

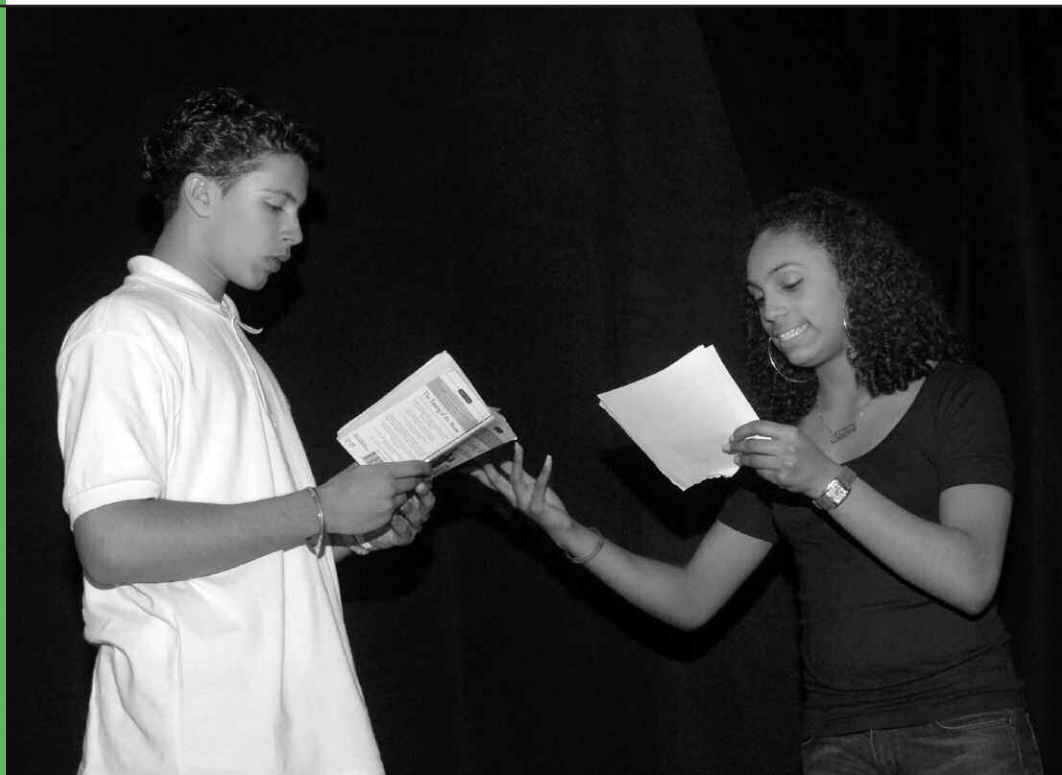
THE NEW YORK
COMMUNITY TRUST



GRANTS

April 2008 NEWSLETTER

Most of the grants described in our newsletter are made possible through the generosity of past donors who established permanent, charitable funds with us during their lifetimes or through their wills. If you would like to learn more about how to do this, please contact our general counsel, Jane Wilton, at 212.686.2563



Students in the Brooklyn Academy of Music's Shakespeare Teaches program learn to appreciate the Bard by performing excerpts from *The Taming of the Shrew*.

Light the Lights

According to *USA Today*, only one American college* requires its students to take a course in Shakespeare.

So why study Shakespeare in high school—or at all? People who love language say that he teaches us the power and beauty of words; others laugh at his comedy and bawdy sense of humor; theatergoers are entertained and enthralled. But most of all, Shakespeare reveals human nature—love, betrayal, vengeance, jealousy—and the human condition—war, class division, sex, death. The **Brooklyn Academy of Music** (BAM) is convinced: after all, Shakespeare

*Harvard College

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David Costable, an actor and professor at NYU, coaches students, such as this young woman, participating in BAM's Shakespeare Teaches.

