“People are so amazed and inspired after our concerts. I think this is the best international script ever written because our family is so different, colorful and bright. You can’t even think of anything except peace and improvement” -OneBeat Fellow (2013)

OneBeat is an international cultural exchange that partners with Bang on a Can to bring American and international musicians together for a musical residency and community engagement and performance tour that’s like no other. The young musicians collaborate, produce, and perform original music and develop ways that music can make a positive impact on our local and global communities. Musicians from select countries around the world apply and fellows are chosen not only for their musical excellence, but also for their work in making a positive contribution to their communities. During their ‘movable feast’ of a program, fellows partner with local organizations to give collaborative performances, lead workshops in schools, and learn from one another. The 2013 tour reached many young people through activities including a workshop at “Girls Rock Club”, a youth music program in Charleston, SC, a panel on music and social change with university students in Washington, DC, programs with Kidz Notes in Durham, NC and various other workshops with schools and arts-centers.

The impact of OneBeat does not end at the conclusion of the U.S. program. OneBeat fellow (2012) Nina Ogot is working with Kuruka Maisha, a Kenyan organization that works with disadvantaged youth and communities through the arts and theater, recognized by the President’s Committee on Arts and Humanities. Senegalese artist, PPS, is developing local youth arts programming and a recording studio in his hometown of Rufisque, Senegal; MC Aquil Charlton is facilitating workshops using storytelling and oral histories to empower communities around Chicago; Hungarian singer-songwriter Vera Jonas is laying groundwork for a Street Studio project with Roma musicians, and was recently featured in an NEA interview on music as cultural diplomacy along with 2013 fellow Bill Sellanga. Cambodian fellow Young Yorn and American fellow Sarah Alden recently reunited in provincial areas of Cambodia to share their music and experiences with young students. OneBeat continues to serve as an incubator for an interconnected network of music-driven social enterprises, and each fellow returns to his/her own community with increased knowledge and understanding of the world around them, and ideas to use music to influence youth and build connections.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: TIFFANY SHLAIN, AMERICAN FILM SHOWCASE

Tiffany Shlain, filmmaker, artist, and founder of the Webby Awards, is one of the award-winning filmmakers selected to participate in the State Department’s American Film Showcase, a touring film exchange program managed with grant partner University of Southern California School of Cinematic Arts. Named as one of the “Women Shaping the 21st Century” by Newsweek, Tiffany’s participation in AFS has inspired youth across the globe. Her innovative cloud filmmaking invites participants from around the world to share their video submissions to make collaborative film projects. Her films explore aspects of life that connect us and invite global dialogue. As an AFS film envoy, Tiffany traveled to South Africa in 2012 with her film Connected and Israel in November 2013 with her film Brain Power and just completed a virtual film exchange program with emerging filmmakers in Egypt. For all these AFS exchange programs, Tiffany has led workshops that empower young and emerging storytellers. She recently launched The Science of Character in a groundbreaking global debut featuring participants from 120 countries and over 1500 schools and organizations in every continent and US state, contributing to over 11.9 million #CharacterDay impressions on Twitter.
More than 50 percent of the world’s population is under the age of 30. Helping young people find their voice, joining with them on shared challenges, and encouraging youth development is an important foreign policy objective for the U.S. Department of State. American bands, participating in our collaboration with American Voices, American Music Abroad (AMA), provide our embassies overseas with opportunities to reach out to young audiences in a variety of ways. Every year, the AMA program sends 10 American Music Ensembles to more than 40 countries. AMA musicians reach beyond concert halls to interact directly with foreign audiences, including young people and underserved communities, through workshops, master classes and jam sessions.

Even before our AMA bands embark on their overseas tours, they reach out to young audiences at local schools and community organizations. Overseas, AMA groups frequently interact with students and young professionals in Africa, Asia, Central and South America, Central Asia, and the Middle East. For many young children living in these areas, the opportunity to hear an AMA band may represent the first time they have heard live music, the first time to hear jazz or bluegrass, the first time to play an instrument, and even the first time to meet an American. As one member of the Henhouse Prowlers describes his experience in Brazzaville, “40 children living in a 40 x 40 room were singing with their music teacher when we arrived. It took your breath away, again and again. They sang for us, we sang for them...then we all sang together. The teacher told me he had never heard of a banjo when they told him we were coming, so he looked it up in a dictionary. The children sang a song they wrote for us and we played our instruments behind many of their songs.” We hear from young people abroad that our programs changed their view of our country, sometimes even changed their lives. We also enjoy hearing about how the exchange changed you – read about Laura Cortese’s reflections during her AMA tour here.

Every year, Museums Connect supports over half a dozen international collaborations and exchanges that reach youth through their local museum communities. For example, in the Design Diaries International project, between the Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS) in St. Paul/Minneapolis and the Palestinian Heritage Museum in Jerusalem, young women representing diverse populations in Jerusalem and Minnesota’s Twin Cities are using their museums’ rich textile collections to investigate the subtext and historical context of clothing in their regions. The young women are using their newfound knowledge to dialogue with their counterparts about the meaning of clothing in their lives and how it has shaped their personal identities, leading up to the design and creation of garments that reflect their unique identities. A delegation from Minnesota, including seven students, two designers, and two museum staff members, recently traveled to Jerusalem for the first of two international fashion shows designed by the participants. Friends and family in Minnesota gathered at MNHS to watch the simulcast and get a sneak peak at the show that will come to St. Paul in May, while the in-person audience of over 150 people got one last visual treat when all 27 participating students changed into traditional Palestinian dresses for the reception. For many of the Minnesota students, this was their first experience traveling abroad and it was truly unforgettable.

