The Office of Engagement at Krannert Center organizes and participates in a wide array of projects to meet the public engagement mission of the university and to advance the educational, research and market place initiatives of Krannert Center and the College of Fine and Applied Arts. While many important collaborations with artists, students, community members and university faculty and staff are directed toward select segments of the community, there is a constant broad based commitment to the enhancement of the cultural life of the local, national and international community. Several projects with goals ranging from economic development to the cultivation of young artists are described below.

Abraham Inc Engagement

\*The trinity of musicians that make up Abraham Inc.—trombonist Fred Wesley, clarinetist David Krakauer, and DJ Socalled—reached out to the congregation of Salem Baptist Church, the Mo’Betta Music Ensemble, the Bow-Dacious String Band, and Don Moyer’s Boys and Girls Club during their 2010 residency. The musicians played for the students; talked to them about their professional lives and the exploration of blues, jazz, gospel, and pop music; and even used the church’s stained glass windows as a metaphor for cross-cultural collaborations and common roots among all people.

Proyecto Teatro:

A one-day theater workshop designed for middle school students who are native speakers of Spanish. The project is based upon the practices of Agosto Boal and designed to investigate issues related to immigration, minority status and social adjustment. Proyecto Teatro is one of several smaller projects designed to reach into the Latino community.

Angela Rivers Mural Project: Project devoted to teaching of local African American History by local African American artist.

North 1st Street Association

Ongoing effort to contribute to the growth and development of local business on North 1st Street in the historic African American community

First Fridays

Participation with Champaign County Black Chamber of Commerce in activities promoting and examining the potential of arts to support local economic development in under served communities

SYMMETRY

Development of High School Community Based Arts Project to support recruitment of under represented students to FAA (Community based cultural arts center, Don Moyers Boys and Girls Club, Parkland College, North 1st Street)

Parkland College

Multifaceted work with Parkland including retention of African American students, internships for G.E.D. students and development of Pathways model for FAA students

Champaign 150th Anniversary Celebration

Member of the steering committee planning for the citywide celebration commencing March 2010. Emphasis on including communities of color in planned celebrations

School Of Engineering Learning In Community

Collaboration with LinC (Learning in Community) coordinator to facilitate the deeper involvement of FAA faculty, staff and students (Black Dragsters, Bridges to China, etc) in local, national and international service learning projects.

Presenting Africa

Multiple projects to promote teaching and learning about Africa; Sister city/Sister school project with Urbana School District 116 and the city of Urbana

African Drumming: Center for World Music, Wiley Elementary School

MLK Community Celebration

Annual hosting of MLK community wide celebration in honor of racial justice