wrote for everyone. It offers Shakespeare Teaches, a nine-session program taught each spring in selected high schools in poor neighborhoods by actors affiliated with BAM who have years of experience acting in and teaching Shakespeare. Classroom teachers are trained before the program starts. Students read a play, learn the language and historical context, explore character, act out scenes, and see a performance. This spring, students in three high schools in Brooklyn, East Harlem, and Staten Island will study *Macbeth* and go to see BAM's modern production starring Patrick Stewart—a veteran Shakespearean actor better known for his role as Captain Picard on *Star Trek*. The following spring, three additional schools will be chosen and study *A Winter's Tale*. Our two-year, **\$60,000** grant helps support this inspired effort to light the lights for low-income City teens.

Open the Law School Doors

The ranks of African-American and Latino law students are thinning—and their numbers in the profession have always been unacceptably low. A major reason is that many low-income college students are not guided to the course work and internships favored by admissions

offices, and they often apply too late for financial aid. In addition, many don't take the LSAT prep classes that would help them be more competitive.

For the last two years, The Trust has supported the Ronald H. Brown Center for Civil Rights and Economic Development's summer program at **St. John's University** Law School. Promising minority and low-income sophomores and juniors from St.

John's and CUNY's John Jay, Medgar Evers, and York colleges attend two weeks of introductory law classes, shadow Queens judges for a week, and participate in five-week internships at the Brooklyn and Queens district attorneys' offices. Last year, 19 juniors took a specially adapted prep course for the LSAT; 13 have taken the exam so far, getting good to excellent scores; 4 are in law school. With our **\$70,000** grant, the Center will offer the program this summer to 40 sophomores and 25 returning juniors. The students, most of whom commute to their schools, will be able to live on the St. John's campus. And the Center will work with the four colleges to improve student counseling, helping to increase the pool of qualified minority candidates for the nation's law schools.

Harness Power

It's been a while since environmentalists have been dismissed as "tree-huggers." Their credibility is, of course, a result of rigorous scientific studies that simply can't be ignored, and they've gotten far more sophisticated in getting the word out. Moving the agenda is proving much harder, particularly when it comes to climate change and getting manufacturers to change the chemi-

Ironically, climate change and toxic chemicals pose major financial risks to companies—and to their shareholders. Institutional investors...collectively control 60 percent of the largest U.S. companies, giving them clout with boards and management.

icals used in consumer products. Ironically, climate change and toxic chemicals pose major financial risks to companies—and to their shareholders. Institutional investors—public and private pension funds, mutual funds, investment managers, life insurance companies, commercial banks, and university and foundation endowments—collectively control 60 percent of the largest U.S. companies, giving them clout with boards and management. Two nonprofits are harnessing their power to protect the environment and human health.

Ceres, which has been informing American businesses about the environmental risks of global warming since 1989, formed the Investor Network on Climate Risk several years ago. With 61 members representing \$4 trillion in assets, it organized events at the Council of Institutional Investors meeting last year, and developed a standardized form for S&P 500 companies to disclose information about what they're doing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Ceres used investor pressure to stop construction of 11 coal plants in Texas, got commitments from its members to invest \$1.3 billion in clean technology, and sent a petition on behalf of 11 state treasurers asking the Securities and Exchange Commission to require all companies to disclose their environmental risks. With our two-year, **\$150,000** grant, Ceres will host a summit on climate risk at the United Nations at which it will develop a 10-point plan. It will coordinate the Network's groups on industry sectors, high-risk companies, and clean technology investment, and start a new group on green building and real estate. The groups will consider how they can influence the development of national climate change policies and testify at Congressional hearings.

