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## **AFTER SCHOOL MATTERS SHOWCASE IN MILLENNIUM PARK**

### **Talented Teens Show Off Their Work Sunday, August 10 at 3 PM A Culmination of Work in Millennium Park All Summer Long**

Teens from the After School Matters gallery<sup>37</sup> summer programs will take to the stage of the Jay Pritzker Pavilion on Sunday, August 10, 2008 at 3 p.m. in the **After School Matters Showcase**, a part of the Rising Stars series in Millennium Park.

This exhilarating free performance will be a finale to the teens' extraordinary work over the summer as apprentices of professional artists, working in modern and jazz dance, ballet, opera, jazz and musical theater. The students will also perform in Millennium Park's Family Fun Festival from August 11 through 15 at 12 Noon and 2 p.m. each day.

"After School Matters is dedicated to helping these talented teens find and express their own special gifts," said Lois Weisberg, Commissioner of the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs. "We can't think of a better way to cap off their summer program in the Park than by showcasing their work on the stage of the magnificent Jay Pritzker Pavilion."

Working under the guidance of professional artists in the After School Matters tent in Millennium Park's Chase Promenade South, the teens will be at work from June 23 through August 15, taking classes in 2D-3D Design, Architectural Drawing, Board Game Design, Bookmaking, Creative Writing, Decorative Painting, Metal Arts, Painting Studio and Video Production.

After School Matters is a non-profit organization that offers Chicago teens innovative out-of-school activities through science<sup>37</sup>, sports<sup>37</sup>, tech<sup>37</sup>, word<sup>37</sup> and the nationally recognized gallery<sup>37</sup> programs. They provide these programs through a network of private and public partnerships that include the City of Chicago, the Chicago Public Schools, the Chicago Park District, the Chicago Public Library and more than 100 community-based organizations. Through hands-on programs, they expose teens to rewarding careers and help them to develop marketable job skills. After School Matters is recognized nationally as one of the largest program providers of its kind.

The new Rising Stars series in Millennium Park offers an opportunity for up and coming performers to hone their craft on the stage of the Jay Pritzker Pavilion. Also featured are the Chicago Children's Choir and the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras, as well as Midwest Young Artists, who will perform on July 27.

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Finalists in the national Poetry Out Loud contest will open each of the performances of the Rising Stars series. This national program encourages high school students to learn about great literary works while incorporating aspects of slam poetry, spoken word and theater into English classes. Finalists appearing in the Rising Stars series are from the Chicago area and the Midwest.

Millennium Park is located in the heart of downtown Chicago. It is bordered by Michigan Ave. to the west, Columbus Dr. to the east, Randolph St. to the north and Monroe St. to the south. Convenient parking is located in the Millennium Park Garage (entrance on Columbus at Monroe or Randolph) and at the Grant Park North and East Monroe Garages, all located within a short walking distance to Millennium Park.

Millennium Park is an award-winning center for art, music, architecture and landscape design. The result of a unique partnership between the City of Chicago and the philanthropic community, the 24.5-acre park features the work of world-renowned architects, planners, artists and designers. Among Millennium Park's prominent features are the Frank Gehry-designed Jay Pritzker Pavilion, the most sophisticated outdoor concert venue of its kind in the United States; the interactive Crown Fountain by Jaume Plensa; the contemporary Lurie Garden designed by the team of Gustafson Guthrie Nichol, Piet Oudolf and Robert Israel; and Anish Kapoor's hugely popular Cloud Gate sculpture. Since its opening in July 2004, Millennium Park has welcomed more than 12 million of people, making it one of the most popular destinations in Chicago.

For more information about Millennium Park, call 312.742.1168 or visit [www.millenniumpark.org](http://www.millenniumpark.org).

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