



## The Arts and Spirituality Center Presents

# *HeartSpeak*

*a citywide peace and arts initiative*

What is *HeartSpeak*:

***HeartSpeak*** is a citywide initiative that will use art as a vehicle to engage thousands of youth in a conversation about violence and their visions of peace. Our young people are often at the center of the conversation when we talk about the rise in violence in Philadelphia. Through *HeartSpeak* we will give them an opportunity to have their voices heard! Through poetry, music, visual arts, media arts and technology, we will give individuals across Philadelphia the tools to explore grief and loss, express the impact of violence, and share their dreams for peace and justice.

*HeartSpeak* will offer:



An arts-based violence prevention curriculum.



Train-the-trainers workshops in each quadrant of the city for youth group leaders from various faith communities and neighborhood organizations.



Opportunities for adults and youth to heal together, through intergenerational workshops as well as the use of audio/visual and computer technologies.



A large-scale public Celebration of Peace (in a central location such as Love Park, City Hall, or the steps of the Art Museum), showcasing the poetry, art and peace visions of Philadelphia's young people.



A recurring art/poetry workshop for adults who've lost loved ones to violence.

### **Celebrations of Peace**

Giving our youth multiple opportunities to perform and express their creative work to the world are important aspects of the *HeartSpeak* initiative. In collaboration with local community and business partners, *HeartSpeak* will feature student poets and artists at poetry readings, slams and exhibitions at various locations throughout the city over the course of the 2008-2009 school year. In June 2009 all of our *HeartSpeak* sites will gather on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway to raise their voices and invite the entire city to hear their visions of peace.

### ***HeartSpeak* Blog Talk Radio**

A digital interactive blog talk radio show will be launched in fall 2008 to give participating youth and adults an opportunity to showcase their talents throughout the year over the airwaves!

### **Partners**

Major partners will include Moore College of Art and Design, the city of Philadelphia's Department of Recreation, Fleisher Art Memorial, the Jewish Community Relations Council, and a variety of schools, community groups, artist networks and faith-based institutions.