Scientists now understand the effects of low doses of common chemicals on hormones in fetuses and children, and studies have detected elevated levels of toxic chemicals in adults—and increases in cancer and other health problems. **Investor Environmental Health Network** is one of a growing number of nonprofits that is trying to reach influential people and businesses with an economic argument for eliminating environmental toxins. Not only do companies face potential liability for toxic chemicals used in toys, cosmetics, pet foods, toothpaste, and other products; their shareholders are also at risk. Current practice in the United States is to remove toxins *after* they have been proven harmful; “the precautionary principle”—adopted by the European Union—calls for extensive testing of new chemicals *before* they are introduced. With our **\$50,000** grant, the Network will work directly with specific corporations and large retailers to get them to remove products and packaging that use bisphenol-A or PVCs, as well as continue to get risk information to networks of institutional investors. It will also work with Institutional Shareholders, the largest proxy voting advisory service in the nation, to update its guidelines for toxic chemicals.

Pension fund, mutual fund, and institutional endowment managers have a fiduciary responsibility to protect their assets. Informed about the environmental and financial risks, they can be a powerful force for change.

Business for Babies

Real estate may be the talk of the town; for the City's working mothers, child care is the hot topic. But if you think finding a nanny is hard, try to get a place in a good child-care center if you're earning a low or moderate salary—or if you're looking for work.



Women learn to provide quality home care at the Paraprofessional Healthcare Institute.

Licensed family day care is one option. Provided by women in their homes, it usually offers flexible hours at low cost. And doubling the bang for the buck, it is a business that can be run by young women who are home caring for their own children. To help these microentrepreneurs manage and develop their business, the **Business Outreach Center Network**—which gives loans, training, and advice to minority, immigrant, and female entrepreneurs—has, over the last two years, prepared 154 women to start new family day care businesses, and helped 150 existing providers expand. With our **\$94,000** grant, the Network will now offer family child care business development services on the Lower East Side and in Chinatown. And to help ensure that providers are offering high-quality services, the Network will work with the New York City Early Childhood Professional Development Institute at CUNY to run a 10-hour workshop series on child development and visit providers' homes to see if participants are using what

they learned. Providers will also be counseled by a career advisor to make plans for further professional development and higher education. The Network's expanded program will bring more child care options to poor and immigrant neighborhoods where they are in short supply, add to the limited business opportunities for poor and immigrant women, and help these women sharpen their own skills as educators and business owners.

Good Jobs=Good Care

Gone are the days when most families—especially daughters—took care of their elderly parents. Instead, the frail elderly are looked after by home health aides or live in nursing homes.

In 2006, a New York State commission recommended closing 2,500 nursing home beds across the state and expanding home health care. And although most people would like to remain in their own homes, health policy

We need more and better trained paraprofessionals to provide long-term quality care, but consider this: Workers rarely make more than \$13,000 a year and get few benefits; nationally, 47 percent live below the poverty line and are on public assistance.

experts say that the home care system isn't up to the job, especially with the anticipated increase of elderly residents as baby boomers age. We need more and better trained paraprofessionals to provide long-term quality care, but consider this: Workers rarely make more than \$13,000 a year and get few benefits; nationally, 47 percent live below the poverty line and are on public assistance. There is little opportunity for advancement, and turnover is 50 percent a year. Add to this a State Medicaid budget of more than \$2 billion and you can understand why it will be difficult to get much-needed raises. The **Paraprofessional Healthcare Institute**, the nonprofit affiliate of a worker-owned home health agency in the South Bronx, trains women who are leaving welfare for home health care jobs, and advocates on their behalf. It will use our **\$100,000** grant to measure the differences between the two levels of home health care workers and between those who are guaranteed a 35-hour work week and the majority who are not. If the study finds significantly lower turnover among higher-wage workers, it will use the data to advocate for raises (it has identified \$200 million in State money that might be used). The Institute will also test the effectiveness of a new level of worker—senior health aide, who will get additional training, work with the most difficult cases, and earn higher wages and guaranteed hours. It will then look at turnover and hospitalization rates to see if the position improves care and lowers cost. If we can improve the training and rewards for home health care workers, we'll raise the comfort and safety of our elderly.