Through our partnership with the American Alliance for Museums, Museums Connect links U.S. communities with communities abroad, reaching youth through innovative museum-facilitated exchange projects that address important topics, such a human rights, interreligious tolerance, climate change, and women’s empowerment, among others.

In every culture around the world, youth confront how to best express themselves; learning to convey their unique ideas, opinions, and beliefs is part of growing up and engaging in the world. DanceMotion USA, our flagship dance exchange program, partners with the Brooklyn Academy of Music to share the best of American dance culture with communities throughout the world. Last year, 4 dance companies traveled to 13 countries to conduct 167 workshops with 16,080 participants and give 31 performances for 25,210 audience members, reaching 3 million+ people online. This season, three contemporary dance ensembles, CONTRA-TIEMPO, David Dorfman Dance, and Mark Morris Dance Group, will travel around the globe, teaching master classes, leading dance education workshops with local youth and artists, and sharing their American dance culture with diverse audiences through public performances. We invite you to follow their journey virtually (click the buttons to the right!) as they use their dance as a mechanism to spark creativity and inspire expression.
**UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES**

New Arts Diplomacy Grants on grants.gov
Creative Arts Exchange: Music, Film, and Dance

An open competition, for three projects under the FY2014 Creative Arts Exchange (CAE) is now live. These arts-based international people-to-people exchanges support and further U.S. foreign policy objectives.

Search grants.gov for the FY2014 Creative Arts Exchanges (Funding Number: ECA-CAPEC-14-053)

Proposals Due May 29, 2014

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**ART ENVOYS EMPOWER & ENGAGE DIVERSE YOUTH**

Edgar Arceneaux, a Los Angeles-based artist, traveled to Sao Tome and Principe, Africa in December 2013 to participate in an innovative contemporary art-making process titled, “Three Million Years,” referring directly to the Island’s geological history. Arceneaux’s “socially engaged” artwork draws on capabilities of individuals and communities through collaborative practices. In Sao Tome, Mr. Arceneaux and the community in Angolares redesigned a market, a garden, and a library while promoting educational and economic development.

A team from Quest Visual Theatre in Washington, DC traveled to Beijing and Guangzhou, China for an Arts Envoy program to conduct workshops and provide acting training and production guidance to youth, amateur writers and performers, and to disabled persons- culminating in two performances. The group worked with organizations like Huiling, one of China’s most established NGOs, and Beijing Vocational School to provide students, teachers, and other community members insights on how visual theater can serve as an important tool to develop skills and reach out to youth.

The Dance Theatre of Harlem traveled to Honduras for a series of programs timed to coincide with the embassy’s celebration of Black History Month. The Dance Theatre of Harlem focused on youth engagement, and offered workshops and master classes throughout Tegucigalpa that attracted Hondurans of every racial, gender, ethnic, and social class, and conducted a cultural exchange activity with the Garifuna (Afro-Honduran) community. The company incorporated ten Honduran girl ballerinas in its repertoire and joined them in three performances. The young ballerinas were chosen from 80 girls during two-day auditions. The Dance Theatre of Harlem was so pleased with the event that they decided to offer two international scholarships for young dancers whom the company’s artistic director met during the public master workshops. The tuition scholarship is for a month-long session starting in June to train with Dance Theatre of Harlem in New York City. The recipients of the scholarships both come from the National Dance School, a severely underfunded public institution and the only public dance school in the country.

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**WHAT’S AHEAD FOR ARTS DIPLOMACY?**

**Between the Lines: Peace and the Writing Experience**

This June, young Arabic speaking writers from the Middle East/North Africa will join with young Americans in a two-week creative writing seminar and cultural exchange program at the University of Iowa. The participants will expand their writing skills by attending courses with respected, prize-winning poets and writers while experiencing life on a U.S. university campus. The unique international setting will also allow students to learn from one another as they share their cultures, experiences, and knowledge with one another. You can hear testimonies from last year’s students in this [video](#).

**Center Stage**

From June-October 2014 international artists from Morocco, Pakistan, and Vietnam will travel to American communities using performances, workshops, artist-to-artist exchanges, and community-level interactions to build relationships and promote mutual understanding. You can check out samples from the seven unique ensembles on SoundCloud and stay tuned to the [Center Stage website](#) to see when a group will be traveling to a town near you! This season kicks off in June with Pakistan’s Indie-Rock band, [Poor Rich Boy](#).

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**Have you seen Arts Diplomacy in action?**

Whether you are an artist, performer, presenter, or arts lover, we invite you to share information about international cultural events and opportunities in our Cultural Diplomacy community at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com/).

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**Tell Us!**