



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS! First Annual Silent Auction on November 14 at 7 p.m.

The Museum School will host "A Night at the Museum" silent auction on November 14 at Bart Webb Studios. Join a community network of good friends and neighbors for drinks and dessert while bidding on some fantastic items just in time for the holidays.

**Tickets are \$40 in advance, \$50 at the door, and price includes wine and beer.**

Buy tickets via the Web site at [www.themuseumschool.org](http://www.themuseumschool.org), our Facebook page, or stop by our AutumnFest booth on Oct. 24-25. Tickets are also available at Finders Keepers Furnishings located at 2753 E. College Avenue. Don't miss this historic event!

You can still get involved as an auction volunteer, sponsor or donor to help meet the event goal of \$10,000. Consider donating items such as:

- Original artwork
- Gift baskets
- Services (spas/salons, babysitting, housecleaning, etc.)
- Airline tickets and getaways
- Adventure packages
- Gift certificates
- Unique experiences like celebrity meetings

Donors and sponsors will be recognized in the event program, on our Web site and throughout the evening. **Please donate items by October 30 to be included in the program.**

Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Contact Fundraising co-chair Aspen Kron at [aspen.kron@themuseumschool.org](mailto:aspen.kron@themuseumschool.org) to donate items, services and your time as a volunteer for the event.

## ABOUT THE MUSEUM SCHOOL

In July 2008, the community of Avondale Estates came together to discuss public education for our children. Encouraged by the passage of a new state law, we made the exciting decision to start public charter school. We launched the initiative through the Avondale Education Association, a non-profit organization and long-time leader in promoting quality public education. Since then, the effort to open a museum charter school has grown to over 200 residents and volunteers from the city and surrounding communities.

If the State Charter Commission approves our charter application this year, The Museum School of Avondale Estates will open its doors in Fall 2010 to all children residing in ZIP code 30002. There are currently no museum schools in Georgia, so **we will be the first.**



## HELP PROMOTE THE SCHOOL: BE A NEIGHBORHOOD CAPTAIN

Plans for The Museum School are progressing at lightning speed, but your neighbors may not have heard about the innovative concept. Here's a chance for you to learn more and have a voice in the school's development. We need one representative from each street or complex to serve as ambassadors for the school. As a captain, you would:

- Be the "go-to person" for information and a fervent advocate for The Museum School as a fantastic public school option
- Answer questions about curriculum, location, the status of our charter and other issues
- Promote activities and events and let people know about enrollment procedures
- Communicate with the Executive Committee, letting members know the concerns your neighbors have shared with you

We need one representative from each street or complex for this important volunteer position. Don't worry if you don't know all the answers to questions you might be asked. We'll train you so you'll be prepared, and if you get stumped, our leaders are just a phone call away.

To sign up, contact Anthony Webb at: [anthony.webb@themuseumschool.org](mailto:anthony.webb@themuseumschool.org)

To fill out a volunteer profile at: [http://themuseumschool.org/get\\_involved.php](http://themuseumschool.org/get_involved.php).

### Our Mission

To inspire students, teachers and the community to collaborate to develop strong critical thinking, interpersonal and academic skills in our students, which will prepare them for real-world success.



## WHAT IS A MUSEUM SCHOOL?

The museum school concept is an innovative and proven school model that provides project-based learning through partnerships with museums and other community organizations. Teachers collaborate with partner educators to provide highly engaging, authentic learning experiences for their students. Students work together, researching various disciplines, and participate in frequent learning expeditions outside the school focused on specific educational goals.

As they design, create, build and act as docents for their own museum exhibits, students achieve a deep understanding of the curriculum. At the end of each quarter, the school actually becomes a museum as students showcase their work during "exhibit night." The community is invited into the school, and students act as docents to share what they have learned. In doing so, this educational approach effectively engages and teaches the broader community as well as the students.

**As a charter school,** The Museum School will be a **public** school that operates under a charter, or contract, with the State Department of Education. The charter is a contract in which the school promises to meet defined academic and financial goals in exchange for the ability to make its own decisions and choices about such areas as curriculum, class structure, governance and finance. The flexibility in governance and management offered through a charter with the state will allow us the freedom to make decisions locally for the benefit of our entire community.

