

Get a Picture of Education that Works!



Discover a New View on Learning Inside!

A Better Way Forward

Manchester Bidwell Corporation Newsletter | Issue 9 | Fall 2013



Bidwell Training Center

Discover how Bidwell Training Center can impact people at all stages of their lives on page 3.



Words of Wisdom by Bill Strickland

Welcome to another issue of *A Better Way Forward*. Inside, you will see the lives we positively impact. You will read about our programs' significance to the region and the nation. You will, hopefully, be inspired to contribute to our continuing success. Enjoy, friends!

MCG Jazz

Party with Ahmad Jamal as well as Pittsburgh's Jazz Legends on page 4.

MCG Youth & Arts

Learn about how new technology can influence the arts and the caliber of our visiting artists on page 5.

NCAAT

Meet the new faces promoting the Manchester Bidwell educational model on page 6.

The Universality of Hope by Paulo Nzambi

The gentlemen spoke English well, but there was no mistaking his French accent. Calling from Paris, he explained that he had learned about Manchester Bidwell Corporation (MBC) from a friend who had visited our campus while a student at Carnegie Mellon University's Tepper School of Business. He was intrigued and wanted to know more.



He reminded me that, in 2005, immigrants nearly burned Paris to the ground in violent protests when they concluded they were being denied access to France's promise of "equality, liberty and fraternity." He explained that he saw in MBC's model — youth arts education and adult career training set in an environment of mutual respect — a unique opportunity to meet the challenge of effectively integrating immigrant populations into French society. In his opinion, our educational

model was a perfect way to galvanize hope among these underserved and marginalized groups and grant them a dignified means of accessing France's promise.

He wanted to see our facility in Pittsburgh with his own eyes. Assuring him that MBC's staff would be honored to host him, I agreed to pursue his visit and concluded our call. I immediately grasped the significance of the conversation.

Today the inquiry came from France, but the reality is it could have been — and has been — from Japan or Israel, Canada or the U.S. Virgin Islands. For the truth is, Manchester Bidwell has inspired global interest. I believe this is spurred by a uniquely powerful force—the universal need for hope. As COO, I thank you for helping us continue to spread this most valuable human aspiration.

All About Our Community

In Good Company: Spotlight on NOVA Chemicals

Manchester Bidwell Corporation's wide-reaching success is well-rooted in our strong and long-standing partnerships with a host of local corporations. Among our most dedicated supporters is NOVA Chemicals. Over the past 10 years, NOVA Chemicals has provided continued, generous support through grants and sponsorships for MCG Jazz, Bidwell Training Center and MCG Youth & Arts.

NOVA Chemicals is a leading producer of plastics and chemicals that make everyday life safer, healthier and easier. Their work results in plastic products that take care of food, water and other goods vital to life.

A Canadian company headquartered in Calgary, Alberta, NOVA Chemicals' operations in our region include its United States Commercial Center in Moon Township and its Beaver Valley manufacturing facility in Monaca.

"In its communities, NOVA Chemicals takes care to be an involved neighbor that contributes positively in areas like education and science, health and community service and the arts," says **Wendy Lomicka**, sustainability and community engagement leader at NOVA Chemicals. "The diverse programming at MBC provides great opportunity to join others in helping to build a strong community and a vibrant workforce."

"At MBC, we highly value the depth and breadth of our partnerships with corporations such as NOVA Chemicals," says Director of Development **Jen Boughner**. "Such involvement and investment in MBC over more than four decades reveals a profound and ongoing belief in the young people and adults we serve every day."

Now You're Driving with Natural Gas

MBC's vehicle fleet expanded in September 2012 with the addition of two new compressed natural gas (CNG) shuttle vans paid for with a grant from EQT Foundation.

The addition of the new vans allows MBC to transport its students, staff and guests with to locations throughout the region with greater efficiency and reduced fuel costs. The vans help expand the field-trip capabilities of MCG Youth & Arts; ensure sufficient seating for BTC students traveling to local facilities for experiential-learning opportunities; and allow MCG Jazz and NCAT to more readily transport staff, students, VIP guests and international visitors.

