



Sitar Arts Center Named 2009 Coming Up Taller Award Semifinalist

National award recognizes Sitar for providing high-quality afterschool arts education for youth for second time

May 13, 2009, Washington DC – Sitar Arts Center was recently named a semifinalist for the 2009 Coming Up Taller Award, distinguishing the Center as one of the premier afterschool arts and humanities organizations serving youth in the nation. Awarded by the President’s Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Humanities, Sitar was one of 50 semifinalists selected from 420 nominees. The second time receiving this distinction, Sitar was previously named a Coming Up Taller Award semifinalist in 2006, and is now before a national jury as a candidate as an award finalist.

"Sitar Arts Center is extremely honored to be selected as a semifinalist for the Coming Up Taller award for a second time, recognizing the first-class arts education programs the organization provides to underserved youth in Washington, DC", says Constance Tasker, Sitar’s board president. "The families and students who attend the Center have ambitions and dreams limited only by their finances, and this award helps to bring support and recognition to the opportunities that Sitar provides to the young people in our community to realize their dreams."

Sitar Arts Center was nominated for the honor by NBC/Universal and recommended by Target, both supporters of Sitar Arts Center and its mission to provide the youth in our community the opportunity to explore the arts and discover their artistic talent, regardless of their ability to pay.

About Sitar Arts Center:

Sitar Arts Center provides multidisciplinary arts education to the children and youth of Washington, DC in a nurturing, creative community where young people discover their inherent talents and gifts. Fostering personal and artistic growth through the visual arts, music, drama, dance, digital arts and creative writing, the Center offers after-school, weekend and summer classes to more than 700 students a year, 80 percent of whom come from low-income households. More than 100 talented artists volunteer their time each week to teach and inspire the Center’s students in a state-of-the-art facility. Together with a network of premier partnering arts organizations such as Arena Stage, Corcoran Gallery of Art, the Washington Ballet, the National Symphony Orchestra and Washington Performing Arts Society, our passionate volunteer faculty makes a lasting impact on our students’ lives. Bringing high-quality arts education to families who would otherwise not have these opportunities, Sitar Arts Center relies on charitable contributions to ensure that no family is ever turned away because of inability to pay. To register for classes, volunteer or learn more about the Center, please call 202-797-2145 or visit www.sitarartscenter.org.