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LOCAL RESIDENT'S NON-PROFIT BRINGS "BUCKET DRUMMING" TO LOS ANGELES KIDS

Dexter, MI – December 17, 2012 - Creative Bridge Coalition (CBC), co-founded by Dexter resident Dan Marshall, has received a grant from The Seattle Foundation to create a new *Count Me In* percussion-based project for middle school students at the Vista Del Mar school in West Los Angeles, CA.

At the heart of the new *Count Me In, Vista Del Mar* project is a "bucket drumming" curriculum called Contemporary Urban Percussion (CUP). CUP is a program developed in Arizona by Stephen Flinn, an internationally recognized drummer now living in the Los Angeles area.

A largely urban phenomenon, bucket drumming utilizes large plastic buckets to teach drumming and general rhythmic skills. In the CUP program, students learn these and other music-specific skills by concentrating on phonics and how sounds relate to rhythms and song structure. By vocalizing the rhythms to be played, the drumming becomes internalized via spoken language. With CUP, as in most bucket drumming, the bucket is transformed into a drum kit, with the basic sounds of the kit (bass drum, snare drum, hi-hat) represented phonetically on the bucket.

The program places strong emphasis on the African concept of "call and response," which enables students to quickly recognize their musical progress. In addition to musical skills, the CUP curriculum stresses various important social and leadership skills as well.

Scheduled twice weekly between January – June 2013 for a pilot group of 10 students, *Count Me In* will introduce the CUP curriculum to Vista Del Mar students thanks to the non-profit group, Creative Bridge Coalition.

A former university professor, Marshall co- founded CBC in 2008 with his long time friend and former studio musician/composer and California resident, Bill Bodine, with a mission to bring music-based programs to young children and those with special needs. What's unique about their approach is that music, itself, is not the final goal. "We're using music as a vehicle to promote other educational and social goals," says Marshall. "The kids love to play percussion instruments, and in the course of their musical interactions important social, cognitive and academics skills are acquired and reinforced."

CBC, with ongoing projects operating in several states, employs various music programs with their clients. "We're excited to bring the CUP curriculum to Vista Del Mar as a pilot project," according to CBC co-founder, Bill Bodine. "I know the thought of handing bucket drums to a class of 10 kids sounds like a bad idea, but really good

things happen when it's tied to specific learning and development goals. The act of receiving and returning information tied to rhythm creates a different and powerful learning experience."

Learn more about Creative Bridge Coalition and their music-based projects at www.cbridgec.org.