

The Great Schoolhouse Tour

A dream of the Oklahoma Children's Theatre of bringing live theater to lower income metropolitan elementary schools was made possible thanks to a Great Grant from the Oklahoma City Community Foundation.

Due to reduced funding for field trips and arts education in metropolitan elementary schools, the opportunities for children to participate in live theater as part of a curriculum has lessened considerably in recent years. As a result, the Oklahoma Children's Theatre took the attitude of "if they can't come to us, then we'll go to them," and brought the Great Schoolhouse Tour idea to the Oklahoma City Community Foundation.

Thanks to Great Grant funding, the Great Schoolhouse Tour has provided live, interactive theater at eight Oklahoma City elementary schools each school year for the past three years. To make the most of the children's experience, the Great Schoolhouse Tour sends each school a pre-production handbook that provides detailed curriculum-related activities that are tied directly to the Priority Academic Student Skills and encompass visual, music and language arts.

The result is that nearly 9,000 students have received a well-rounded approach to arts education; students who might not otherwise have received such exposure to the many values of live theater.

Enriching citizens' lives, both young and old, is a role the Oklahoma City Community Foundation is able to fulfill thanks to the generosity of many individuals who have made Great Grants possible by contributing to the Fund for Oklahoma City. For more information about giving to the Fund for Oklahoma City, contact Jennifer Stewart at 405/235-5603 or j.stewart@occf.org or visit www.occf.org.



During the 2002-2003 school year, the Great Schoolhouse Tour featured "The Tomato Plant Girl," a story of a little girl who overcomes the dominance of a bully.



Students enjoy a Great Schoolhouse Tour production.

Great Grants

Enriching Our Community



Actors with the Oklahoma Children's Theatre perform a Great Schoolhouse Tour production.

The Oklahoma City Community Foundation is the metropolitan area's non-profit public charity that works with donors and non-profit organizations to attract and manage endowment funds for the community's benefit.

As part of its mission, the Oklahoma City Community Foundation fosters community programs and partners with community groups that address specific opportunities such as the Great Schoolhouse Tour.



P. O. Box 1146
Oklahoma City, OK
73101-1146

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Oklahoma City, OK
Permit No. 255

A basic goal of the Oklahoma City Community Foundation is to improve the community, not to simply distribute funds. Our staff takes a proactive approach in assisting organizations to identify emerging issues and developing programs that meet those issues.

What are your dreams for a better community? Let the Oklahoma City Community Foundation help you reach your philanthropic goals. For additional information, contact us at **405/235-5603** or visit www.occf.org.