



# Press Release

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Brown Rudnick Awards Grant to Hartford Theater Troupe for Creation of Conflict Resolution Workshops Aimed at High School Students**

**Boston, MA and Hartford, CT, October 2, 2006** – Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Corp., a nonprofit, tax-exempt entity established by attorneys from Brown Rudnick Berlack Israels LLP, today announced that it has awarded one of its Insight/Foresight Grants to the **HartBeat Ensemble Theater Group** in Hartford, Connecticut. 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>.

**HartBeat Ensemble** is a theater troupe that produces socially-conscious plays and educational programs. The Insight/Foresight Grant will pay for three actor/educators -- including artist fees and transportation -- to support the creation of three one-hour workshops on conflict resolution. These educational workshops will be offered at Hartford, Buckley and Beaver High Schools in Connecticut.

HartBeat Ensemble's educational workshops teach youths and adults to use theater as a tool for social and political change. Through ensemble building games, movement exercises, and improvisation, participants learn to express their joy and air their grievances creatively. Through work inspired by Augusto Boal's Theater of the Oppressed, HartBeat Ensemble explores ways to alter current situations, external or internal, which are adversely affecting our lives. These workshops are used in schools, community centers and professional conferences and vary in structure according to the needs of the particular event or organization.

In January 2006, Brown Rudnick awarded HartBeat Ensemble an Insight/Foresight Grant to establish four scholarships (\$500 each) that enabled low-income Hartford students to attend a week-long high school theater workshop, where students had the opportunity to write, stage and perform their own play.



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Comments Albert W. Wallis, executive director of the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Corp., “We are delighted to offer continued support to HartBeat Ensemble. The theater group’s innovative educational programs provide inner-city students with a unique platform for self-expression and self-exploration.”

## **About HartBeat Ensemble Theater Group**

HartBeat Ensemble is dedicated to creating new works which challenge the status quo. Its main stage plays tell universal stories of everyday people who take action to better their world. Through these stories HartBeat hopes not only to entertain, but to stir in people the desire to create meaningful change in their own lives and the lives of others. HartBeat’s street theater performances are generally physical in nature, comic and satirical. For more information, please visit [www.hartbeatensemble.org](http://www.hartbeatensemble.org).

## **About Brown Rudnick Berlack Israels LLP**

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