



## Building Community through the Arts

**For Immediate Release**

May 8, 2024

**MEDIA CONTACT**

Rebecca Myers

Project Director

Perry County Council of the Arts

717.740.6953/ [aie@perrycountyarts.org](mailto:aie@perrycountyarts.org)

[www.Perrycountyarts.org](http://www.Perrycountyarts.org)

### **Danville Head Start Pre-K Host Music Program**

DANVILLE –Danville Head Start Pre-K has enjoyed hosting Mary Knysh, founder of Rhythmic Connections, for an artist residency in drumming and music. The residency began in the fall of 2023 and will continue until June. Children have made their own drums and use them for a wide variety of brain-based rhythmic activities that include work on steady beat, linking language to rhythm, drumming as storytelling, creative music and movement. Children also hear a variety of musical styles and learn to listen and dance to them.

Ms. Knysh travels nationally and internationally with her creative body of work which focuses on advancing education, health, and creative development through rhythm, movement, drum circles, and music improvisation. The residency is supported by Pennsylvania Council on the Arts (PCA) funding through the Artist in Education program. Perry County Council of the Arts (PCCA) is the local partner who arranges and oversees the residency. Funding was also provided by The Exchange in Bloomsburg and the Community Giving Foundation: Danville.

“We are delighted to work with Mary to enhance the development of our children,” said Coty Lenches, Early Childhood Education Manager at Danville Pre-K Head Start.

#### **About the artist**

Mary E Knysh is the founder of Rhythmic Connections, an innovative company advancing education, health, and creative development through drum circles and music improvisation. An international teacher/trainer with the Music for People organization, Mary is also an Orff Schulwerk clinician, professional musician and international teaching artist. She is endorsed by Rhythm Band Instruments and Remo corporations. Mary travels throughout the United States and internationally offering conference presentations, clinics, teacher-trainings, performances and workshops.

#### **About Arts in Education**

Arts in Education funding comes from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts (PCA), an agency in the Office of the Governor, through an annual appropriation by the Pennsylvania General Assembly and from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. Funding requires a local match. The local partner agency is Perry County Council of the Arts (PCCA). Through artist residencies the program enables artists to help others explore and develop their creativity and artistic skills in a variety of educational, community and institutional settings.

#### **Perry County Council of the Arts**

PO Box 354 • Newport, PA • 17074

[perrycountyarts.org](http://perrycountyarts.org) • 717.567.7023

**PCCA Gallery:** One S. Second Street in Newport

**Landis House:** 67 N. Fourth St. in Newport





## Building Community through the Arts

### **About Community Giving Foundation: Danville**

Community Giving Foundation: Danville (formerly Danville Area Community Foundation) is dedicated to the enrichment of the quality of life in the greater Danville area communities through superior stewardship of enduring charitable gifts. The Foundation was founded in 1999 to benefit the residents of the Danville area. It is a philanthropic resource that enables individuals, businesses, and institutions to enhance the quality of life in their community. Danville is an affiliate of the Community Giving Foundation, which manages over 300 charitable funds to improve the quality of life in the Central Susquehanna area. For more information, visit [www.csgiving.org](http://www.csgiving.org).

*For more information on other programs & services provided by the Perry County Council of the Arts (PCCA), please call 717-567-7023 or visit [www.perrycountyarts.org](http://www.perrycountyarts.org). PCCA receives state arts funding support through a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. Additional support comes from a growing list of members, and numerous corporations and private foundations throughout Central Pennsylvania.*

#### Media Contact:

Rebecca Myers, Project Director

Perry County Council of the Arts

717.740.6953 / [aie@perrycountyarts.org](mailto:aie@perrycountyarts.org)

[Perrycountyarts.org](http://Perrycountyarts.org)



#### **Perry County Council of the Arts**

PO Box 354 • Newport, PA • 17074

[perrycountyarts.org](http://perrycountyarts.org) • 717.567.7023

**PCCA Gallery:** One S. Second Street in Newport

**Landis House:** 67 N. Fourth St. in Newport





**Perry County Council of the Arts**

PO Box 354 • Newport, PA • 17074

[perrycountyarts.org](http://perrycountyarts.org) • 717.567.7023

**PCCA Gallery:** One S. Second Street in Newport

**Landis House:** 67 N. Fourth St. in Newport

