



Venice Arts to be Featured by Born This Way Foundation and Exploring the Arts at Upcoming Cheek to Cheek Tour Stop in Los Angeles

BTWF & ETA Will Highlight the Local Community Organization for Its Exceptional Work with Young People

LOS ANGELES, CA – (MAY 18, 2015) – Born This Way Foundation and Exploring the Arts are excited to announce that Venice Arts will be featured at an upcoming stop of Tony Bennett and Lady Gaga's Cheek to Cheek tour in Los Angeles on Sunday, May 31, 2015. The initiative is part of a partnership between Born This Way Foundation and Exploring the Arts to highlight exceptional nonprofit organizations at Cheek to Cheek stops across the country. Organizations are chosen based on their demonstrated excellence in empowering young people to become compassionate, creative, and brave.

Venice Arts will be featured prominently at the show including a location for their staff or volunteers to interact with the thousands of fans in attendance, increasing awareness of the services and programs the organization offers. Additionally, Venice Arts will receive the proceeds from a pair of tickets to the show and a meet and greet with Tony Bennett and Lady Gaga that will be auctioned off by CharityBuzz at:

https://www.charitybuzz.com/catalog_items/816202

"We are honored to have our transformative work with low-income youth in Los Angeles recognized by the Born This Way Foundation and Exploring the Arts, who share our commitment to empowering youth to discover and develop their own creative voices." said Lynn Warshafsky, Co-Founder and Executive Director of Venice Arts.

Venice Arts' mission is to ignite youths' imagination, mentor their creativity, and expand their sense of possibility through high quality, accessible media-based arts education programs. For the past 22 years, Venice Arts' program of free media arts instruction, mentoring, and internship opportunities has opened windows of possibility for thousands of poor and low-income children. Since the start of 2014, students have received nearly 40 prestigious

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national, state, and local awards, including: Presidential Scholar in the Arts; National YoungArts Awards; California Scholastic Arts Awards; and the Music Center's Spotlight Award. Graduating seniors this past spring went off to colleges including Boston University and NYU, some on full scholarships.

"Born This Way Foundation is thrilled to partner with Exploring the Arts to shine a light on the work these exceptional local organizations do for the young people they support. We share a mission to inspire and empower today's youth and the resources and services these groups are providing in their communities are critical to that goal," said Cynthia Germanotta, Co-Founder and President of Born This Way Foundation.

"Exploring the Arts and Born This Way Foundation were founded with the goal of touching the lives of young people and inspiring the next generation of artists and leaders. The local organizations we're featuring share this commitment, working hard every day to uplift young people in their areas," said Susan Benedetto, Co-Founder of Exploring the Arts.

This initiative reflects Born This Way Foundation's commitment to working with local and national allies – from GLSEN and YMCA to Youth Service America – to reach hundreds of thousands of young people directly. These relationships have enabled the organization to connect youth around the country with services and programming in their communities. Similarly, the partnership reflects Exploring the Arts' deep history of engaging local organizations to improve arts education in public high schools throughout New York City and Los Angeles.

ABOUT VENICE ARTS: Now in its twenty-second year, Venice Arts is a nonprofit arts organization that is committed to providing high-impact arts education for low-income youth in the areas of photography, filmmaking, and multimedia, and serving as a local and global hub for community storytelling through media. In addition to its core Art Mentoring & Education Program, Venice Arts implements regional, statewide, and international Documentary Programs with both adults and children; presents exhibitions, public programs, and workshops for adults centered around documentary photography and film; and consults on media arts, visual storytelling, and arts education locally and internationally. It is the philosophy of Venice Arts that self-expression, particularly through the arts, has the potential to transform and empower young people to see greater possibilities for themselves and for their communities.

www.venicearts.org

ABOUT BORN THIS WAY FOUNDATION (BTWF): Led by Lady Gaga and her mother Cynthia Germanotta, BTWF was founded in 2011 to support the wellness of young people and empower them to create a kinder and braver world. BTWF achieves this by shining a light on real people, quality research and authentic partnerships. Working with more than 50 non-profit organizations, BTWF has connected more than over 150,000 young people with services and programming in their communities. BTWF has also partnered with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the National Council for Behavioral Health, and the National Association of School Psychologists to collect data from more than 2,500 young people. This research, presented before the American Psychological Association, improved our understanding of young people's views of mental-health services and delivery methods.

bornthisway.foundation

ABOUT EXPLORING THE ARTS (ETA): Founded in 1999 by Tony Bennett and Susan Benedetto, ETA's mission is to transform the lives of young people through arts education. ETA works collaboratively with 17 public high schools throughout New York City and Los Angeles to help them build high-quality, school-day arts programs and to provide additional, out-of-school arts opportunities for their students. Tony and Susan are the co-founders of Frank Sinatra School of the Arts, a public arts high school, located in Tony's hometown of Astoria, Queens.

exploringthearts.org

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