"EQT is committed to meeting the growing demand for clean energy while enriching the lives of those in our surrounding communities," said **M. Elise Hyland**, Executive Vice President of Midstream, Asset Management and Engineering for EQT Corporation and Secretary of the MBC Board of Directors. "Converting vehicles to run on natural gas not only lessens environmental impact but keeps the cost of transportation down. We're proud to support MBC as it fulfills a critical need of empowering its students by providing a way to increase the number of lives it touches."



RADical!

Join us for a RADical Days arts festival on Wednesday, October 2 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Enjoy free hands-on art projects, jazz performances and delicious desserts.

Day of Giving!

Mark your calendars for the 2013 Pittsburgh Day of Giving on October 3. Simply go to www.pittsburghgives.org and make a donation to MBC's affiliates!

The Landscape of Success

Chris Cruny finishes her busy day with a bright smile, glowing with enthusiasm and passion. Chris is a 2012 graduate of Horticulture Technology and Head Gardener at Lady Fox Gardening, the gardening services of Blue Fox Landscape Design.

Chris' background is in design and she was a director of sales and marketing for 13 years before becoming a full-time mom. Spending time outside in the yard became one of her favorite activities and, when her family moved from Pittsburgh to Georgia, she became a Master Gardener.

Several years later the family came back to Pittsburgh. While at a local nursery, Chris was talking about horticulture

programs, and the nursery staff recommended Bidwell.

Even with her experience as a Master Gardener, Bidwell was a good fit. "I loved being at Bidwell and felt very privileged to be a part of the program. I learned so much about everything," Chris said.

Chris did her externship at Blue Fox Landscape Designs and was hired by the company. Now Chris drives the big pink Lady Fox Gardening truck and perfects her clients' landscape designs.

"Every landscape I go to I think of it as being my own. I leave the job the way I would want it to be for me. We always try to make it better than what the customer expected," Chris said.

She's remained in touch with alumni, hosts current students for field trips and sends job leads to BTC for other graduates. We're happy about Chris' success and appreciate her support!



Chris Cruny at work.



From BTC to PhD: Catching up with Chris Knittle

When **Christopher Knittle** graduated from high school in 2001, he didn't know what he wanted to do with his life. He took courses at community college and worked various labor jobs. Years later — after one particularly tough week — Chris decided he needed a change. "I was more mature and focused and it was time to get a career," he said. "The Chemical Laboratory Technician major seemed like the best option for me."

Chris excelled at Bidwell and was hired at Plextronics after his externship in 2009. His exceptional work ethic led to continued success. Soon he was working full-time and taking classes and, in May 2013, Chris earned a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from La Roche College.

"I look at my peers, mentors and colleagues and wonder whether I can do what they do. When I realize that I think I can accomplish that, it's a motivator for me to continue forward and propel myself to the next level," Chris said.

Now he has even bigger plans. "I got encouragement from mentors to go to graduate school," Chris said. "This fall I will begin a full-time PhD program at the University of Pittsburgh. My goal is to become an industrial research chemist at an R&D company doing organic synthesis."

Chris appreciates his foundation at BTC. "Bidwell was fantastic," he said. "I gained a lot of knowledge and experience. The staff was positive and supportive and the environment was conducive to personal growth."

We're proud of Chris's success and look forward to hearing about his promising future.

MCG Jazz is Searching for a Star

The Gentlemen Sing: Three Generations of Song featuring **Allan Harris** and **Ernie Andrews** is missing its next generation singer. A brand-new curated project by Marty Ashby and MCG Jazz features Allan Harris, Ernie Andrews and an up-and-coming artist chosen by nationwide search. MCG Jazz held the search with a nationwide call for submissions from young male jazz vocalists over the summer.



