



**“Drama has taught me how to love myself and love who I’m meant to be.”**  
— Ceanni, 7th grade

**In loving memory:**  
Marciene S. Mattleman  
ASAP’s Founder  
1930-2019

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Spring 2019

Dear Friend,

Sabian, a 12th grader at West Philly High, was quick to confess he suffers from stage fright. So why then did he join his school’s ASAP Drama club?

**“Because I plan on being a doctor.” — Sabian**

Sabian understood doctors often have to deliver sad news to a patient or their loved ones. By learning and performing monologues he hoped to gain the ability to communicate clearly and calmly during these difficult moments.

Ceanni, on the other hand, isn’t sure what she’ll be when she grows up. For this 7th grader from North Philly, drama club is about showing people who she is now.

**“Performing lets people see who I really am – without the shyness.” — Ceanni**

For Kiara, drama club served a different purpose. When cast in a bilingual musical, performing became less about connecting with the audience than with herself.

**“I come from two different cultures. Drama’s helped me get in touch with my African-American and my Spanish side at the same time.” — Kiara, 8th grade**

Embrace your roots. Find your voice. Love yourself. These are just a few ways ASAP Drama is helping young people like Kiara, Sabian, and Ceanni navigate the often turbulent waters of adolescence.

(please turn over)





**WHAT  
HAPPENS  
AFTER  
GRADUATION  
STARTS  
WITH  
WHAT  
HAPPENS  
AFTER  
SCHOOL**



**“A lot of times when kids transition to high school, they don’t have an identity, they feel like they don’t have a voice. Drama helps you learn who you are.” — Ms. Parker, ASAP Drama Leader, West Philly High**

Thanks to supporters like you, ASAP Drama is our fastest growing initiative, serving more than 1,300 youth in 2018. With your help, ASAP connects these young people with passionate teaching artists and fosters a citywide drama community that celebrates expression and inspires empathy.

**“I’m not only improving myself, I am improving my community by showing what we can create with our minds and with our hearts.”  
— Demadelye, 10th grade**

Sadly, despite the proven benefits of arts education, access to programming like drama remains limited and highly inequitable. According to a national survey, **only 26% of African-American students receive some form of arts education.**

**We can change this.**

With your help, ASAP can provide more stages for Philadelphia kids to shine. Kids like Sabian, Ceanni, Kiara, and Demadelye.

Together, we can make Philadelphia a city where all youth voices resonate and their stories matter, regardless of their race, their zip code, or their native language.

Thank you for your continued support,

*Justin Ennis*  
Justin Ennis  
Executive Director

*Wendy B Glazer*  
Wendy Glazer  
Board Chair

**P.S. Studies show students exposed to arts enrichment are 3 times more likely to earn a bachelor’s degree. Donate today and help Philly kids reach new horizons!**