Helping TJ Find His Voice by Paulo Nzambi, MBC’s Chief Operating Officer

The MCG Youth & Arts design studio is a sight to behold: lightweight sculptures hang from 20-foot ceilings, paintings and drawings adorn the walls, the metallic arms of silk-screening equipment gleam. On this particular day, students from a group home, bathed in the midmorning sun, presented their artwork. I watched a few speak with obvious pride about their finished projects. Just as I was about to return to my office, I stopped short.

A young African American man—let’s call him “TJ”—began presenting his silkscreen. As he spoke about his creation, his voice never raised above a whisper. Students and staff stood silently, straining just to make out his voice, but no one asked him to speak up. He gazed at the ground, only looking up in fleeting glances as he discussed his work. When he finished, I joined in the applause.

As I began to leave, one of the group-home staff members stopped me. “I want to thank you,” she said. “This program is amazing for our kids—especially TJ.”

I smiled and began to thank her for her commitment when she interrupted me, tears in her eyes. “I don’t think you understand. TJ never spoke in high school … at all. When he started at MCG, he had support staff who spoke for him. To see him now, a year later, with no support staff, speaking to a room full of people, is nothing short of amazing.”

To me, encounters like this make the work we do here at MCG worth doing. As I returned to my desk, I was filled with an overwhelming sense of gratitude that Manchester Craftsmen’s Guild helped TJ find his voice.
The Changing of the Guard

It’s a rite of passage for every nonprofit organization: the peaceful transfer of leadership from one Board Chair to the next. In December 2012, Clifford R. Rowe, Jr. ended his long-standing and highly successful tenure as MBC Board Chair. The CEO of PJ Dick Incorporated, Trumbull Corporation and Lindy Paving Incorporated, Cliff has served on the Board for 12 years and leaves the Chair position after having presided over a vital era of growth.

“The past few years have been a challenging time for nonprofits in the region, but I see MBC’s position as strong and getting stronger. Our results—the successes of our students—speak for themselves. When people in the community learn about the good work we do here, it’s not hard to win their support,” says Cliff.

New Chair Scott Lammie, CFO of UPMC Health Plan and senior vice president of UPMC Insurance Services Division, has served on the MBC Board since January 2009. A dedicated and passionate advocate for numerous local nonprofits, Mr. Lammie was the 2012 recipient of the Jesse W. Fife Jr. Fabric of Our Community award for his instrumental role in the creation of BTC’s Electronic Records Medical Assistant (eMA) major.

“Tin excited about the opportunities I see ahead for MBC,” Scott says. “The services MBC provides make a huge difference in people’s lives. I see us moving toward a more self-sustaining model for our programs as we continue to replicate our model nationally and internationally. At the same time, we will continue to develop innovative relationships and partnerships with regional leaders across industries.”

The Drew Mathieson Center for Horticultural and Agricultural Technology

Diversifying Pittsburgh’s Plantscape

When most people hear the name “Drew Mathieson Center,” they immediately think “orchids.” While we are proud of our signature Phalaenopsis, our commitment to diversity extends beyond our students and staff and into our products.

An urban horticultural boutique growing specialized plants for local businesses, MBC’s Drew Mathieson Center (DMC) offers a wide variety of flora to our community partners and corporate clients. We diversified the production schedule by growing Hardy Hydrangeas; Hardy Hibiscus; premium “Proven Winner” hanging baskets; a variety of herbs; ferns; and Poinsettias plants and trees.

Not content with merely extending our sales offerings, we are now sharing our beautiful plants and extensive knowledge on Facebook. Our page provides up-to-date information and photos of the plants we grow in the heart of Pittsburgh’s North Shore, tips for caring for them, and opportunities to ask the DMC Grower questions about plant care! Search for “Drew Mathieson Center” to find the DMC on Facebook. “Like” the DMC page to receive regular notifications of all that is happening at the DMC.

The Taste of Success

When students come to Bidwell to pursue training in Culinary Arts, they come for experiential learning, management preparation and exciting career opportunities upon graduation. At BTC, they find it all. The 11-month Culinary Arts major has over 1,000 hours of hands-on experience that begin immediately. For the first few months, new students spend mornings in the classroom learning new skills, and then in the kitchen in the afternoon, practicing their skills in a real-world setting.

Soon, their schedule changes as they begin the day in the kitchen where they prepare lunch for 90 to 100 people. They learn how to create a menu, order food, work as a team and serve the public. Once the lunch rush is over, they head to the classroom to advance their skills and take management courses.

With valuable hours spent between the classroom and kitchen, students need an outstanding facility to take their skills to the next level. Nearly 25 years ago, the H.J. Heinz Company made a generous donation to create a culinary amphitheater, kitchens, offices, and storage space. As we’ve used this space to help hundreds of graduates launch their dream careers over the years, it was time to make some renovations.