Other Grants

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Food Bank for New York City, Food for Survival, \$50,000 to consolidate its operations with FoodChange, an agency that helps thousands of poor New Yorkers get emergency food, income support, and other services.

Center for Women in Government & Civil Society, \$50,000 (nine months) to develop a system to rate the quality of early childhood programs in New York State.

Court Appointed Special Advocates, \$150,000 to improve services for children in foster care whose parents are incarcerated.

Catholic Big Sisters and Big Brothers, \$35,000 to provide mentors, counseling for boys and their single mothers, after-school workshops on managing anger, and college preparation.

Phipps Community Development Corp., \$100,000 (two years) to prepare low-income students in the West Farms section of the Bronx for college.

An estimated 200,000 New Yorkers ages 16 to 24 are neither in school nor working, but federal funding for job training programs was cut drastically last year. The following five grants are to organizations that are committed to putting young people to work.

- **JobsFirstNYC, \$60,000** to train staff of youth employment programs, coordinate a network of more than 50 employment programs, and develop program models.
- **Latin Technologies, \$40,000** for a program that offers GED classes (with Queens College) and prepares young Latino immigrants with industry-certified technology courses for computer technicians, systems engineers, and telecommunication specialists.
- **Reciprocity Foundation, \$56,000** to train homeless, primarily gay, teens for jobs in fashion, design, media, and marketing firms and prepare them for college.



After studying a community design problem through Cooper-Hewitt's City of Neighborhoods program, these students from the Bronx present their solutions.

- **Safe Space, \$85,000** to expand a Queens drop-in center for homeless gay and lesbian teens that refers them to supportive housing and offers GED classes, case coordination, and a mobile van that provides health and mental health care.
- **Year Up, \$60,000** for an apprentice program in finance and technology that includes six months of technical training and a six-month apprenticeship for disadvantaged young people who have a high school diploma or GED.

CIVIC AFFAIRS & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

League of Women Voters of the City of New York Education Fund, \$30,000 to train citizens to run for public office.

New York Immigration Coalition, \$60,000 to promote voter participation in immigrant communities.

Housing Here and Now, \$40,000 to enlist banks that have given mortgages to private owners of apartment buildings to press their borrowers to correct code violations and improve building conditions.

New York City Financial Network Action Consortium, \$50,000 for shared accounting services for community credit unions to help them reduce costs, improve recordkeeping, and comply with regulations.

Pratt Area Community Council, \$40,000 to preserve Section 8-subsidized rental buildings by working with tenants and government.

CONSERVATION & ENVIRONMENT

With the release of PlaNYC 2030 by the Mayor last spring, New York City had a blueprint for increasing green space, improving transportation, cleaning up air and water, and building and preserving affordable housing. The following two nonprofits will carry out PlaNYC projects in their neighborhoods.

- **UPROSE, \$50,000** to educate residents of Sunset Park, Brooklyn, about the plan, mobilize constituents to support congestion pricing, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by planting street trees, installing green roofs, and building irrigation systems that capture and recycle rainwater.
- **West Harlem Environmental Action, \$50,000** to advocate for congestion pricing.

Added Value and Herban Solutions, \$35,000 to begin a neighborhood food-waste recycling program in Red Hook, Brooklyn.

American Bird Conservancy, \$50,000 to reform pesticide regulations in order to protect birds and their habitat.

Center for International Environmental Law, \$75,000 to promote national and international regulation of hazardous chemicals.

Commonweal, \$100,000 to educate women about an international study to monitor toxic chemicals in breast milk so that they will participate. The study is assessing the effectiveness of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Treaty; Commonweal was asked by the World Health Organization to design the education program.

Empire State Future, \$75,000 to promote a coordinated, sustainable statewide growth program for New York.

Environmental Law Institute, \$150,000 (two years) to educate local land-use planners about habitat conservation.

Public Health Institute, \$75,000 for the Blue Green Alliance, a partnership between the United Steelworkers and the Sierra Club to promote good jobs and a clean environment.

