



THE PEACE CENTER

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**THE PEACE CENTER RECEIVES GRANT FOR WICKED-  
THEMED EDUCATION PROGRAM**

GREENVILLE, SC (October 28, 2009) – The Broadway League announced yesterday the recipients of its fourteenth annual National Education Grants, and the Peace Center was one of the ten venues chosen nationwide to receive the \$5,000 grant this year for its work with Gable Middle School.

National Education Grants support innovative programs that enable students from coast to coast to experience touring Broadway as a form of artistic expression and as an educational tool.

The Peace Center and Gable Middle School, a high-poverty rural school, will develop a character education program using themes from *Wicked*. Drama and choral students will view *Wicked*, meet cast members, and tour backstage. In preparation, students will study the thematic, musical and dramatic elements of one song from the show each month.

Through journaling and guided discussions, students will then create a musical based on themes from *Wicked* and other shows, to be performed in the spring. Workshops with a professional singer and actor will enhance students' skills and offer a valuable opportunity that wouldn't otherwise be available.

Since it was founded in 1996, the League's National Education Grants program has awarded \$700,000 in grants to support the education efforts of Broadway-presenting organizations. The League administers this program with generous additional financial support from Theatre Development Fund.

“We salute this year's programs that demonstrate our League-member presenting organizations' innovation and dedication to education via the performing arts,” commented Charlotte St. Martin, Executive Director of The Broadway League. “There is nothing as uniquely powerful as the impact of live theatre on impressionable young minds. In addition to expanding their knowledge of the world as interpreted through the

artistic expression of plays and musicals, they also become inspired to make theatre going a regular part of their future.”

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