“The culinary amphitheater classroom is more versatile than ever. We now have the capability to coach as many as six teams of three students preparing hors d’oeuvres and other cooking assignments, and we can plug in laptops for each student to work at their own pace on recipe development, procurement and pricing projects. This is an extremely flexible space,” says Chef Instructor Chuck Baux.

Some of the changes include a non-skid and refinished wood floor; work tables and a tile floor on the second level; a table with 12 laptops available at all times, as well as additional electrical outlets throughout the classroom for students who want to bring their own technology; reference books from the Culinary Arts department; environmentally efficient lighting; and new chairs.

To learn more about the Culinary Arts major, visit www.bidwell-training.org.

Alumni Profile: The Code to Success with Anita Hansborough

BTC alumna Anita Hansborough has a spirit of gratitude and determination. She came to BTC after being laid off following 21 years with a company. In 2012, she graduated from the Medical Claims Processor major and began her second career at Walgreens Specialty Pharmacy as an insurance verifier.

“I’ve used everything that I learned at BTC. I attribute so much to the teachers who built my confidence and prepared me for this exciting and challenging work,” Anita says.

Anita was driven to succeed. “I was determined,” Anita says. “My daughter is in college, and I knew that I had to set the example. I couldn’t tell her that she could do it but then not do it myself.”

Anita is quick to encourage others who may be considering BTC and has this advice to share: “Anyone who is willing and wants to succeed, they can do it if they pay attention and work hard.”

To learn more about starting a sustainable medical career, visit www.bidwell-training.org.
Connecting with MCG Jazz through Technology

Last season, MCG Jazz broadened its reach through a series of live Webcasts. Beginning last spring, in collaboration with the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust’s Dutch Festival, we presented a live Webstream of Amina Figarova and Timeko Postma, both leading ladies of jazz in their home country. That first live stream reached people on three continents. In September, we launched our 27th season with Stanley Clarke with special guest pianist Mateusz Smoczynski, violist from Poland, let us know that his family had never seen him play with TISQ before and were so thrilled to have an opportunity that only MCGJazz could provide. Recently, we have received notes from subscribers and ticket buyers who have been in the MCG Jazz family for years and recently have been unable to attend. They can now watch their favorite jazz artists in their homes thanks to our new Webcasts.

This spring, we Webcast Jack DeJohnette, Lewis Nash & Steve Wilson Duo and The Brecker Brothers Band Reunion. We have many concerts slated for Webcast in our 28th season with Stanley Clarke with special guest pianist Mateusz Smoczynski, violist from Poland, let us know that his family had never seen him play with TISQ before and were so thrilled to have an opportunity that only MCG could provide. Recently, we have received notes from subscribers and ticket buyers who have been in the MCG Jazz family for years and recently have been unable to attend. They can now watch their favorite jazz artists in their homes thanks to our new Webcasts.

MCG Jazz Production Manager Eric Granata demonstrates the new technology in the recording studio. People all over the world can now connect to the music performed in Pittsburgh.

Photo by Martha Rial.

A Box Office Success! Catching up with Amy Kline

Amy serves as the marketing manager, and oversees all ticket office operations. She says that meeting the subscribers and ticket buyers at the box office is a highlight of her job at MCG. Often, ticket buyers pick up their tickets at “Will Call” and say, “I talked to Amy” and when they realize that they are still talking to Amy, they light up. She has become such a part of the MCG Jazz experience that, when she isn’t in her office, the patrons worry about her!

Additionally, Amy is the Chicago conference programming chair and the chair of the wellness task force for the International Ticketing Association (INTIX). Last year, she was named the inaugural Young Ticketing Professional of the Year. “It’s the GRAMMY™ of ticketing,” Amy says. A professional speaker, Amy often presents on marketing and pricing strategy and offers training on social media basics and business use. In fact, the next time you buy a MCG Jazz ticket through Facebook or your mobile phone, you have Amy to thank. Speaking of mobile, if you follow Amy on Twitter @Amy_MCGJazz, you’ll see that in her spare time she is often running the streets of Pittsburgh. If she’s not jogging, she’s likely watching “Friends” with her daughter.

As the primary point of contact in the ticket office and the MCG Jazz representative at various arts and networking events throughout Pittsburgh, Amy Kline has become a well-known face of MCG Jazz.

Transforming from Shy Student to Up-and-Coming Leader

Every year, hundreds of students attend MCG Youth & Arts for afterschool programs. And while many stay in touch after they graduate, very few have given back to the school that way Jayla Patton has. After graduating from Carrick High School in 2008, Jayla enrolled at the Art Institute of Pittsburgh. She immediately began volunteering in the Digital Arts studio as part of her school’s Work Study program.

