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Plain Dealer (**Cleveland**)

February 26, 2007 Monday
Final Edition; All Editions

Summer 2007: a season of creativity; Program to let students discover who they are

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SECTION: METRO MONDAY; Pg. B3

LENGTH: 482 words

A free summer arts program will give about 500 **Cleveland** youngsters the chance to do everything from painting to poetry, while polishing their academic skills.

"**Smart in the City:** A Summer of Self-Discovery" was created by the **Cleveland** Foundation, which today announced a \$1 million gift from UBS, a global financial services company, to launch the program. The foundation also will provide support.

Kathleen Cerveny, the foundation's program director for arts and culture, said the six-week, all-day program targets **Cleveland** Municipal School District fifth- and sixth-graders about to encounter all the challenges that teenagers face.

"It's an opportunity to think creatively about who they are or who they might want to become, to get some sense of themselves," she said.

Cecilia Carter, head of community affairs for UBS Wealth Management US, said the company firmly believes in supporting the arts and education. UBS also recently gave \$200,000 to the **Cleveland** School of the Arts and announced a multi-year partnership with the **Cleveland** Orchestra as a season sponsor.

The summer program is "a great fit for us," said Carter, who grew up in **Cleveland** Heights. "We feel very strongly about our commitment to the communities we live and work in."

Beyond financial support, that commitment includes volunteering by UBS employees who will donate time to the arts program, she said.

Cerveny, the coordinator of "**Smart in the City**," said the foundation is drawing on the expertise of area cultural institutions in designing the classes, which will be taught by professional artists. Teachers will work with the artists to incorporate academic skills.

"It really is an arts program with education infused in it. It's a 'doing' course," said Cerveny. "I'm excited to demonstrate how the arts can be very effective in dealing with education concepts."

For instance, she said, a drawing class could reinforce geometry lessons or a painting course might incorporate vocabulary words necessary to evaluate art.

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Although details of the program still are coming together, Cerveny said it likely will be offered at from eight to 10 neighborhood sites.

The foundation, working with the school district, will send program brochures home with students before spring break. Those brochures will explain how to apply for the program. Cerveny said the foundation currently has no further details and is not accepting applications yet. Families will be notified when information sessions are scheduled.

If their child is selected, parents will be asked to pledge that they will attend and participate. The program probably will start in late June or early July, Cerveny said.

The initial funding will carry through the summer of 2008, she said. If evaluations show that the program is effective, the foundation hopes to continue it beyond next year.

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LOAD-DATE: February 27, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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