



For Immediate Release  
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### **Kid Pan Alley Takes Responsibility for “Part of the 99” Song**

Charlottesville, VA— Kid Pan Alley’s Founder and Artistic Director, Paul Reisler, the songwriter facilitating the October 2011 residency at Woodbrook Elementary, takes full responsibility for the songwriting process that resulted in the song titled “Part of the 99.” The students selected the topic for their song and wrote to express their ideas about setting priorities in life, but that message has become overshadowed by the use of phrases that are currently politically charged, such as “I’m part of the 99” and “they’re the one percent.”

Reisler acknowledges that he should have avoided the introduction of these phrases into the songwriting process. Reisler stated, “This is a song about being satisfied with what you have—a song about how life has its ups and downs, as so many people in our country are experiencing now. It was my personal mistake to introduce these phrases and I take complete responsibility for it. I will not make a mistake like this again.”

Kid Pan Alley is a well-established and well-supported program of creative expression that has helped children work together in collaborative ways to inspire the belief that they can create their own dreams. Over the past 12 years, Kid Pan Alley has written over 2,000 songs in collaboration with over 30,000 children. We deeply regret that a program that has provided such a positive experience for so many children has resulted in generating negative media attention and comment.

The Kid Pan Alley Board of Directors has taken immediate steps to address concerns that resulted from this incident. As indicated in a statement released earlier this week, the organization clarified its guidelines for lyrical content to ensure consistency and adherence to practices aligned to the mission of the organization and the expectations for excellence held by partner schools. The Board has undertaken actions to ensure that future residencies will deliver a quality experience for all participants that is in keeping with Kid Pan Alley’s excellent reputation.

*Kid Pan Alley’s mission is to inspire and empower children to work together to become creators of their own music and to rekindle creativity as a core value in education.*