



**AMERICA'S PROMISE**  
THE ALLIANCE FOR YOUTH®

## America's Promise Bulletin #422

### San Diego's Promise Crafts an Art Connection

Earlier this spring, San Diego's Promise linked Pulitzer Prize photography finalist Jeffrey Brown with the students from local after-school programs. Brown worked closely with the participants and arranged for a downtown San Diego gallery to co-display his and the students' art. Prominent civic and community leaders attended the show's reception. In addition to art and photography, San Diego's Promise partners in the community contributed music and dance to enhance the festivities. Several local television stations and print media highlighted the show and the aspiring young artists throughout the week.

"Young people today need as many avenues and resources as possible to effectively express themselves," said Suzanne Penyak, director of San Diego's Promise. "With increasing budget cuts in education, creative expression, art and culture opportunities are either limited or not available in schools. San Diego's Promise is making sure that such important aspects of education are not lost and that youth have a well-rounded background upon which to build their lives."

This collaboration is made possible through the Art Link Project, in which San Diego's Promise enlists local volunteer artists to share their talent, expertise and creations with after-school youth. Artists travel to various after-school locations and teach students as a part of this site's enrichment curricula. Youth are given an opportunity to discover and express their creativity, an important part of their development, growth, emotional well-being and success.

From an academic standpoint, the Art Link Project allows professional artists to play a critical role in introducing youth to what is often their first encounter with arts and culture. The project also contributes to the development of marketable skills. Participants learn to exhibit and promote art in a manner that teaches the young artists about all aspects of artistic endeavors including concept, production, marketing and presentation. The professional artists, who display their work alongside youth art, often commit a percent of their sales to further support the Art Link Project.

To learn more about the Art Link Project or how you can start a similar project in your community, contact Suzanne Penyak at [spenyak@san.rr.com](mailto:spenyak@san.rr.com).

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### Quote of the Week

*"You were not created to live as brutes, but to pursue virtue and knowledge."*

**Dante Alighieri**

## Wanted: Youth Partnership Team Applicants

America's Promise is pleased to announce that we are currently accepting applications for new members for the Youth Partnership Team. The Youth Partnership Team is a group of 16 young people selected to help lead and grow our campaign for children and youth. We will be accepting approximately five new members for the 2003-2004 team. The team meets twice yearly in Washington, D.C. for intensive retreats. The team and committees also hold monthly conference calls and maintain regular online communications.

Members of the Youth Partnership Team serve as a sounding board and leadership team for the America's Promise staff. In addition to occasional opportunities to represent America's Promise as spokespeople and trainers, they also have the opportunity to lead or champion a project focused on the Five Promises in their hometown or college campus. Based upon their interests and skills, the team also identifies which of several national scale working groups they would like to participate. Several members have also been selected to serve on the National Advisory Council and Board of Directors.

Please forward this information to young leaders, between the ages of 14-22, who are active in your organization or local effort. It is acceptable to have multiple applicants from one Community of Promise or national partner so please do share this with as many young people as you see fit. We also encourage distribution of this opportunity to your network, through a posting to your listserv or newsletter.

Applications must be submitted by 5pm EST on **June 2, 2003**. Absolutely no exceptions will be made for the deadline. You may also download the application at <http://www.americaspromise.org/files/YPT2003.doc>.

If you have any questions, please contact Danielle Moore at [daniellem@americaspromise.org](mailto:daniellem@americaspromise.org) or 1-800-365-0153.

## Tools & Resources

### "Getting" Adolescence

Looking to find new ways to involve young volunteers in your local effort? Or maybe you need fresh, new research that validates the need to fulfill the Five Promises. Even if you simply just don't "get it" when it comes to teens and want some insight, it helps to understand the complexities of adolescence. In *Adolescents' Preparation for the Future*, researchers and university professors Reed Larson, B. Bradford Brown

and Jeylan Mortimer explore adolescence as a defined stage of life all over the world. And while the adolescent experience may vary from culture to culture, the effects of globalization, shifting job markets, family transformations, technological advances and cultural trends are transforming the experience of adolescence for young people everywhere.

Pick up a copy of *Adolescents' Preparation for the Future* and understand why the beginning of "adulthood" has shifted from 12 to 16 years of age in rural India, for example, and from 22 to 26 years of age in postindustrial societies like the United States. Learn why adolescents must go through so much more than ever before to prepare for adulthood, and how adults must fortify the current support structure if these young people are to successfully enter adulthood.

"The global study group on adolescence strongly believes that the world must value adolescents for what they contribute today, and invest in them so they can succeed in the challenging world of tomorrow," said Mortimer. "If parents, governments and businesses make investments in youth now, young people will be capable of fulfilling the high expectations that we require of them and that they dream for themselves."

*Adolescents' Preparation for the Future* is available wherever books are sold. To learn more about the researchers' work, contact Ivette Zamora at (914) 833-7093.

## Grants of the Week

### Government/Higher Education

The United States Senate Youth Program is accepting applications for submission to its next program to be held February 28 - March 6, 2004. Funded by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation, the program will select two students from each state and the District of Columbia to spend a week in Washington, D.C., immersed in government and related activities, including tours of the Senate, House of Representatives, the Supreme Court and the Pentagon. After the visit to Washington, each delegate will be eligible to apply for a \$5,000 scholarship to the college or university of his/her choice. The deadline to submit applications varies according to the state.

For additional information and an application form, visit [www.ussenateyouth.org](http://www.ussenateyouth.org).

### Higher education

Jobs for the Future is now accepting applications for the MetLife Foundation Community-College Excellence Awards. These grants recognize community colleges that offer innovative projects to help underserved youths and adults succeed in postsecondary education. Two colleges will each

receive a \$30,000 award. Public, accredited community colleges may apply. The deadline for application is **August 1, 2003**.

For additional information, contact Anne Newton at (617) 728-4446, e-mail [anewton@jff.org](mailto:anewton@jff.org) or visit <http://www.jff.org>.

**Note:** If you are a Community of Promise that has applied for and earned a grant posted on an America's Promise Bulletin, we'd love to hear about your achievements. Please e-mail your success story to Lexie Miller at [lexiem@americaspromise.org](mailto:lexiem@americaspromise.org).

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