



PRESS RELEASE

MOSAIC YOUTH THEATRE OF DETROIT

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For Immediate Release

DETROIT GROUP IN RUNNING FOR \$1 MILLION FROM CHASE

Mosaic will use funds to renovate historic building – Facebook users pick winner

January 8, 2010 - Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit is proud to announce their selection as winner of \$25,000 in the Chase Community Giving “*you decide what matters*” campaign. This grassroots effort allowed Facebook’s 350 million users to choose from more than 500,000 small and local charities and vote for their favorite to win a share of \$5 million. Mosaic is one of 100 non-profits selected from around the country, and the only Detroit organization to receive this award. These funds will afford Mosaic’s young artists the opportunity to visit colleges from throughout the Eastern Seaboard and Midwest – bringing them one step closer to realizing their future aspirations.

Each of the 100 selected organizations, including Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit, will now advance to Round Two of Chase Community Giving where one organization will receive \$1 million and the five runners-up will be given \$100,000 each. Voting runs from January 15th to the 22nd. For Round Two, participating organizations were asked to submit a “Big Idea” explaining how they would put the funds to use in service of the community. Facebook users will be able to view each groups “Big Idea” online. Mosaic acquired a historic 40,000 square foot building, the former location of WTVS and WJBK, in Detroit’s burgeoning New Center district and winning this award would allow it to completely renovate and restore the space, affording Mosaic a permanent home. This center dedicated to youth excellence would be a catalyst for formation of strategic partnerships with other youth and arts organizations to expand its impact throughout the region. Mosaic is currently in discussions with several organizations to partner in occupying the building.

According to Rick Sperling, Mosaic’s founder, this opportunity is also timely. “We have to leave our current facility at the end of June. We are in discussions with several groups about providing temporary facilities while we try to raise the funds for our permanent home.” Mosaic has successfully engaged a highly qualified team of architects and developers who have completed plans to restore the building. Mosaic has been forced to suspend its plans due to Michigan’s struggling economy. The \$1 million, in conjunction with historic and new market tax credits, will provide the resources necessary to make Mosaic’s vision a reality. Mosaic is confident this center will be a “game-changer” for Detroit youth, launching the leaders of tomorrow in a stimulating environment, connecting them to the opportunities they deserve.

As Kevin Smith, Mosaic’s Board Chair and partner with the law firm Miller Canfield reflected “*in these tough times, it is humbling to know that a small organization like Mosaic can inspire so many to act on behalf of our youth.*”

Audiences can see the young artists of Mosaic live onstage in **Singsation: Mosaic Singers in Concert** at the Detroit Institute of Arts February 13-14. www.mosaicdetroit.org



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About Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit

Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit is a national model for youth development through the arts. Mosaic's mission is to empower young people to maximize their potential through professional performing arts training and the creation of first-rate theatrical and musical art. Mosaic's all-teen performances have toured Africa, Asia, Europe and the U.S., and have been featured on NBC's Today Show, NPR's All Things Considered, and was the subject of the Michigan Emmy Award®-winning PBS documentary, And They Flew: The Story of Mosaic Youth Theatre. For more information about Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit visit www.mosaicdetroit.org.

About Chase

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