In the past four years, Jayla’s gone from being someone who just assists students with computers to a mentor and role-model for students on the same path. According to MCG Youth & Arts Teaching Artist Jeff Guerrero, “Jayla used to be a shy student, but now in the classroom she’s anything but quiet. She’s developed into a leader.” Jayla attributes much of her success to her experience at MCG Youth & Arts. “The most important thing about attending MCG was learning new programs and expanding my skills artistically and honing my soft skills like meeting people,” she says.

Jayla graduated with a degree in Media Arts and Animation this past December. She says, “I hope to get a career in the arts, hopefully in animation and character design. I want to further my knowledge of those things and work on some personal projects and just make as much art as possible.”

The Fine Art of Cartooning with Wayno

Wayno is perhaps best known for his involvement in the nationally syndicated comic strip Bizarro, but his list of clients includes The New Yorker, National Geographic and MCG Jazz. Working with these talented young people and the MCG staff was truly a rewarding experience, says Wayno.

The workshop was simultaneously whimsical and completely serious. He gave each student an illustration assignment and guided them through the process professional illustrators go through with an art director. The workshop was simultaneously whimsical and completely serious. He gave each student an illustration assignment and guided them through the process professional illustrators go through with an art director.

The workshop was simultaneously whimsical and completely serious. He gave each student an illustration assignment and guided them through the process professional illustrators go through with an art director.

Photo by Martha Rial.

A Better Way Forward: Manchester Bidwell Corporation Newsletter

Page 4

Page 5
Maria Anderson, vice president for the National Center for Arts and Technology (NCAT), began her career at Manchester Bidwell Corporation (MBC) this January. Maria is responsible for directing, administrating and coordinating the daily operations of the process by which a community works collaboratively with the NCAT team to create and open a center for arts and technology.

Maria is no stranger to nonprofits. During her 19-year career at BNY Mellon, Maria was an important member of numerous philanthropic endeavors, charitable sponsorships and employee engagement programs. As an assistant vice president and corporate affairs senior specialist, she worked with BNY Mellon Jazz, the company’s global Service Recognition Program and the Community Partnership Campaign.

Under Maria’s guidance, BNY Mellon’s employee-driven team volunteering, fund-raising and disaster relief program was recognized with a PR Newswire Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) award. For the last 13 years, Maria’s team was ranked as the top corporate contributor by United Way of Allegheny County.

Meet NCAT’s New Vice President Maria Anderson

Maria led BNY Mellon-sponsored diversity groups and volunteer teams to assist organizations such as the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, the American Cancer Society, Boys and Girls Club of Western Pennsylvania and other admired nonprofits.

A graduate of Taylor Allderdice High School and Duquesne University, Maria grew up in Pittsburgh’s Point Breeze neighborhood and currently resides in the North Hills. “It is humbling to be recruited by Bill Strickland to carry out his vision to invest in human capital and youth education,” Maria said. "The example of Bill’s own life has inspired others to transform themselves and make a positive difference in the world,” Senator Casey said. “By honoring Bill, we express our gratitude for his work and for the innovative educational and cultural opportunities he created that have empowered thousands of youth and adults to restore hope and dignity and become creative contributors to their communities.”

Following his speech on the Senate floor, Senator Casey hosted a symposium to discuss Bill’s contributions to the Pittsburgh community and the nation, and his role as a visionary social innovator whose simple philosophy—environment shapes people’s lives—has been a catalyst for a proven model for innovation and success in education. The MBC educational model has spread beyond Pennsylvania and is having a positive impact one person can have on their struggling community,” says Bill.

Spreading Hope: CONNCAT Executive Director Erik Clemons

Erik Clemons is the founding CEO and President of the Connecticut Center for Arts & Technology (CONNCAT), a nonprofit organization based on Manchester Bidwell Corporation's model of creating empowering arts-based, educational environments for youth who are at-risk and training programs for adults who are unemployed, underemployed or in transition.

Erik has an extensive background in nonprofit management. Prior to joining CONNCAT, Erik served as the executive director of Leadership, Education and Athletics in Partnership (LEAP), providing academic and social enrichment programs to youth, ages of five to twenty-three. Prior to his position at LEAP, Erik served as director of vocational training at New Haven Job Corps Center.

A lifelong resident of Connecticut, Erik is an active member of his New Haven community. Erik currently serves on the boards of Cornell Scott Hill Health Center, New Haven Housing Authority (Board Chairman), New Haven Legal Aid, and CT Voices for Children. Additionally, Erik is a member of the New Haven Public School Education Reform Committee.

