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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## HOWARD COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL SEEKING ARTISTS FOR HEADSTART IN ART RESIDENCIES

Ellicott City, MD—**Visual and Performing Artists are needed** for residencies for Head StART in Art for the 2009-2010 school year. Selected artists must have experience working with children; experience with pre-K is preferred. The performing artist residency will conclude with performances by the Head Start children (in our black box theatre). The visual artist residency will conclude with the completion of an art project for display at the Center and possible other locations. Applications are available online at [www.hocoarts.org](http://www.hocoarts.org) or at the Howard County Center for the Arts at 8510 High Ridge Road, Ellicott City, MD 21043. **The deadline for proposals is July 31, 2009.**

Head Start is currently a half-day program that begins at 10 a.m. and ends at 2 p.m. All activities take place in the Howard County Center for the Arts, the building shared by the two organizations. The Howard County Arts Council coordinates, administers, and funds the project, along with funding from Isadore and Bertha Gudelsky Family Foundation, Inc. and a NEA grant for the 2009-2010 school year. HCAC selects the artists and works closely with them and the Head Start staff to create a thematic program.

In FY2000, the Howard County Arts Council developed a partnership with the Ellicott City Head Start Center to establish an artist-in-residence program. This partnership, *Head StART in ART*, provides the children with an in-depth, hands-on artistic experience they might otherwise never have, and ensures them access to the arts. Many children are introduced to the arts for the first time and experience the joy and wonder of artistic expression. The opportunity for such an experience during these formative years can have a key impact on the children's future appreciation of and involvement in the arts, as well as improve their language learning skills.

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The Howard County Arts Council is a non-profit organization whose mission is to serve the citizens of Howard County by fostering the arts, artists and arts organizations. The Howard County Arts Council receives major grants from the Howard County Government and the Maryland State Arts Council and sustaining annual support from corporate, foundation and individual sponsors. Howard County Arts Council offices are located at the Howard County Center for the Arts, 8510 High Ridge Road, Ellicott City, MD 21043. The Howard County Center for the Arts is an accessible facility encouraging the full participation of individuals with disabilities. For information, call 410.313.ARTS (2787), fax 410.313.2790, or email [info@hocoarts.org](mailto:info@hocoarts.org). TDD: 711