



# Project Create

Create art. Create opportunity. Create community

# 2017 YEAR IN REVIEW



**CREATIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT** *All Year Long!*



GREATER WASHINGTON

## “ONE OF THE BEST”

Project Create was named “One of the Best” nonprofits by the 2017 - 2018 Catalogue for Philanthropy: Greater Washington.

We are proud to have been featured by the Catalogue since their first publication in 2005! The Catalogue for Philanthropy focuses exclusively on small, community-based nonprofits that have been rigorously vetted by local philanthropic experts and judged to have effective programming and sound financing in addressing real social needs.



## ANACOSTIA STUDIO PROGRAMS

Every day at our studio on Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue in Southeast DC, Project Create offers visual, performing and digital media arts classes such as mixed-media collage, painting, theater improvisation, dance, documentary filmmaking, graphic design and illustration, and music production. In addition to daily classes, we host Open Studio after-school, which offers students a flexible space to learn and grow in creative practice in a supportive artistic environment.

## FAMILY ART DAY & EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKSHOPS

One of our favorite programs is our twice-monthly Family Art Days. On Saturday afternoons, Project Create opens the doors of our studio to local families to engage in artistic exploration, art-making and creative play, serving two or three generations of family members, from infants to grandmothers. In partnership with Inner City - Inner Child, we also offer special arts workshops once a month especially for the youngest Project Creatives, ages 0 to 5.



## PROJECT CREATE ELITE

Project Create ELITE (Energetically Lifting and Inspiring Teens to Excellence) is our new teen program, designed to develop and nurture leadership skills, cultivate critical thinkers, produce creative work that reflects students' interests, and strengthen teens' voices to drive change in their community. In 2017, filmmakers and teaching artists led our our teen students through the creation of a documentary film. This semester, ELITE students are working on the production of a podcast radio show that highlights current events related to our communities and city.

## SUMMER CAMP



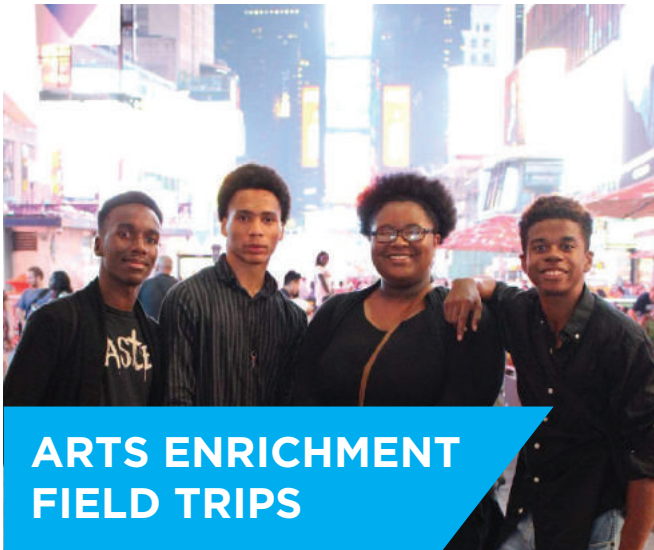
Students in our morning "Mini-Makers" camp (ages 6 to 12) at our Anacostia studio explored a variety of media, including painting, drawing, sculpture and collage. Our Teen Creator camp (ages 13 to 19) met every afternoon, and students worked in a variety of media to create portfolio-ready artwork. Our teens learned to paint with acrylics and light; sketched landscapes by the Anacostia River; tinkered with technology in art through digital design, photography, and editing; and created a mosaic on our studio staircase. Summer studio partners included Boys & Girls Club of Greater Washington, Martha's Table Healthy Connections, DC Commission on Arts and Humanities, and Marion S. Barry Summer Youth Employment (SYEP).

Project Create's Community Partnership Programs also had a full schedule of summer programming. We enjoyed partnerships with local community-based organizations, including DC Scores, Michigan Church Park, and Christ Child Society's Virginia Merrick Center to serve students in grades 2nd - 6th with a wide range of visual and performing arts projects. Classes included yoga with Khepera Wellness, step dance with Step Afrika, and digital media marketing and design.

## ARTS FOR YOUNG FAMILIES

### COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS

Since 1994, Project Create has worked in partnership with social service organizations that offer emergency, transitional and long-term housing to homeless families, as well as with out-of-school-time programs in underserved DC neighborhoods. In 2017, Project Create provided weekly art courses in partnership with Community of Hope; Sasha Bruce Youthwork; National Center for Children and Families at DC General; Girls on the Rise at Mary Virginia Merrick Center; Community Services Foundation at Carver Hall and Frederick Douglass Apartments; DCPS at Ketcham Elementary and Kramer Middle School; and Genesis at Mi Casa. Project Create also hosted weekend arts workshops for partners like BEST Kids and Fihankra Akoma Ntoaso (FAN).



### ARTS ENRICHMENT FIELD TRIPS

Through field trips to local cultural institutions, performances and exhibitions, Project Create encourages our students to be active and confident participants in the arts. These visits empower them to participate in the production of culture, as artists, curators and critics. 2017 field trip locales included the National Museum of African American History and Culture, Artomatic, American Visionary Art Museum, National Building Museum, Kennedy Center, and American University for the Environmental Film Festival. This year's highlight was a trip with our graduating seniors to New York City to see "Wicked" on Broadway and to visit the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Our new 15-passenger van, purchased in October, will allow us to take even more field trips in the new year!

Arts for Young Families, Project Create's newest community program, serves young parents (ages 17 to 24) and their young children simultaneously, providing opportunities for vulnerable families to create art, create opportunity and create community together. Parents act as guides and co-learners as their children create and explore through visual art and performing art. In 2017, in collaboration with Child and Family Services Agency and Georgia Avenue Family Strengthening Collaborative, as well as the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, Project Create provided Arts for Young Families programs at seven sites in DC Wards 4, 7 and 8.



### STUDENT EXHIBITIONS

We love showing off artwork created by Project Creatives. On May 13th, we exhibited our 2016 - 2017 student work in a show featuring over 100 unique pieces. On October 7th, our Arts for Young Families students and their families gathered in our studio to share their artwork and performance pieces. Exhibitions and performances are an important opportunity for Project Create students to share what they have learned and to demonstrate their artistic achievement.



## EVALUATION & IMPACT

Project Create had an amazing year with the Fair Chance Impact Academy. With expert guidance from our Fair Chance “capacity-builder”, we have strengthened our program design and outcomes measurement system. We were thrilled to implement our new and improved logic model for our PC ELITE program last semester. Stay tuned for exciting news about our results!



## STAFF & TEACHING ARTISTS

Project Create’s staff is led by three skilled, dynamic arts administrators. Christie Walser, whose own childhood was spent immersed in youth theater, serves as Executive Director. A talented violinist, Vaughn Bradley-Willemann manages community partnerships and programs. Lindsey Vance, painter and art therapist, is our Director of Studio Programs. Complementing this creative trio is a full roster of talented teaching artists, art therapists, interns and volunteers. A dedicated Board of Directors rounds out Project Create’s strong team.



THANK YOU

for your support in 2017!



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[www.projectcreatedc.org](http://www.projectcreatedc.org)

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