Bill Strickland Makes History in Washington D.C.

In Pittsburgh, most people are familiar with the name “Bill Strickland.” Increasingly, across the nation and around the world, Bill and Manchester Bidwell Corporation (MBC), the organization he started in 1968, are recognized for their innovative approach to adult career training, youth arts education and social enterprise in a positive educational and hopeful environment. This powerful fusion has a proven record of giving youth and adults who are disadvantaged the opportunities and skills they need to build a better future by removing social and economic barriers to success.

Throughout his distinguished career, Bill has received numerous prestigious awards for his contributions to the arts, career training and the community, including the coveted MacArthur “Genius” award. He is the author of Make the Impossible Possible, which includes his story of how a kid from a disadvantaged neighborhood in Pittsburgh would go on to lecture at Harvard and serve on the Board of the National Endowment for the Arts. He is also founder of the GRAMMY® Award-winning MCG Jazz program, one of the most successful jazz subscription series in the United States. In 2010, President Obama appointed Bill to the bipartisan White House Council for Community Solutions. In 2011, Bill was awarded the international GOI Peace Award because of his outstanding contributions toward the realization of a peaceful and harmonious world for humanity and all life on earth.

This year, Bill was recognized in a way few Americans ever are. The United States legislature honored Bill for his continuous work to better the people of our nation. To commemorate Black History Month, U.S. Senator Bob Casey (D-PA) read a proclamation from the floor of the U.S. Senate describing Bill’s journey from disadvantaged minority in the civil rights era to social innovator and Founder, President and CEO of MBC.

To view Senator Casey’s proclamation, visit: www.casey.senate.gov/newroom/multimedia/
Showing and Telling

As part of our ongoing effort to educate the public about our empowering educational environment, we decided to conserve words and display the beauty, hope and inspiration found at MBC on Pittsburgh’s North Shore.

Long-time friend and Pulitzer-prize winning photographer Martha Rial agreed to document the good work done at Manchester Bidwell. So, enough words, take a look at the future of education….

For more information on Martha Rial, please visit her Web site at martharial.com.
The Little School That Could

Following the recent announcement of Bidwell Training Center (BTC) as a 2012 School of Excellence, the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC) has bestowed another honor on our career training school. Valerie Njie, senior vice president and executive director of BTC, was recently named one of ACCSC’s three newly elected commissioners.

ACCSC’s motto is “making good schools better.” The commission establishes and maintains high educational standards and ethical business practices among its accredited career training schools and then assesses a school’s compliance. Accreditation is also a means of assisting member schools to improve by requiring self-evaluation and institutional assessment and improvement activities. As an ACCSC commissioner, Valerie will be integral to upholding the quality of the ACCSC and guiding how the commission establishes and maintains high educational standards and ethical business practices.

The recent appointment as an ACCSC commissioner is the culmination of Valerie’s long history of involvement with ACCSC. Throughout her career with BTC, Valerie has been one of ACCSC’s most active volunteers, serving as a Team Leader on more than 70 onsite evaluations as well as serving as a member of the ACCSC Appeals Panel. Based upon her dedication to career education and her support of ACCSC’s mission, Valerie was selected by the ACCSC as the Volunteer of the Year in 2009. She is also a member of the Pennsylvania Association for Adult and Continuing Education and the Pennsylvania Association of Private School Administrators.

“I’m blessed. This is the greatest accomplishment of my professional career. I thank the late Jesse W. Fife Jr. for his encouragement, MBC CEO Bill Strickland for his trust, and a gifted staff for helping me acquire the necessary skills to be appointed to such a prestigious office. I look forward to serving the 800 member schools in this new capacity,” says Valerie.
Thanks for Supporting the Fabric of Our Community & BTC’s Commencement!

The Jesse W. Fife Jr. Fabric of Our Community award was created to honor an individual who embodies BTC’s mission and vision. This year’s honoree, The John & Cathy Pelusi Family Fund, provides BTC’s students who are most financially vulnerable, helping them to remain part of the fabric of our community. Our thanks to those individuals and corporations who joined us in honoring the Pelusi Family’s contributions and supporting BTC’s mission of changing lives.

Premier Sponsors

Presenting Sponsors

Partnering Sponsors

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

Amount deducted monthly $____ (50 min.).

Charge this amount to my credit card each month.

Maintenance charge until used up; contact your bank to cancel or change the amount of the monthly gift.

Questions about donating?
Call 1-412-323-4000 Ext. 261

www.manchesterbidwell.org

Make a secure donation online!
Get Hip to the Sounds of MCG Jazz!

Hear about Our Regional, National and International Impact Inside!