## TIMELINE

July 31, 2009:

**Charter Application Submission to State Charter Commission**

Early November:

**Interview with State Charter Commission**

Nov. 14, 2009:

**Silent Auction**

Dec. 2009:

**Charter Approval**

Jan. 1, 2010:

**Teacher Recruitment Begins**

Feb.–March 2010:

**Open Student Enrollment**

May 31, 2010:

**Facility Complete**

July 2010:

**On-site Teacher Training**

Aug. 2010:

**The Museum School Opens**

## MUSEUM SCHOOL PARTNERS

Several world-class museums and organizations in Atlanta have expressed interest in partnering with our school and sent us letters of intent. As of September 2009, potential partners include:

- The Alliance Theatre
- ArtsNOW (Creating Pride)
- The Breman Jewish Heritage and Holocaust Museum
- The Center for Puppetry Arts
- Georgia Nature Center of the World Environmental Organization
- Georgia Women of Achievement Online Museum
- The Wren's Nest



Some partners will work with teachers and the Head of School to develop the school curriculum while others will help develop teacher education, donate supplies or materials, provide guest speakers and host field trips.



## WHAT MAKES THE MUSEUM SCHOOL UNIQUE

**A True Community School** — The Museum School will be a place where children from Avondale Estates and the surrounding communities can learn and grow together, a place where children can get a high-quality education and go to school with their neighborhood friends. From its mission to its governance and operations, the school is designed to be an integral part of the community.

**Public School of Choice** — The Museum School will be a public school and therefore will be **open to all students who choose to attend, free of charge**, within the confines of its capacity.

**Curriculum Delivery Model** — The Museum School will use the museum school model, an innovative type of learning that is not available in any

other public school in Georgia, but that has been shown to be very effective. It is the curriculum delivery model used at Normal Park Museum Magnet School,

in Chattanooga, TN, which was recently recognized as the top magnet school in America by the U.S. Department of Education.

**Differentiated Instruction** — The Museum School plans to use differentiated instruction techniques to ensure that each child is reached at his or her own level of understanding and readiness. This includes teaching to each child's individual learning style rather than using a "one size fits all" approach.

**Parent Agreement** — To ensure strong community involvement for the educational improvement in the school, all parents and guardians will be required to volunteer a set number of hours each year.



## OUR STUDENTS

Our goal is to provide a public school of choice for parents. The attendance zone will be based on the ZIP code 30002, a zone that offers roughly the same multi-cultural and socio-economic diversity as DeKalb County. Every child living inside this zone will have an equal opportunity to attend the charter school based on available space.

**If you live in 30002, you are in the attendance zone.**

Our community supported a tiered attendance zone structure, with 30002 being the primary zone. However, we were informed by the State Department of Education that due to a reinterpretation of federal law, we are allowed to have only one zone to meet the federal definition of a charter school. The community made a conscious decision to expand the school attendance zone outside the Avondale Estates city limits.

### Ethnic Breakdown of Zone – ZIP Code 30002

- African-American 47%
- Caucasian 49%
- Asian 1%
- Hispanic 1%
- Biracial/Other 2%

Source: 2000 U.S. Census Bureau and 2009 ZIPskinny.com

## SCHOOL FACILITY

We are currently looking at options for either a temporary or permanent location for the school within the City of Avondale Estates and surrounding areas. We will likely use modular buildings for school opening. These buildings are NOT trailers, they are pre-fabricated units, partially constructed off site, then brought on site to complete building assembly (see examples below). The advantages of modular buildings include:

- May be custom ordered to specifications based on expected classroom size
- Allow for "green options" in reduction of building site environment impact, re-purpose of building material
- Can have any exterior, including brick

Please check our Web site at [www.themuseumschool.org](http://www.themuseumschool.org) for updates and e-mail any questions or comments to us at [info@themuseumschool.org](mailto:info@themuseumschool.org).



Examples of modular buildings



### School Grades

The Museum School charter includes K-8. Based on information from the families who have signed the petition to date, we currently anticipate the school will open with K-3. It will add one grade level per year until reaching Grade 8.

If you are interested in sending your child to the school, make sure we know about you by returning the enclosed reply card.

## Win Free Tickets!

Complete the enclosed card for entry into a raffle for two tickets to our silent auction on November 14. Mail the card or return it to our AutumnFest booth on Oct. 24-25. Raffle to be held Nov. 5.



## inside

**Stay informed:** Become a neighborhood captain

**Support our partners**—some of the best museums and organizations around Atlanta

**Purchase tickets** for our first annual fundraiser in November

**Find out:** What makes The Museum School unique? Who can attend? What it may look like and more...