

**NEWS RELEASE**  
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**SITAR ARTS CENTER RECEIVES WASHINGTON POST AWARD OF EXCELLENCE**  
Creative Youth Development Organization Honored for Nonprofit Management

**Washington, D.C., May 21, 2015** – Sitar Arts Center (“Sitar”), an arts education nonprofit for D.C.’s underserved children and youth, is thrilled to receive The Washington Post Award for Excellence in Nonprofit Management. The award is the result of a rigorous three-round process judged by experts in the field of nonprofit management, and is accompanied by a \$20,000 grant.

This prestigious honor comes as Sitar celebrates its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Sitar has expanded its impact considerably since opening its doors in 2000, now supporting up to 850 students annually (80 percent of whom come from low-income households). This grant will allow Sitar to continue to meet the changing and pressing needs of the community.

During the 2015 selection process, the committee reviewed applications from 28 organizations. Candidates were judged in the areas of fiscal management, communication, organizational and resource development, planning, human resources, risk management, diversity and inclusiveness, evaluation, and use of technology.

“We are honored to be held up with this award of distinction, and thank The Washington Post for recognizing Sitar’s commitment to excellence. The award is a validation of Sitar Arts Center’s commitment to its constituents, the District of Columbia, and the nonprofit sector as a whole,” said Maureen Dwyer, Executive Director of Sitar Arts Center. “For this award to be part of this milestone year makes it an even more profound acknowledgement of our culture of striving for excellence in all aspects of our work.”

**About Sitar Arts Center:** Sitar Arts Center advances the critical life skills of underserved children and youth and prepares them for achievement in the 21st century through visual, performing and digital arts education in a nurturing community. More than 800 students, from cradle to college, enjoy multidisciplinary arts programs in a state-of-the-art facility during vulnerable after-school, Saturday and summer hours. The Sitar Early Childhood Arts program also brings pre-k programs to public and charter afterschool programs. To learn more about Sitar Arts Center, please visit <http://www.sitarartscenter.org/> or visit us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).