



## **Music Conservatory of Westchester Awarded Matching Grant**

*More than \$151,000 will support building maintenance over a six year span*

**Westchester County, N.Y. (July 19, 2011)** - The Music Conservatory of Westchester (MCW), a nonprofit school of the arts in White Plains, is proud to announce that it has been selected as one of six Community Schools of the Arts nationwide to be awarded a 6-year, \$75,600 matching grant through a collaborative endeavor between the Kresge Foundation and the Nonprofit Finance Fund. This grant will support the development of a building maintenance fund to adequately capitalize the long term maintenance needs of this very active building.

The Maintenance Fund will total \$151,200 at the end of the six year term, with Kresge funds to be matched monthly by Conservatory donors. This invaluable award to support the upkeep and repair of the Conservatory's major institutional asset, it's building, was received after financial analysis by the Nonprofit Finance Fund and The Kresge Foundation deemed the Conservatory to be innovative, relevant, and to have significant impact on community life, especially for youth.

The Kresge Foundation was a major donor to the Conservatory's 2004 campaign to move to its state-of-the art community school building at 216 Central Avenue. The foundation recognizes the long term need for nonprofits to care for the "bricks and mortar" of their organization and the challenges in raising money for those expenses. "Kresge understands the value of our building space to the arts programs that we offer to thousands of area participants," said Carol Shiffman, MCW's Executive Director. "The Kresge grant, coupled with the soon-to-open Faust-Harrison Piano Center on our campus, ensures that the Conservatory is poised to create a more positive community impact than ever before."

The organizations selected to participate in SAFE were selected as a cohort, in part, because they are facility-intensive and youth-focused. The Music Conservatory of Westchester is the largest community arts school in a five-county region comprising Westchester, Rockland, Bronx, Putnam and Fairfield counties. Each year the Conservatory serves 3,000 students: 900 in its White Plains facility, and 2000+ public school and disabled students who participate in outreach programs.

The Music Conservatory of Westchester is located at 216 Central Avenue in White Plains, NY. They can be reached at (914) 761-3900 or by visiting [www.musicconservatoryonline.org](http://www.musicconservatoryonline.org). Follow the Conservatory on Facebook (Westchester

MusicConservatory)and Twitter (@MusicCW), or check their new blog ([www.musicconservatoryblog.org](http://www.musicconservatoryblog.org)) for the latest news and updates.

### **About the Music Conservatory of Westchester**

The Music Conservatory of Westchester ([www.musicconservatoryonline.org](http://www.musicconservatoryonline.org)) is a non-profit community school of the arts, providing outstanding music, music therapy, and musical theatre programs for people of all ages and abilities. The Conservatory's 36,000-square-foot facility in White Plains offers a Recital Hall and 43 acoustically designed classrooms and teaching studios. Their comprehensive programs include performing ensembles, musicianship classes, music therapy, student performances, master classes, workshops, and more. All students receive free admission to the Conservatory's annual "Live on Central" concert series of faculty recitals and children's concerts. This year, the Conservatory awarded \$100,000 in scholarship support and tuition assistance to more than 100 of its students. The Conservatory is chartered by the New York State Board of Regents, a member of the National Guild of Community Schools of the Arts, and is one of only 19 non-degree granting institutions in the country to be fully accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music.

### **About The Kresge Foundation**

The Kresge Foundation is a \$3.1 billion private foundation that awards grants in six fields of interest: health, environment, community development, arts and culture, education, and human services. Kresge's Arts and Culture Program has three focus areas: Institutional Capitalization - Promoting sound capitalization practices for cultural institutions and sustainable cultural facility management; Artist's Support Services - Boosting artists' skills and resources to contribute to community life; and Arts and Community Building - Integrating the arts and culture into effective community building.

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The Music Conservatory of Westchester's (MCW) grant from The Kresge Foundation will support the long terms maintenance needs of MCW's building, which houses arts classes and community performances from students, faculty, and world renowned musicians.



The building maintenance grant from The Kresge Foundation, coupled with the soon-to-open Faust-Harrison Piano Center on the MCW campus, ensures that the Conservatory is poised to create a more positive community impact than ever before.



The Kresge Foundation was a major donor to the Conservatory's 2004 campaign to move to its state-of-the-art community school building at 216 Central Avenue. MCW is home to the Steffi Nossen School of Dance, its own Music Therapy Institute, as well as a multitude of arts classes and music performances.