



# Duke Ellington

*school of the arts*

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## **LOCAL TEEN DONATES \$10,000 TO DUKE ELLINGTON SCHOOL OF THE ARTS**

Washington, DC – At 3 p.m. on Thursday, October 26, 15-year-old Alexandra (“Alex”) Tievy of Rockville, MD, will visit the Duke Ellington School of the Arts to deliver a \$10,000 check she’ll be donating to the area’s only public arts school.

In April, Tievy, a die-hard Dave Chappelle fan, persuaded her parents to cough up \$4,000 to win a local radio station’s auction tickets to the comedian’s benefit performance at the Kennedy Center. Upon attending the event, she discovered the Duke Ellington School of the Arts, from which the star graduated in 1991.

“I heard the New Washingtonians, the Ellington jazz orchestra that was opening for Chappelle, and I knew the school is doing amazing things,” says Tievy. Instantly, Ellington became her champion cause.

After the initial \$4,000 donation for the Chappelle tickets, Tievy set about further fundraising for the school, persuading family and friends to contribute almost \$1,000 more. “I wanted to do everything I could to help,” says the Thomas S. Wootton High School sophomore.

But it didn’t feel like enough. Earlier this week, Tievy called Ellen Copley, Executive Director of the Ellington Fund, to inform her that she’d be stopping by with another check. “When she told me she’d decided to redirect the funds allotted for her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday party and some of her savings to a worthier cause, my mouth dropped,” says Copley. “I’ve never met a more selfless, charitable teen. Alex will have contributed a total of \$15,000 to Ellington.”

“The Ellington School is a great opportunity for kids who wouldn’t otherwise have the chance to develop their talent, and it feels great to know I’m making a difference,” says Tievy.

**Duke Ellington School of the Arts** is an accredited college preparatory public school of the District of Columbia offering pre-professional training in museum studies, literary media, visual arts, dance, theater, instrumental and vocal music. Ellington offers students an educational experience that combines both academic studies and artistic development. Our vision is to meet the needs of talented students who are considering careers in the arts by providing intensive arts instruction of the highest quality and strong academic curriculum and to prepare students for post-secondary education and/or pre-professional careers. Ellington’s unique partnership with The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, The George Washington University, and the Smithsonian provides significant opportunities to the students, faculty and staff.

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