Allan Harris

Every entry included an application, a resume and a 5 to 7-minute video that consisted of the individual singing “It Could Happen to You” in a medium tempo and one tune of his choosing. Submissions were accepted electronically from July 1 – September 13, 2013.

“Likes” of the YouTube videos and judges evaluation narrowed the entrants to three finalists. Now we need audience participation. The live auditions will be held here at MCG with Allan Harris and **Freddy Cole** as judges on Sunday, December 15, at 2:30 p.m. The finals concert is a free event, but reservations are recommended by calling MCG Jazz at 412-322-0800.

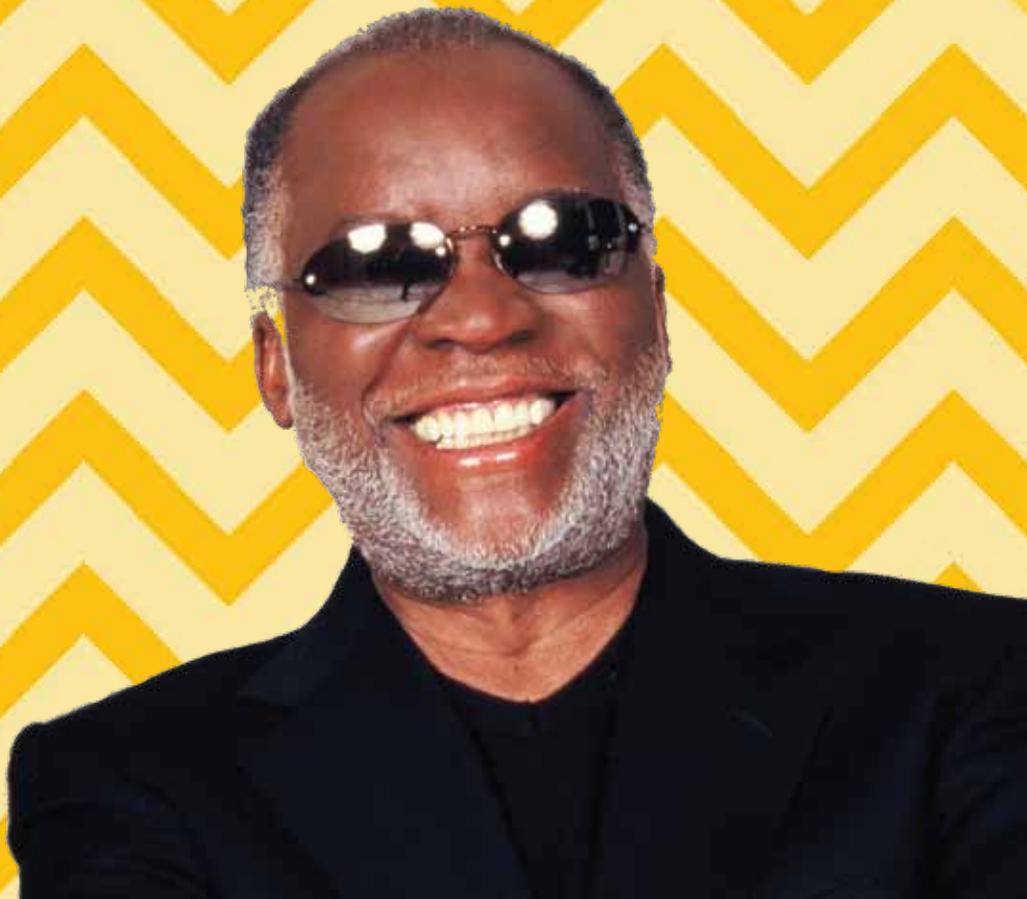
Following the finals on December 15, the project will culminate in a two-concert presentation showcasing Allan Harris, the NEA Jazz Master Ernie Andrews and a brand new jazz star on Friday, February 28, 2014! Tickets to *The Gentlemen Sing: Three Generations of Song* are on sale now at mcgjazz.org or by calling 412-322-0800.

