaging visually impaired students in their class work, and will help them to develop strong reading and writing skills. With the KURZWEIL equipment, students can scan any book or play any digitized book, to learn at their own pace in a manner they can process and understand."

**Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art** will use the grant to fund the museum's first-ever extensive docent training program on African Art. Brown Rudnick's Insight/Foresight Grant will support three training sessions for the *African Art, African Voices: Long Steps Never Broke a Back* exhibition. Volunteer docents will be trained on the history of the art collection, as well on best teaching practices in relating African art to the museum visitor.

**Breakthrough Magnet School** will use the grant to help students attend class trips. Specifically, the grant will assist families with two or more children in the school by subsidizing the cost of one of the children's school trips. The Insight/Foresight Grant will support fifth and sixth graders attending their annual Natures Classroom trip, a week-long field trip that engages students in different activities involving nature exploration and science. Additionally, funds will help middle school students travel to Montreal and Philadelphia, two field trips which provide students with a lesson in local culture and cuisine.

Comments Albert W. Wallis, executive director of the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Corp., "In awarding these grants, the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation seeks to enrich the lives of students enrolled in these diverse educational programs. We hope that these funds will improve the overall learning experience for students in these inner-city programs, which is the Foundation's over-arching mission."

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Brown Rudnick is a full-service, international law firm with offices in the United States and Europe. The firm's 200 attorneys provide representation across key areas of the law: Corporate & Securities, Corporate Finance, Intellectual Property, Project and Structured Finance, Bankruptcy & Corporate Restructuring, Energy, Government Law & Strategies, Health Care, Real Estate, Complex Litigation and Trusts & Estates. Combining a dedication to excellence with the implementation of sophisticated technologies, Brown Rudnick provides its clients with a breadth and depth of expertise uniquely suited to their legal needs.

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The Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest is a measure of the Firm's strong commitment to the community and serves as an umbrella entity encompassing the Firm's pro bono legal work, charitable giving, community involvement and public interest efforts. The Center supports the mission of the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Corp., which provides grants in support of improving inner city education. For more information about the Center, please visit [www.brownrudnick.com/what/center.htm](http://www.brownrudnick.com/what/center.htm)

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