

**Founder/Director of Local Arts Elementary School a Finalist in Dr Pepper's,  
"Pepper Your Community" Contest**

August 7, 2006 – Baldwin Park, CA- Bill Rugh, founder and director of Creative Planet School of the Arts, located in Baldwin Park has been named a finalist in Dr Pepper's "Pepper Your Community" contest, which is recognizing volunteers for their outstanding effort in the local community. Twenty-three finalists were chosen from a nationwide search by an independent panel of judges. Finalists are vying for two \$23,000 grand prize awards which will go to their favorite local charity or non-profit organization of choice. Everyone can now vote online for Bill and Creative Planet School of the Arts.

Having been chosen from many submissions from coast to coast, Bill is honored to be nominated. He's ecstatic to have this amazing opportunity to win this substantial amount of money for the non-profit school he founded. "The students work so hard and do some incredible things for our community," said Bill. "Not only do they persevere in their studies of the arts and academic education, but they also perform often at the Children's Hospital of LA, they have sung in choral festivals to raise money for homeless shelters, and they most recently created a performance in Pasadena that raised \$50,000 for kids with AIDS and AIDS orphans in Tanzania. These are some amazing, talented, and powerful kids!"

Michelle Ishida, a supporter of CPSOA states on her blogsite (<http://voteforbilly.blogspot.com/>), "Along with the staff of teachers and artists that work for extremely low wages, I can't think of anyone more deserving who will put their prize money toward creating more change in the future generations of Los Angeles. Winning this money would be an amazing help for the school. They could provide more scholarships and financial aid; purchase more dance shoes, books, instruments, and art supplies; and continue to inspire the youth of LA with the minds to create, the hands to build, and the voices to be heard."

For more information and to vote for Bill R. (from Duarte, CA) please visit the contest site powered by Yahoo! at: <http://advison.webevents.yahoo.com/drpepper/getpeppered/index.php>

Voting in the Dr Pepper "Pepper Your Community" contest runs until August 11, and the two grand prize winners will be announced on August 25. The grand prize awards will be personally handed out by Earvin "Magic" Johnson.

-For more info about Bill Rugh and CPSOA please visit [www.cpsoa.org](http://www.cpsoa.org) or call 626-856-1710.

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