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Arts and Humanities: Background (1975-1995): Speech 01

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TALKING POINTS

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

PARTNERSHIPS WITH OTHER AGENCIES, CORPORATIONS AND FOUNDATIONS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME AND DRUGS

--The National Endowment, throughout its programs, is placing increased emphasis on partnering with other agencies, local governments and private entities in the fight to help our young people stay in school and off the streets. These projects have been instrumental in reducing the number of young people at risk of delinquency and substance abuse.

--It is a fact that a youngster with a paint brush or one learning a role in a play is not going to pick up a gun. He or she has better things to do. The arts give young people the opportunity to be creative and to express themselves - and to act out - in a positive way. By creating something, they build self-discipline and self-confidence - which are the skills needed to be productive members of American society.

--Some of the Endowment's partnerships include:

--Rhode Island's Davies Career and Technical High School, which is a partnership between the state Council on the Arts, the U.S. Department of Education and the National Endowment for the Arts. Theater, music and design were integrated into the curriculum in a project called Art Talks. The Providence Journal-Bulletin praised the program in a 1992 article which said, "last year Jason G....just plain skipped at least half his classes. This school year started out the same way. But for the last two months Jason hasn't missed a day...the reason: A remarkable program that aims not at teaching kids about the arts so much as getting them involved with art." Davies' teachers say the program has vastly improved discipline, attendance, and learning at the school.

--Arizona's APPLE Corps is a partnership which matches Endowment funds with funds seized in drug busts under Arizona's RICO statute. The project uses arts programs with an anti-drug message in after school programs in schools, boys and girls clubs, neighborhood centers and recreation centers. Since 1989, arts organizations participating in the

APPLE Corps have given exhibitions or readings in over 125 sites, reaching over 25,000 youths.

--Birmingham, Alabama's Space One Eleven is a partnership between the City of Birmingham, the National Endowment, several local companies and foundations. The project is located in the inner city and serves low-income children from the first grade through junior high. The children are trained by 30 artists to make beautiful terra cotta tile bricks, which will be used in a \$50,000 public art project commissioned by the City of Birmingham.

--Richmond, Virginia's Theater IV is a pioneer in developing methods to identify children who are victims of sexual abuse, delinquency, and substance abuse. Cooperating agencies include Va.'s Bureau of Child Welfare, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the National Endowment and others. The theater's method involves performing plays in front of young audiences that are specific to the subject matter. Social service professionals are always in attendance. The method has proven to be a very successful, yet sensitive way of identifying children who are victims of abuse.

--South Central Los Angeles' Lula Washington Dance Theater runs a latch-key program for young people entitled "I Do Dance, Not Drugs." The program is a partnership between Pacific Bell, L.A. County, the National Endowment and others. It is operated in conjunction with the L.A. police, who refer many of the participants. It is an after-school dance movement experience that permits young people to use their physical energy in a positive way.

--Other partnerships include:

- Manchester Craftsman Guild in Pittsburgh, Pa.
- California Arts Council's Alternatives in the LA. Metropolitan area
- Voices of Youth throughout Vermont
- M Ensemble in Miami, Florida
- Henry Street Settlement in New York
- J T Parts in Tucson, Arizona
- YAYA in New Orleans, Louisiana
- First Step Dance Company in Lawrence, Kansas
- Boise Family Center Project in Boise, Idaho

- Family Arts Agenda in Salem, Oregon
- Coterie Theater's Reaching the Write Minds in Kansas City, Mo.
- Working Classroom in Albuquerque, New Mexico
- Arts in Atlanta Project in Atlanta, Georgia
- Youth Reach in Massachusetts
- Aileycamp in Baltimore, Maryland
- Parishes Associated With Kinloch Team in Missouri
- Arts: Advancement and Expansion throughout Tennessee
- People's School in Chicago
- Center for Contemporary Art in Santa Fe, New Mexico

- and many, many more throughout the country