

## The Austin School for the Performing and Visual Arts Calls Downtown Austin Home

AUSTIN, Texas--(Newswire)—November 9, 2009—The Austin School for the Performing and Visual Arts (ASPVA), a non-profit organization created to serve students in the Austin area gifted in the performing and visual arts, announces their downtown location for a private school opening fall 2010 for 6-12<sup>th</sup> grades.

The school will offer a full academic curriculum with an emphasis on art and daily wellness. ASPVA will lease the educational building in Central Christian Church at 1110 Guadalupe Drive just two blocks west of the Capitol and within walking distance of museums, theaters, public library and parks. While ASPVA is a non-parochial school, Carol de Cardenas, ASPVA founder and director, said, “We are delighted to call this historical building established in 1928 home. The facility is a work of art in itself, and according to our professional music staff, the sanctuary has amazing acoustics.” This nationally registered historic church is celebrating their 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year on November 15 and its rich history which includes President Lyndon B. Johnson as one of its most famous members. Ed Heenan, Director of Music for Central Christian Church stated, “We welcome ASPVA, and we are happy to contribute to our community in such a creative, cultural and educational way.”

“We are excited to offer performing and visual art classes by world renowned artists who have made Austin their home,” said Nathaniel Mayfield, ASPVA Director of Music. “The Music Capital of the World is ripe for a school like ASPVA.” At 14 years old, Mayfield had to travel 2,000 miles to Interlochen Arts Academy in Michigan because a school such as this did not exist in his hometown of Austin. Mayfield explains that his participation in arts education was critical to his success, and gave him the confidence to apply to Juilliard and Columbia University. He is the recipient of the coveted Presidential Scholar Award and a Fulbright Scholarship.

Renovations to the building are underway thanks to the contributions from Central Christian Church, American Campus Communities, and individual contributors. “ASPVA appreciates having such great partners who share in our vision of educating the next generation of Austin artists,” said de Cardenas. Interested families may schedule an appointment to learn more about the school by emailing [admissions@theaustinschool.org](mailto:admissions@theaustinschool.org) or by calling (512) 773-3398.



### About ASPVA

The Austin School for the Performing and Visual Arts is a place for students who want to pursue academic and artistic excellence where they will be honored by passionate, inspiring teachers while celebrating creativity, community and service. ASPVA began by offering dance classes for all levels as part of Phase I of its development. Phase II currently offers master classes in the arts and unique wellness activities including a performance jump rope team through *Connections*, an outreach program created for 1st – 12th graders, on-site in partnering schools and other student organizations. In fall 2010, ASPVA will unveil a private school offering a full-academic curriculum developed according to accreditation standards, a world class arts education and daily wellness program as part of Phase III. For additional information or to subscribe to the ASPVA newsletter visit [www.theaustinschool.org](http://www.theaustinschool.org).

**About Central Christian Church**

Central Christian Church first developed around 200 years ago on the American frontier. Their practices and teachings have been historically shaped by those roots. Central Christian Church first began meeting in downtown Austin in 1847, making it one of the oldest church congregations in Austin. The building, which has been used now for 80 years, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a widely recognized example of the "Eclectic" or "Beaux Arts" movement of the 1920's. Its interior is similar to that of the medieval cathedral of St. Miniato al Monte in Florence, Italy, while the exterior is suggestive of our Spanish Colonial history. Dr. James W. Van Meter, Jr. has been pastor for the past six years. Additional information can be found at <http://www.ccaustin.org>.

**About American Campus Communities**

American Campus Communities Inc. is one of the largest developers, owners and managers of high quality student housing communities in the United States. The company is a fully integrated, self managed and self-administered equity real estate investment trust (REIT) with expertise in the design, finance, development, construction management and operational management of student housing properties. American Campus Communities owns 86 student housing properties containing approximately 52,800 beds, with a minority interest in 21 joint venture properties containing approximately 12,100 beds. Including its owned, joint venture and third-party managed properties, ACC's total managed portfolio consists of 139 properties with approximately 88,600 beds. Additional information is available at [www.studenthousing.com](http://www.studenthousing.com).