



January 25, 2005

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing in support of Paul Reisler and the Kid Pan Alley.

For the past four years, it has been my great pleasure to work with Paul in supporting Kid Pan Alley residencies throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia through the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts traveling artist program.

The responses from our partner organizations – museums, schools, and art centers, has been extraordinary. The response from the children who have participated in the programs has been magical. We have worked with Paul to place Kid Pan Alley programs in diverse communities from the extremely rural region of Southampton County to inner city schools in Richmond's Southside. In every instance, the young people touched by this program have gained immeasurably by participation. Without a doubt, it has been the most important opportunity to reach some of these children in their young lives.

The students are guided by workshop leaders who have worked to integrate standards of learning based principles in the experience. While the participants work in an environment that allows them the freedom to dream a carefully structured framework produces finished pieces that are breathtaking, beautiful and often heartbreaking in their honesty. When a public concert is offered at the end of the residency, it is remarkable to see the parents and community members come together to celebrate the children's creations as they learn to see their own lives through new eyes.

I wholehearted support Paul Reisler and Kid Pan Alley and believe that the fine work of this program should be encouraged and supported as it continues to reach children and communities not only in Virginia but throughout the United States.

Sincerely

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