

lanthropy in our community. She challenged her board, museum members, and her community to support the arts with their time and treasure:

"We must all work together to develop a strong development endowment fund. Charlestonians must learn to give and leave more money to public institutions.

"Our public buildings are some of the most beautiful in this country because our forefathers believed in the importance of the arts."

Elizabeth Harrigan set a trend as our first woman board president; since her election, fully one third of presidents of the Carolina Art Association have been women. She set a standard for contributions to our community; the Gibbes is proud to continue this legacy through exciting public programming and creative education for school children and adults.

We are very thankful to all those in our community who have stepped up to Ms. Harrigan's challenge to make our community better through support of the arts.

LAURA D. GATES

President

The Carolina Art Association
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More mentoring

Several weeks ago the City of Charleston and Skanska

Trident, construction managers for the Gaillard Auditorium renovation, performed a caring act for the ACE Mentor Program of Greater Charleston. The ACE Mentor Program is for high school students who are interested in a career in architecture, construction, or engineering. Skanska Trident coordinated a special construction site visit for the ACE students from two local high schools to visit the Gaillard site to view the construction progress.

We viewed the architectural features of the stone-carved exterior of the building, looked at preliminary plumbing installations, HVAC equipment, electrical rooms, and structure. We stood on the stage, under the fly loft, and viewed the complicated scaffolding that allows the workers to construct the highest levels of the building, high above the "house" section of the theater.

The ACE Mentor Program is made up of volunteers who are professional engineers, architects, and construction managers.

Two of these mentors work for Skanska. These professionals donate their time several hours every other week for an entire school semester. The program consists of a construction/design project that professionals work on with students, teaching them about architecture, various engineering practices, and the construction science that goes along with scheduling, budgeting, and managing a project.

This year we have programs as Stall and St. Johns high schools where we are complet-

ing projects such as a custom chicken coop for an owner willing to spend \$1,000 for a coop that will encourage hens to produce fresh eggs.

There are many ACE chapters across America that reach approximately 5,000 students a year. This program is very beneficial for our youth and our workforce here in Charleston. These young people might never get exposed to these disciplines and these professionals without ACE.

We are in our third year of programs with the Charleston area schools. We try to give several students a small scholarship at the end of the semester.

Our end of the year banquet will be held on May 30. Interested members of the community are welcome to attend. Please check the website acementors.org/charleston-sc for ticket information.

ACE relies on local professional volunteers to mentor our kids. ACE also relies on donations for scholarships, banquets and project supplies. Tax deductible donations can be made through the website and will stay within the Charleston community.

ROB TURNER, P.E.

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Putin's dupes

In response to the letter writer who suggests Republicans should nominate Vladimir Putin as their 2016 candidate, I offer a more seri-