



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SMARTS

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SMARTS to hold Holiday Open House and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Youngstown, OH: SMARTS, Students Motivated by the Arts, is hosting the annual SMARTS Holiday Open House on Tuesday, December 5 from 12 noon – 6 pm, with a special ribbon cutting of the Richard James Hanson Library at 3pm. This family event is *free and open to the public*, and will take place at SMARTS, 25 E. Boardman Street, Ohio One, First Floor, Youngstown, OH 44503, 330-574-2787. Visitors will notice that we have renewed our entrance and outdoor window appeal by changing the color of our window displays around the building.

The Holiday Open House is a festive party that will feature a number of SMARTS teaching artists and staff demonstrating their talents in the arts, as well as many hands-on arts activities for children of all ages. There will be light refreshments catered by Chef Christopher Bonacci. *Free and open to the public*, this event seeks to celebrate the joy of arts around the holidays with SMARTS families, friends, and supporters in our community.

SMARTS will also use this opportunity to hold a press conference for the ribbon cutting ceremony at 3 pm for the new Richard James Hanson Library, a resource library for SMARTS staff, teachers, and students. The family of the late Richard James Hanson donated his collection of artbooks to SMARTS to create this library which gives us an incredible opportunity to provide educational resources to our team, as many of these books are not available on loan anywhere in the tri-county area. The media is invited to attend.

“We are grateful to Mr. Hanson’s family who valued his book collection and connected it to SMARTS. The Richard James Hanson Library will give our staff and teachers new resources for SMARTS teaching and learning. Through the efforts of a SMARTIES parent and volunteer, they are organized and catalogued into a digital library system for ease and we have a dedicated staff person to maintain them. Literacy is at the core of the SMARTS Mission and this donation enables us to continue to grow and serve the community.”

SMARTS is a community art school, located in Youngstown’s Ohio One Building, giving PK-12 students access to the arts. Their mission is to provide the highest quality in arts education through collaboration and partnerships with public and private organizations.

For more information about the Holiday Open House, or for additional questions or ways to get involved, reach out to Becky Keck, SMARTS President at bkeck@smartsartschool.org or 330.574.2787.

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