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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE- December 16, 2009

Recent study confirms Settlement Music School Kaleidoscope Pre-school Program outperforms other pre-school programs in school readiness scores

**Study shows gains in vocabulary scores three times
the size of peers in typical pre-school**

Philadelphia, PA –According to a new study, "Arts Enrichment and School Readiness for Children at Risk" published in the first 2010 edition of Early Childhood Research Quarterly, the field's recognized peer-reviewed research journal, low-income children attending Settlement Music School's Kaleidoscope Pre-school Arts Enrichment Program show gains in standardized vocabulary scores three times the size of those demonstrated by their peers attending a nearby preschool with a traditional curriculum.

The study, by West Chester University assistant professor and psychologist Eleanor D. Brown, finds that this model program eliminates the achievement gap that typically exists between children from racial/ethnic minority backgrounds and majority group peers at preschool entry and exit. The study also finds Kaleidoscope children's language, literacy, math, science, and other school readiness skills are measurably improved through their music, dance, and visual arts classes. "Historically, minorities have been marginalized in all areas of education, but to a lesser extent in the arts," noted Brown. "This study suggests that the arts may increase the cultural relevance of education for children from racial or ethnic minority backgrounds."

While arts are often the first programs to be eliminated when schools are facing budget cuts, this research shows that for some preschoolers, instruction in music, dance and art can be an effective way to engage them in learning. Added Brown, "It's the only preschool program I know where the arts are being used in such a full, intentional and structured way to promote development in core school readiness skills."

Settlement Music School created the Kaleidoscope Program in 1990 to help low-income, inner-city children develop school readiness skills through a fully integrated curriculum that includes intensive work in music, dance and visual arts each day. The program currently serves 110 Head Start eligible children at two of the six Settlement Music School branches through partnerships with the Learning Tree Head Start of the

Philadelphia Presbytery and the School District of Philadelphia Head Start program. It is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children and has achieved the highest, four stars rating in the Keystone Stars program of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Kaleidoscope is a national model program and was recognized with a Coming Up Taller Award from the President's Council on the Arts and Humanities in 1996 for the quality and uniqueness of its work and for its unusual commitment to documenting impact through independent evaluations and research. Although many independent studies have documented Kaleidoscope's effectiveness, this most recent study by Brown, co-authored by M. Elizabeth Armistead and Barbara Benedett, is the first to be published in a major, peer-reviewed journal.

Settlement Music School is the largest community-based school of the arts in the United States, serving 15,000 students each year at six branches in PA and NJ. It provides people of all abilities, age, race and financial means with programs of the highest quality in music and dance to help them achieve their greatest potential and award nearly \$2 million a year in financial aid. Close to 300,000 students have attended Settlement Music School since 1908. It is the largest employer of musicians in the region, with more than 250 dedicated faculty members, most of whom have advanced degrees.