



SKINNER MAGNET, OPS

4304 North 33rd Street
Omaha, NE 68111-2748

T 402.453.6857
F 402.453.4864
patricia.miltner@ops.org

www.ops.org/elementary/skinner/

SOAR with the Skyhawks!

November 2011

Nebraska Arts Council
1004 Farnam Street
Omaha, NE 68102

To Whom It May Concern,

I am honored to write this letter nominating Charles Ahovissi and African Culture Connection for the Heritage Award as a part of the Governor's Art Awards. Charles and African Culture Connection have provided many residencies for our students at Skinner Magnet Center over the past several years. They have captivated students with engaging experiences in dance, visual art, and cultural history. They have completed residencies with our Art Exploratory Club as well as entire grade levels.

Skinner Magnet Center students have gained immeasurably from these experiences. The residencies have focused on academic achievement and artistic skills. But more importantly to our students, they have promoted a deep cultural understanding that emphasizes knowledge of one's own heritage.

Many of African Culture Connection's artists have worked with dedication to bring authentic cultural traditions to our students. A majority (87%) of our students are African American. A majority of our students (89%) come from low income households. Through this study, students have gained a positive sense of self, enhancing self-direction and character development.

I emphasize again that I am honored to write this letter. At Skinner Magnet Center, we are all grateful for the partnership in success that Charles and African Culture Connection have provided for our school community.

Sincerely,
Pat Miltner
Magnet Facilitator
Skinner Magnet Center