



# NEWS RELEASE

## Young artists take to the stage for WSD Quantum 2015 Finale

**March 19, 2015 (Winnipeg, MB)** – After eight weeks of focused arts training with professionals from the Prairie Theatre Exchange (PTE), the Royal Winnipeg Ballet (RWB) and the Winnipeg Art Gallery (WAG), over 100 Quantum Arts Program students lit up the stage today.

The Grade 5-8 students showcased their artistic talents to their families, educators and trustees at the 2015 Quantum Arts Finale at the Winnipeg Art Gallery's Muriel Richardson Auditorium.

Since the 1989-90 school year, the Quantum Arts Program has run under the belief that every child deserves a chance to shine. During the course of eight weeks, students spend two hours, twice a week training at PTE, RWB or the WAG.

General Wolfe School students Nichole Pontanares and Elyzah Averion, both in Grade 8, had the opportunity to study modern, ballet and jazz dance with the RWB. Both students have previously shown a love for dance as members of their school's dance squad, General Chaos.

"We learned a dance every class to present for the finale," Pontanares said. "We're getting to show people everything we've learned."

Averion said she enjoyed the opportunity to learn more about the intricacies of dance: "We got to find out more about different styles of dance we didn't know much about, like ballet. It helped us to develop our dancing experience."

Clifton School students Clarisse Villegas and Rachael Hart, who studied visual art at the WAG's studio, said they enjoyed the opportunity to meet fellow young artists from other schools.

"Every week we get partnered with a different student from another school. We get to talk to them and share something about our school and ourselves while we do our art lessons," Villegas said.

Students also learned many new techniques during their eight-week span at the WAG.

"We learned to use light and shadow for self-portraits," Hart said. Despite some nerves about meeting new students and studying in a new setting, Hart said art was a calming influence. "I like art because it makes me calm and relaxed."

Both students were excited to have their work showcased at the WAG for the finale.

"People can see everything we learned about art, and they can be inspired by that," Villegas said.

The Quantum Arts Program is made possible through the sponsorship of the WSD's Children's Heritage Fund.

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Fatima Mota, Superintendent of Schools for WSD's North District, said the program provides a valuable opportunity for students.

"Many of these students may not have otherwise had the opportunity to participate in these types of art classes," Mota said. "Thanks to the Quantum Arts Program and the generous donors to the Children's Heritage Fund, these students are able to discover their talents and take pride in showing the results of their hard work to others."

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