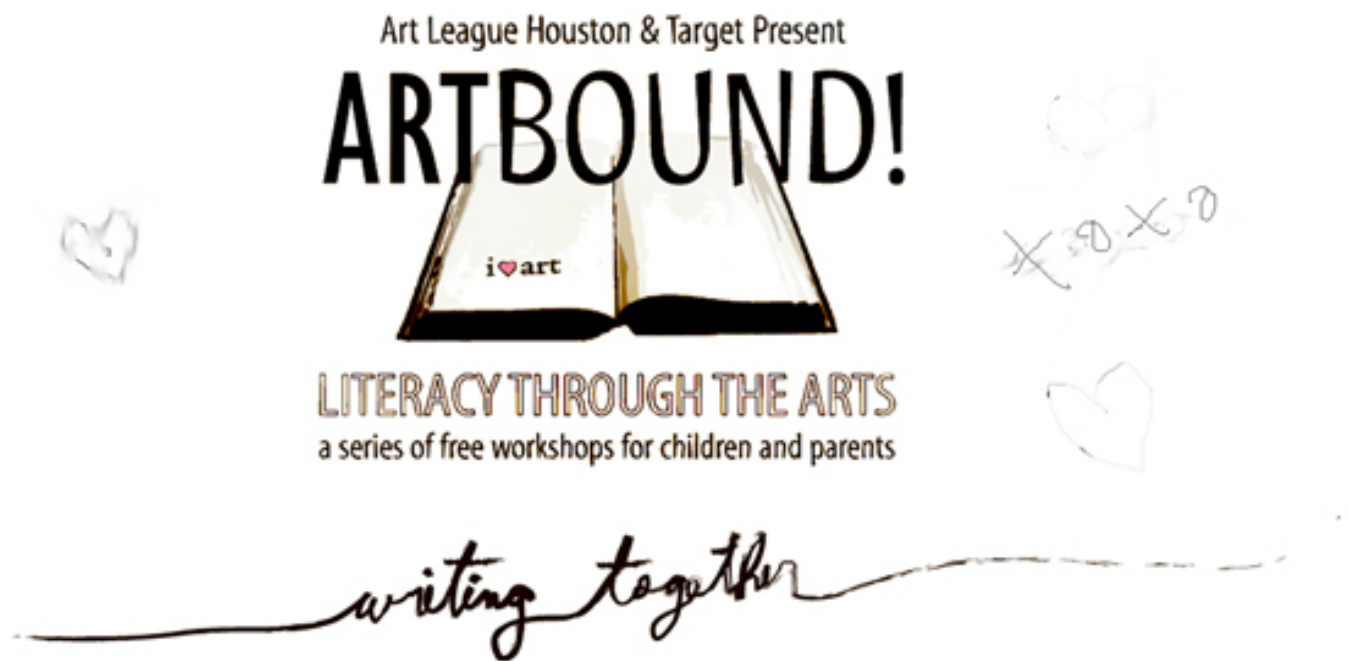




Art League Houston

Press Release

Art League Houston is a 501[c]3 nonprofit charitable organization which cultivates awareness, appreciation and accessibility of contemporary visual art within the community for its cultural enrichment.



Uptown with ArtBound!

Art made in the classroom by
William Wharton K-8 Dual Language Academy Students



November 18, 2009 to January 6, 2010

The Houston Public Library, 500 McKinney, 4th Floor in the Program Place Room

(Parking is available for a fee in the garage directly under the library. The entrance is off of Lamar right before Bagby.)

The opening reception is Wednesday, November 18, 6:00 to 7:00 pm.

This project, funded by Target, is a collaboration of Art League Houston and

Wharton K-8 Dual Language Academy.

For Immediate Release

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Houston, TX (November, 2009) - Art League Houston is pleased to announce its latest *ArtBound!* project. Thanks to a grant from Target, this fall Art League Houston provided a residency at Wharton K-8 Dual Language Academy. Principal Dr. Danette Maldonado welcomed the *ArtBound!* residency to her campus. Art League Houston Teaching Artist Armando Rodriguez collaborated with Wharton faculty members Carmelo Bernier, Minerva Cabajal, and Irene Hart and their fourth and fifth grade students. The residency integrated visual arts with narrative fiction and the study of land forms and rock cycles. All participants contributed to making this project an exciting and incredible learning experience culminating in an exhibition of outstanding work by the students.

You don't want to miss seeing the incredible art created by the students at Wharton K-8. The study of narrative fiction had students writing stories, which they illustrated with drawings in books they made from scratch. In addition, print making and the creation of three-dimensional paper sculptures and pop-up books was combined with the study of rock cycles and land forms.

You are cordially invited to attend the opening reception at the Houston Public Library on Wednesday, November 18 from 6:00 to 7:00 pm. If you can't attend the opening, there is plenty of time to see the art as the exhibition does not close until January 6.

Art League Houston and Wharton K-8 offer sincere thanks to Target for funding this residency. From national partnerships to local initiatives to its own programs, Target is committed to making communities better places to live. Target gives more than \$3 million every week to support education, the arts, social services and volunteerism.

Art League Houston and Wharton K-8 also thank The Houston Public Library for the opportunity to showcase the student work at its beautiful facility in the heart of downtown Houston.

About Art League Houston: Art League Houston is one of Houston's longest operating non-profit visual arts organizations and was the first alternative art space in Texas. Founded in 1948 and incorporated as a non-profit in 1953, Art League Houston was created to promote the public appreciation of and interest in the visual arts. During the past sixty one years, Art League Houston (ALH) has presented over 770 exhibitions to the Houston community, showcasing the work of over 22,000 artists. Over 30,000 students have received instruction at the Art League School. Outreach programming includes drawing labs for high school students, free workshops for parents and children, art camps for youth, and the *Healing Art* program, which provides free art classes to adults living with serious illness and physical disabilities. This season, ALH is also conducting residencies in schools through its *ArtBound!* program, which is funded by Target. This fall, ALH implemented residencies at Julius Dodson Elementary and Wharton K-8 Dual Language Academy. It also held free *ArtBound!* workshops for families in September at its facility on Montrose.

About Wharton K-8 Dual Language Academy:

William H. Wharton Elementary opened its doors in 1929. Today it is considered a part of the Montrose area and closely identifies with Houston's old Fourth Ward. The school was named for William H. Wharton who came to Texas in 1827 and built a plantation called Eagle Island. Wharton was a member of the Convention of 1832 which asked for separate statehood for Texas. He served as Judge Advocate of the Texas Army during the early part of the Texas Revolution, but resigned this post to become Commissioner to the United States so as to secure aid for Texas. He was Secretary of State under Stephen F. Austin and was the first

Minister to the United States. Wharton County is also named in his honor.

Throughout its history, Wharton Elementary has placed strong emphasis on the basics of education, and this emphasis prevails today. With the combined efforts and support of its faculty, PTO, and community businesses, Wharton K-8 Dual Language Academy continues its rich tradition of academic excellence and leadership.

Wharton K-8's philosophy promotes both Spanish and English as languages of equal value. By placing importance on both languages, Wharton K-8 is not only preparing students for the multi-lingual, multicultural world we are living in, but students are also learning the importance of and value in respecting other cultures in our increasingly global society.

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