



## Happy Summer From The Arts Empowerment Project!

Now that we're in the heat of summer, we are busy hosting hot camps and classes! These include Free Arts, Culinary Camp, Promoting Peace + Justice and Encounters: Life Skills Seminars, held at our wonderful VAPA location. It's more important now than ever to ensure we offer these programs in the summer when school is not in session. Keeping this flow of continuity promotes additional learning and engagement. Our programs offer experiences with social and emotional learning components which provide life skills, resilience, conflict resolution and hope through the Arts.

With your continued support, our **Annual Shine Fundraiser** will secure funding for future programs like these.  
**SAVE THE DATE, October 12, 2023 and see below for details!**

### **SHINE Fundraiser**

**OCTOBER 12, 2023 | Mint Museum Uptown**

 the arts empowerment project  
INVITES YOU TO OUR ANNUAL

# Shine

**FUNDRAISER**

**October 12, 2023 at 6pm**

**THE MINT MUSEUM UPTOWN**  
500 S. Tryon Street

We invite you to join our cause to help children and teens embrace new opportunities that foster resilience and build essential life skills.

\*The Arts Empowerment Project is a 501(c)(3) organization.

**SAVE THE DATE**

Contact us for more information: [Shine.Event@theartsempowermentproject.org](mailto:Shine.Event@theartsempowermentproject.org)

Thank you for your past generosity and please consider donating to help ignite brighter futures.

DONATE

## RECENT PROGRAMS



### ArtVocation

### ArtVocation - Artist Career Day | June 27

Our ArtVocation Day was a huge success! Over 77 students ages K-4 attended VAPA (Visual and Performing Arts Center) to experience life skills and teaching through the arts. We had over 20 artists, volunteers, counselors, Board Members and staff who attended this special program. We were also able to secure food bags for each child to take home thanks to **Second Harvest Food Bank**



### Paint Party

### Paint Party | June 15

TAEP partnered with **Big Brothers Big Sisters** for our first paint party! Students brainstormed self-affirming words to decorate pots, flowers and plants, and discussed how plant care aligns with self-care. Nurturing a positive environment while learning life skills was key, and students were able to take their plants home to enjoy!



## HeART Packs | June 3

Volunteers joined us at VAPA On June 3rd to help pack up our HeART packs. These packs provide art supplies, messages of hope, snacks, toys, gift cards, and other goodies for kids to be able to do some summer art activities. HeART packs were delivered to three partnering **YWCA** centers and to **Safe Alliance**, an organization serving survivors of domestic violence. A special shout-out goes to **Girls on the Run** and **TD Bank** for their amazing support.

## HeART Packs



## Humane Society | April 7th.

TAEP was proud to partner with the **Humane Society of Charlotte** and the **YWCA of Central Carolinas** for our first Free Arts program back in April. Facilitators read "Please Puppy Please" by *Spike Lee and Tonya Lewis Lee*, creating a dialogue about empathy and understanding our furry friends. These youngsters created some wonderful art and a good time was had by all (hands and paws alike!)

## Free Arts - Humane Society

## Free Arts with Niner University | Spring 2023

We completed our Free Arts Programming with **Niner University at Amay James Elementary School** in May for the academic year! This program, which has been running since the fall of 2022, is to teach social skills, life skills, and lessons based on social and emotional learning



**Free Arts - Niner University**

components through art. The kids we serve (K-4) are the newest generation of creatives and we're proud of our work in this program.



**Promoting Peace + Justice**

**Promoting Peace + Justice | Spring 2023**

We finished up our spring sessions of Promoting Peace and Justice in late May. Our program with the **Charlotte Mecklenburg Sheriffs Department, CMPD, Arts Plus, and Nixon and Associates**, got together with our teens to promote understanding, awareness and to recognize bias. Kids and officers made self portraits, books, totes, took photos, and toured the city to experience art together. We are continuing this program for summer sessions.



North Carolina Arts Council  
Fifty years of leadership



Culture For All.



United Way of Central Carolinas



Funded in part by a grant from South Arts in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts.

# Thank you!

We are grateful for your dedication and commitment to helping us create a **brighter** future for our community's children.  
Thank you again for your generosity and support!



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