A Legendary Party

On the evening of Saturday, September 28, MCG Jazz is throwing the most swinging party in Pittsburgh!

An exclusive presentation by acclaimed Pittsburgher **Ahmad Jamal** is the feature of this year’s celebration. MCG Jazz will induct the new class of Pittsburgh Jazz Legends, adding them to an honor roll of artists who have made Pittsburgh their home. Dinner, drinks, special presentations and guest appearances make this evening a not-to-be-missed unforgettable experience.

Tickets are going fast, so call Amy in the Box Office at 412-322-0800 to reserve your space!





MCG Explores Technology in Art

MCG Youth & Arts has always had a penchant for technology, as evidenced by their use of computer controlled kilns, high-definition video cameras, state of the art four-color screen printing and digital SLR cameras. Now they are looking to take another leap forward by laying the groundwork for a partnership with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The MIT Media Lab has developed several electronics kits that allow aspiring designers and inventors to experiment and create. MCG was fortunate enough to receive a gift from MIT which included several MaKey MaKey and LilyPad kits. MaKey MaKey is dubbed “an invention kit for everyone.” It has a USB interface and simple electronic circuitry that can be used to control certain keys of a standard computer keyboard. LilyPad is a set of sewable electronic pieces designed to allow you to create interactive textiles, which can include lights, motors and speakers.

MCG teaching artists began to implement these technologies in their courses this summer and the initial results appear promising. If the partnership with MIT continues to grow, it’s possible that the developers and researchers from MIT could work directly with MCG’s staff and students to enhance our inherent creativity with new technologies.

For more information about the MIT Media lab, visit media.mit.edu.



Barbara Sorensen Exhibit Draws Major Media Attention



KDKA Weatherman Jon Burnett, visiting artist Barbara Sorensen and KDKA news anchor Kristine Sorensen at the *Topographies* exhibition.

Barbara Sorensen’s *Topographies* was a memorable exhibit. The nationally acclaimed sculptural artist’s installation at Manchester Craftsmen’s Guild appropriately focused on her ceramic work. When you consider her experience in the field—having worked with greats like Peter Voulkos, Paul Soldner, Don Reitz, Rudy Autio and others—it should come as no surprise that the clay community took note.

But Sorensen is perhaps best known locally as “mom” because her daughter is one of Pittsburgh’s most celebrated women—KDKA news anchor **Kristine Sorensen**. Naturally, Kristine promoted the exhibition on her television show, Pittsburgh Today Live, which exposed a sizable viewing audience to her mother’s breathtaking artwork. On the night of the opening, Kristine was on hand

along with her husband, KDKA investigative reporter **Marty Griffin**, and KDKA’s award winning weatherman **Jon Burnett**.

The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette also took notice of the exhibit. Respected art critic **Mary Thomas** crafted an in-depth feature article that delved into the heart of Sorensen’s work. “My work is really about the landscape and the environment. I hike a lot and am very athletic. I’ve hiked in New Zealand, Australia, the Spanish Pyrenees. The more I saw, the more I came into my own voice.”

For more information about Barbara Sorensen, visit barbarasorensen.com.

Replicating Light Around the World



What is NCAT?

The National Center for Arts & Technology is an affiliate of MBC dedicated to replicating our educational model throughout the United States and, eventually, throughout the world.

To learn more about replication, call 1-412-323-4000 Ext. 292 or e-mail ncat@mcg-btc.org

A Reason to Celebrate in Buffalo, New York

With both adult and youth programming scheduled to begin in October, the dust is flying from the final stages of construction of the Buffalo Arts and Technology Center (BATC)!

The Buffalo Arts and Technology Center will provide adult training in two market viable fields, Medical Coding and Pharmacy Technician. The location of the Buffalo center is within several blocks of the new Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus. A close partnership with the local medical institutions located on campus led to a strong curriculum and realistic options for future employment for the BATC graduates. Pre-training literacy classes are already being offered by the Center to help lay the foundation for success in these programs. The courses are a partnership with Literacy New York, Buffalo Niagara.

