

**For immediate release**

Contact: Laura Couger

Phone: 248-203-3030

Email: [bef@birmingham.k12.mi.us](mailto:bef@birmingham.k12.mi.us)

**BEF and BBAC team up to benefit arts in the schools**

Birmingham, Michigan – November 28, 2007 – On Thursday, December 13 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., the Birmingham Education Foundation (BEF) and the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center (BBAC) are teaming up to increase arts funding to the Birmingham Public Schools. When arts patrons shop at the BBAC's Holiday Shop, ten percent of all purchases will go to support arts programming in the schools.

All students benefit from arts education in the classroom. According to Americans for the Arts a national nonprofit, an arts education “strengthens student problem-solving and critical thinking skills, adding to overall academic achievement and school success, and helps students develop a sense of craftsmanship, quality task performance, and goal-setting – skills needed to succeed in the classroom and beyond.”

Given the current school funding climate, ensuring that arts programs continue to thrive in our public schools is now more important than ever. “Without the support of a generous foundation like the BEF, we would not have the special equipment and opportunities needed to make our program stand out,” said Mia Pearlman, head of the Birmingham Public School District's art department.

“This is such a win-win collaboration,” said Sarah Jacobs, vice president of development for the BBAC. “By supporting the arts education in our local schools, we are fulfilling our own mission to ‘enhance the quality of life in our region by promoting the appreciation, understanding, and practice of the arts.’ Furthering that mission, our Holiday Shop is all about supporting working artists, with 60% of each purchase going directly back to the artist.”

The BBAC's Holiday Shop offers unique handcrafted gifts from artists throughout the U.S. The BBAC is located at 1516 South Cranbrook Road in Birmingham. For more information, visit [www.bbartcenter.org](http://www.bbartcenter.org).

---

The Birmingham Education Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization with a mission to enhance learning for all students in the Birmingham Public Schools. Since its inception in 1993, the Foundation has provided privately raised funds to support innovation and excellence in the areas of Academics, Arts and Athletics. To learn more about the BEF, visit [www.birminghamedfoundation.org](http://www.birminghamedfoundation.org).