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Young Audiences to get award at White House

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JoEllen Florio Rossebo hasn't been to the White House since she took a tour when she was 10 years old. Her second visit will be today, when Florio Rossebo, president and chief executive of Young Audiences of Indiana, accepts a national award from first lady Laura Bush.

Young Audiences of Indiana's 20-year-old program, Summer Arts for Youth, is one of 15 recipients of the Coming Up Taller award from the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities. It's the first Indiana program to be recognized with the award, which celebrates the creativity of America's youths.

Summer Arts for Youth runs camps at various local sites and allows children ages 6-12 to work with teams of accomplished artists in drawing, acting, sculpture, music, storytelling and dance.

Florio Rossebo, speaking from Washington, D.C., on Thursday, called it "a tremendous honor" for her organization.

"We're hoping it will give us much-needed visibility," she said. "We're a 47-year-old organization. We have been serving the children in Indiana over those years. But very few people know who we are."

Recipients of the Coming Up Taller award also receive \$10,000 in support of their programs.
