



News Release

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

600 S.E. Third Avenue, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33301

www.browardschools.com

754-321-2300 • 754-321-2616

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CONTACTS: Leona Miracola, Innovative Programs/Design Support, 754-321-2070
Maria Gebhardt, Public Information Office, 754-321-2300

White House Committee Selects BCPS in Expansion of Turnaround Arts Program *Celebrities Cameron Diaz, John Lloyd Young and Carla Dirlikov to Work With Three Turnaround Schools*

Today, the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities announced the expansion of its successful Turnaround Arts initiative to include three elementary schools in Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) – Bethune Elementary School, Lake Forest Elementary School and Walker Elementary School – in an effort to narrow the achievement gap and increase student engagement through the arts.

BCPS is one of five school districts in the nation, and the only school district in Florida, selected to partner with Turnaround Arts. The selected schools will receive arts education training and resources to address their individual needs. Resources include a summer leadership program, in-school professional development, partnerships with community arts education and cultural organizations, art supplies, and musical instruments.

"We are excited to partner with Turnaround Arts to provide training and resources for this kind of instruction in our District's highest priority schools," said Broward County Public Schools Superintendent Robert W. Runcie. "Classrooms that are rich in the arts help us to provide important opportunities for creative expression and discovery in developing well-rounded students."

Additionally, the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities announced that "Turnaround Artists" Cameron Diaz, John Lloyd Young and Carla Dirlikov will adopt BCPS Turnaround Arts schools, and work directly with students and teachers to support their arts education. They join a number of other high-profile artists who will also adopt Turnaround Arts schools for the length of the program, working with students, schools and communities to highlight their success.

"All children deserve to have access to the arts, not only to discover their passion, but as a tool to engage them in the joy of learning," said Cameron Diaz, actress and Turnaround Artist. "Turnaround Arts is an amazing organization, and I look forward to working to inspire the students at Bethune Elementary to discover and reach for their dreams."

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Attorney Andrew Weinstein, appointed by President Barack Obama to the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities, was instrumental in expanding the Turnaround Arts program to South Florida. "It's an honor and an opportunity to be part of the Turnaround Arts program. Traveling to schools in Washington, D.C., New Orleans and Boston has given me firsthand experience about this program and its incredible potential to impact the students of Broward County," said Weinstein.

For more information about the Turnaround Arts program and profiles of selected schools visit:
<http://turnaroundarts.pcah.gov>.

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ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

Created in 1982 under President Reagan, the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities (PCAH) is an advisory committee to the White House on cultural issues. PCAH works directly with the three primary cultural agencies—the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services—as well as other federal partners and the private sector, to address policy questions in the arts and humanities, to initiate and support key programs in those disciplines, and to recognize excellence in the field. Its core areas of focus are education, cultural exchange, and creative economy. Under the leadership of the First Lady and Honorary Chairman, and through the efforts of its federal and private members, the President's Committee has compiled an impressive legacy over its tenure, conducting major research and policy analysis, and catalyzing important federal cultural programs, both domestic and international.

ABOUT BROWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) is the sixth largest public school system in the United States and the second largest in the state of Florida. BCPS is Florida's first fully accredited school system since 1962. BCPS has over 260,000 students and approximately 175,000 adult students in 238 schools, centers and technical colleges, and 99 charter schools. BCPS serves a diverse student population. Students are from 204 different countries and speak 135 different languages. For more information about BCPS, visit browardschools.com, follow us on Twitter [@Browardschools](https://twitter.com/Browardschools), like us on Facebook [@facebook.com/browardschools](https://facebook.com/browardschools), and download the free Broward County Public Schools mobile app.