



NEWS RELEASE
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Ed Spitzberg Named Afterschool Alliance's New Vice President of Development

*Former Executive Director of DC's Award-Winning Sitar Arts Center
Afterschool Program Brings Years of Fundraising Experience*

WASHINGTON, DC – The Afterschool Alliance today named Ed Spitzberg its new Vice President of Development. Spitzberg comes to the Alliance after three-plus years as executive director of Washington, D.C.'s Sitar Arts Center, an award-winning afterschool program.

“Ed brings exactly the skills, experience and passion that we need to this job,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “He knows first-hand the difference that quality afterschool programs make in the lives of children, and knows what it takes to make programs work for kids. Ed has tremendously impressive fundraising credentials, as well. We’re delighted to have Ed Spitzberg on our team.”

Spitzberg came to the Sitar Arts Center in 2007. The organization works to give underserved children and youth the opportunity to explore and study the visual and performing arts in an afterschool “safe haven.” Under Spitzberg’s leadership, the organization grew its fundraising significantly, forged new partnerships with leading arts organizations in the nation’s capital, including the Cathedral Choral Society, the DC Jazz Festival, Berklee College of Music, and Sahara Dance, and expanded existing partnerships with The Washington Ballet, Corcoran Museum, Arena Stage, Shakespeare Theatre, National Symphony Orchestra, Washington Performing Arts Society, and others. In 2009, Sitar Arts Center won the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award (formerly the Coming Up Taller Award), presented by the First Lady in the White House; it recognized the Center as one of the nation’s outstanding and inspiring programs.

Prior to that, Spitzberg was development director for Arena Stage, one of the nation’s leading regional theaters, and a national center for the production, presentation, development and study of the American theater.

“I’m excited to join the Afterschool Alliance staff,” Spitzberg said. “Having seen first-hand every afternoon the impact that quality afterschool programs make on young people, I understand in very personal terms why we need more such programs, and why we need the Afterschool Alliance out there advocating on behalf of that mission. This is a tough funding environment for afterschool, and many programs are suffering.

Unfortunately, that means the families, kids and communities they serve are suffering, too. The Afterschool Alliance plays a vital role in reminding policymakers, the media, business leaders and others of the great unmet need for quality afterschool programs. I look forward to helping in that effort.”

Spitzberg holds an MBA from the Anderson School at UCLA, and a BA from Yale University.

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The Afterschool Alliance is a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization working to ensure that all children and youth have access to quality afterschool programs. More information is available at www.afterschoolalliance.org.