Youth programming will carry students through a year of digital and studio art classes focused on the themes of empathy and diversity. The culminating is an exhibition of works including public art, digital music, and short films. Initially the partnership for this programming is with three specific Buffalo Public high schools in order to form strong communication and collaboration bonds between school and Center. As these bonds are built, youth programming will expand to other schools in the city. The current superintendent of schools is a member of the board for the Buffalo Arts and Technology Center.

The end of construction will signify the beginning of new opportunities in Buffalo, New York. NCAT will have its first New York State partner. Buffalo will be stronger for both our young people and their elders. It will be a great day.

New Board Members

Please help us welcome two new members of the NCAT board!

Eric Gilpin is President of CareerBuilder's Staffing & Recruiting Group. CareerBuilder is one of the world's top staffing companies. Eric is responsible for developing global sales teams and driving product development to help clients meet their goals and to promote the staffing industry overall.

Ron Painter is the Chief Executive Officer for the National Association of Workforce Boards. NAWB is the leading workforce association that represents the nation's nearly 650 business-led Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs) and also serves other associated organizations in the workforce industry with one common goal: Helping America Work.

Meet the new Executive Director of WMCAT



Kim Dabbs is the executive director of the West Michigan Center for Arts and Technology. Kim joined WMCAT in 2012 after leading Michigan Youth Arts for six years. While at MYA she oversaw and led programs for 250,000 high school students, built a coalition of 16 statewide organizations focused on advocacy for youth arts education, and increased funding by 100 percent during a five-year span. Kim was awarded a Joyce Fellowship from Americans for the Arts to

explore communities of color and engagement as part of a year-long cohort. A winner of the Emerging Leader Award from Americans for the Arts, Kim also received the Distinguished Service Award from The Michigan Art Education Association, the Friend of Music Education Award from the Michigan Music Education Association and the Distinguished Alumni Award from Kendall College of Art and Design. She has her Master of Public Administration, Nonprofit Management from the University of Michigan and a Bachelor of Science in Art History from Kendall College of Art and Design.

Growing Hope on the North Side

The staff at the Drew Mathieson Center is excited to unveil our new Web site. The new site includes product availability, useful product information, spectacular photos, care information, a history of the DMC and a quick link to the MBC gift shop. The DMC Web site allows us to connect with our clients and partners by growing roots in our community for a greater presence and impact.

Follow us online!

drewmathiesoncenter.org

facebook.com/drewmathiesoncenter



Our 2013 poinsettia crop, available for purchase after Thanksgiving, features a blend of unique and new varieties. The crop includes the traditional double pinched 8" poinsettia in decorative pot covers and poinsettia topiaries in terra cotta pots. DMC poinsettias provide a high quality and socially responsible distinction when used as corporate gifts, seasonal event decorations or purchased in the retail market. Incorporating DMC plants into your life supports the programs of Bidwell Training Center.

Giving Back

Make a Donation and Change Lives

I would like to contribute at the following level:

- \$50+ *Enthusiast* \$100+ *Apprentice* \$250+ *Mentor* \$500+ *Master* \$1,000+ *Patron*
- Other: \$ _____
- Please list me as an anonymous donor. My employer will match this gift - forms enclosed.

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____ in support of Manchester Bidwell Corporation and its affiliates.

I would like my gift to be a **sustaining gift**.

Sustaining donors provide the steady, reliable stream of funding to ensure a bright future for MBC.

Amount deducted monthly \$ _____ (\$5 minimum).

Charge this amount to my **credit card** each month.

Continue these charges until I contact you in writing to cancel or change the amount of the monthly gift.

Payment Method

- Check Visa Mastercard American Express Contact me to arrange a gift of stock

Contact and Billing Information

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Address _____

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Signature (required to process charges) _____

**Make a
secure donation online!**
www.manchesterbidwell.org

Questions about donating?
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