U.S. Green Building Council, New York Chapter, \$50,000 for a program that trains contractors and tradesmen to build “high performance” buildings that are efficient and have green amenities.

MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE

Alianza Dominicana, \$50,000 to strengthen the financial management of the leading agency serving Dominican immigrants.

Cause Effective, \$50,000 to help small nonprofits appeal to individual donors and plan special events.

ARTS

Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum, \$60,000 (two years) to bring to three needy high schools a program in which students identify a local design problem, develop a solution, and create models and plans with the help of a design professional.

Alliance of Resident Theatres/New York, \$50,000 (two years) to help the City’s principal theater service organization for Off- and Off-Off-Broadway develop two performance spaces for shared use.

BRIC Arts/Media/Brooklyn, \$50,000 (two years) to attract audiences to its building in downtown Brooklyn, which is being renovated to accommodate small and mid-sized arts groups.

Sculpture Center, \$48,000 to help the organization upgrade its database to increase staff efficiency and overhaul its Web site.

The following three-year grants are supported by our Wallace Theater Fund:

- **Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts, \$60,000** for dance and musical theater performances.
- **Builders Association, \$45,000** for a multi-media theater company.
- **Parsons Dance Foundation, \$90,000** for a contemporary dance company.
- **Poetry Project Limited, \$45,000** for readings and performances.



Renovations to Coney Island USA’s landmark building will encourage more people to visit this unique part of Brooklyn.

EDUCATION

Alliance for Quality Education, \$125,000 to advocate for continued State increases in operating funds for the City’s public schools and to monitor their use.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Coney Island USA, \$50,000 to develop a plan to preserve artifacts in its collection by air conditioning its landmark building.

HUMAN JUSTICE

Fund for New Citizens, \$150,000 for a grantmakers’ collaborative that makes grants to help the City’s immigrants and refugees.

Legal Services for New York City, \$60,000 for legal and social services to help pregnant girls and young mothers in foster care who are capable of caring for their babies.

Sanctuary for Families, \$75,000 for legal help for African girls and women who are victims of domestic violence.

Immigration Equality, \$50,000 for legal services for gay and HIV-positive asylum seekers.

HEALTH

Fund for Public Health in New York, \$150,000 for a colon cancer screening program at municipal hospitals.

Joseph P. Addabbo Family Health Center, \$100,000 (two years) to improve care for patients with diabetes and heart disease at a clinic in Queens.

Share: Self-Help for Women with Breast or Ovarian Cancer, \$80,000 for an ovarian cancer education and support program.

Brooklyn Public Library, \$60,000 (two years) to expand a storytelling and reading program for disabled children.

Friends and Relatives of Institutionalized Aged, \$40,000 to improve nursing home care by helping residents and family members resolve complaints.

Long Term Care Community Coalition, \$74,000 to study nursing home reimbursement programs in other states and prepare a report of the best practices.

New York City Health and Hospitals Corp., \$100,000 to expand a program that has made nursing home care more humane to other nursing units in the Coler-Goldwater Specialty Facility.

United Neighborhood Houses, \$55,000 to work with the City Department of Aging to expand community services for isolated elders.

Union Settlement Association, \$50,000 to provide mental health services at four senior centers in East Harlem.

PHILANTHROPY

NYCharities.org, \$75,000 to expand an on-line charitable giving service for New York City nonprofits.

April 2008 GRANTS Newsletter

The grants described in this issue were approved by The New York Community Trust's governing body at its February 2008 meeting.

For address, phone number, and contact person for each grantee listed, or for more information, please call The Trust's receptionist at 212-686-0010, Extension 0.

***This issue and past Grants Newsletters can be found on our Web site:
www.nycommunitytrust.org***

If you'd prefer to receive this newsletter by e-mail, please send an e-mail with your name, e-mail address, and "Grants Newsletter" in the subject to newsletter@nyct-cfi.org.

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