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**MAYOR THOMAS M. MENINO TO JOIN  
DAVID & AURÉLIE EDWARDS AND THE CLOUD FOUNDATION  
IN ANNOUNCING MAJOR EDUCATION INITIATIVE:  
BOSTON 100K ARTSCIENCE INNOVATION PRIZE**

Boston, Mass, Jan. 5, 2009 – Mayor Thomas M. Menino will join David and Aurélie Edwards in announcing a major education initiative: the first annual **Boston 100K ArtScience Innovation Prize**. This prize competition will be the first of its kind in the nation.

The Boston 100K ArtScience Innovation Prize is a collaboration between the Cloud Foundation, the Boston Mayor's office, the Idea Translation Lab at Harvard University, Le Laboratoire, Paris and Boston World Partnerships. Its purpose is to catalyze a renaissance generation among Boston's public high school students by helping them develop the intellectual tools for cross-disciplinary learning and creative thought.

**How It Works**

The ArtScience Prize aims to educate through the process of creation, to explore ideas and conduct experiments at the intersection of art and science, and to create social impact. Throughout this school-year-long program, teams of Boston Public High School teens will be mentored by professional artists, scientists, and entrepreneurs to develop project concepts and present their ideas to a panel of judges. Their project development process will be guided through workshops at the Cloud Foundation's Boston-based urban teen arts center known as Cloud Place and at the Idea Translation Lab at Harvard, an experimental idea development center focusing on processes at the core of cross-disciplinary work. Youth projects may take the form of museum exhibitions, new for-profit companies or nonprofit organizations, and other forms of art and science innovations. One team of high school teens will be awarded a \$100,000 prize and a trip to Paris, France where they will conduct further work on their project at the innovative artscience space *Le Laboratoire*. High school teams that are not selected as the \$100k prize recipients will have their work presented in a public forum, and will be guided toward internships and education opportunities to further explore their cross-disciplinary interests.

**What is ArtScience?**

Today's challenges require a level of creative thinking that goes beyond the kind of specialization found in traditional learning. The ArtScience Prize focuses on the catalytic process of idea development – or *artscience* – that space where art and science meet. Identified in David Edwards' book *ArtScience: Creativity in the Post-Google Generation*, *artscience* is an experiential education method that has no right or wrong answers but rather 'empowers our youth to dream, to think across many fields, and in that process learn how to work collaboratively and confidently.'

**Why Now?**

Today, as a nation, we are rethinking many of our old assumptions. At no time in recent memory has there been a greater urgency, or opportunity, to empower our students to take charge of their own learning and, as a result, develop the skills and mindsets to be tomorrow's innovators.

The Boston100K ArtScience Innovation Prize competition will enable Boston's youth to think across disciplines and become equipped to look for and find creative solutions that effect change in their own neighborhoods and, by extension, the world.

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## BOSTON 100K ARTSCIENCE INNOVATION PRIZE

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- WHO:** Mayor Thomas M. Menino,  
David and Aurélie Edwards (founders of the Cloud Foundation)  
Dr. Carol Johnson, Superintendent of Boston Public Schools  
Caroline Naphegyi, Artistic Director, Le Laboratoire (live from Le Laboratoire, Paris)
- WHAT:** Announcement of the first annual Boston 100K ArtScience Innovation Prize
- WHEN:** Wednesday, January 14th at 11:00 am
- WHERE:** Cloud Place, 647 Boylston Street in Boston
- WHY:** To inspire Boston's public high school students to engage in hands-on, socially relevant, and cross-disciplinary learning.

### David Edwards

David Edwards is a scientist and writer, and the founder of Le Laboratoire in Paris, France and the Cloud Foundation in Boston, Massachusetts. With a primary home in Paris, he retains a faculty position at Harvard University where he teaches idea development in the arts and sciences. David's scientific work focuses on new ways to deliver drugs and vaccines to patients by aerosols, especially for the treatment of infectious diseases in the developing world. His international nonprofit, Medicine in Need (MEND) applies David's work and the work of other international scientists to the study of tuberculosis, AIDS, and Malaria. With bases in Pretoria, South Africa, and Cambridge, Massachusetts, MEND also has a communication base in Paris where it collaborates with Le Laboratoire. David Edwards is the author of the three founding works of Le Laboratoire: *Artscience: Creativity in the Post-Google Generation* (Harvard University Press, 2008) describes the emergence of creativity at the border of what is conventionally perceived as art or science; the novel *Niche* (Beaux-arts de Paris les éditions, 2007) is a first novel of the "Séguier Series," written in collaboration with the American novelist Jay Cantor. *Niche* explores the artscience process underlying Le Laboratoire's first experiments. A kind of philosophical tale in the spirit of Voltaire's *Candide*, this novel is the first of a series of three novels that accompany the opening of Le Laboratoire. The novel *Whiff* (Beaux-arts de Paris les éditions, 2009) is David Edwards' second Séguier novel and accompanies the opening of Le Laboratoire's FoodLab with Thierry Marx.

In 2008, David Edwards was made Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres by the French Ministry of Culture. In the same year he was elected to the French National Academy of Engineering. He has been a member of the American National Academy of Engineering since 2001.

### Aurelie Edwards

Aurelie Edwards is the co-founder of the Cloud Foundation in Boston, Massachusetts and holds a faculty position in the Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering at Tufts University with a specialty in renal biomathematics. Aurelie Edwards received her PhD from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Chemical Engineering and has been widely published. Her special appreciation and sensitivity to the importance of cross-cultural learning developed from a young age, as she studied in France, the US and many other countries in Europe, Africa and South America.

### Cloud Foundation

The Cloud Foundation is a Boston-based nonprofit organization focused on providing high-quality arts education and youth development opportunities for local underserved teens. At the core of the Cloud's mission is a belief in the transformative power of art to enrich the lives of urban youth. At the heart of this mission is Cloud Place - a professional studio, media, and performance space for teen artists in Copley Square, Boston. Purchased in 2000 by founders David and Aurélie Edwards, Cloud Place is a central meeting ground for teens from different backgrounds to meet and work together. It is a space completely dedicated to Boston's teen arts community, utilized by 200-300 youth artists each week.

## **Le Laboratoire**

Founded by David Edwards, Le Laboratoire is a new innovation space in downtown Paris where artists and scientists perform collaborative experiments. The outcomes of these experiments are exhibited to the public in the form of contemporary art and design installations. Since opening in October 2007, Laboratoire exhibitions have attracted broad international attention with exhibition themes ranging from contemporary art, to industrial design, to humanitarian advocacy. The idea behind experiments at Le Laboratoire is that idea development in culture, industry, education and society can be conceived as a kind of experimentation where the catalyst for change, for movement – for innovation – is a fusion of those creative processes we conventionally think of as art and as science.

## **The Idea Translation Lab at Harvard University**

The Idea Translation Lab at Harvard aims to educate through the process of creation, to explore ideas and conduct experiments at the intersection of art and science, and to create social impact. The semester-long class is an experimental incubator with a focus on the catalytic process of idea development – what is called *artscience*. The ideas created harmonize diverse fields, fusing analytical and intuitive methods to effect change in the social, industrial, academic, and cultural sectors.