

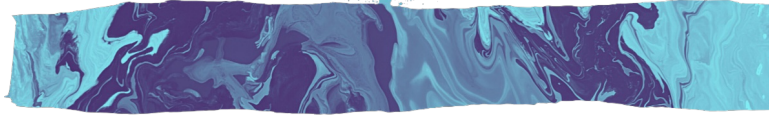


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January | 2024 | Newsletter

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NEW YEAR, NEW BEGINNINGS



# EMBRACING TRANSFORMATION

Through The Arts & Social Emotional Learning.



(Student Artwork From Encounters, 2023.)

## Our 2024 Resolutions

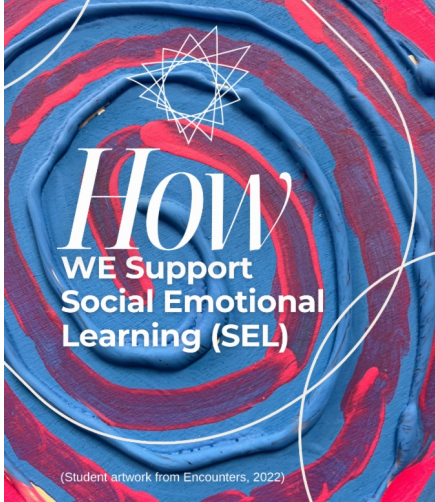
This year, we are highlighting the importance of our **Social Emotional Learning (SEL) components** which we use for our programming curriculum. We look forward to continuing to provide a safe space for students to use the visual and performing arts as a vehicle to opportunity, self-efficacy, transformative experiences, and empowerment.

We are resolute in our commitment to provide programs which help develop coping skills, explore conflict resolution, and provide inspiration for the children we serve who are some of the most vulnerable in our community. Our goal at TAEP is to break the cycles of trauma and violence by instilling the confidence, life skills, and resilience needed to realize a brighter future.

We are grateful for your support and look forward to the impact we can achieve together this year.

Click on the link below to see a detailed list of all our flagship programs.

[Programs List](#)



(Student artwork from Encounters, 2022)

“Experiences with art ... are particularly well suited to foster in students the development of key SEL competencies, including self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, and relationship skills.”

Quote from lesson plan book “Social and Emotional Learning Through Art” by The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York (2022)



@theartsempowermentproject

The Arts Empowerment Project is a transformative experience that connects K-12 students to lessons in art, music, dance, and theater. These creative fields provide Social Emotional Learning (SEL) opportunities that are not only fun, but also significant.

(Photo from “ArtVocation: Artist Career Day”, Summer 2023.)



## A Great Start To The Year

We are proud to announce our new partnership with CMS Schools. We’ve started our Free Arts programming at Sterling Elementary and Lebanon Road Elementary, and will continue our classes with K-5 students at Niner University Elementary. We are already seeing masterpieces from students who are on their way to exploring their talents and unlocking their potential.



**NINER UNIVERSITY  
ELEMENTARY**



## Our 2023 Accomplishments

We had many unique accomplishments in 2023.  
Below are some of our greatest hits...

### Pride Magazine Awards

The Arts Empowerment Project was presented with Pride Magazine's Inspiration Award in February 2023! Our CEO Natalie Frazier Allen was honored to accept the award at Pride Magazine's 30th Annual Gala.

We are grateful to Pride Communication's President and CEO, Dee Dixon, for this recognition and support of our commitment to serving the most vulnerable children in our community.



### Holiday HeART Packs

Thanks to our volunteers, donors, and team members, we delivered over 245 Holiday HeART Packs to local community organizations benefiting youth programs. We



were proud to partner with Safe Alliance, Niner University Elementary, and the YWCA.

These packs provide fun, inspiration, snacks, and an outlet for creativity over the holidays.



### Promoting Peace + Justice

Our Promoting Peace + Justice program was unprecedented with participation of teens and law enforcement officers creating a mural together.

These workshops bring teens who are at-risk and court-involved together with members of local law enforcement to help breakdown stereotypes and explore implicit bias and social justice issues through collaborative art.



### Our Annual SHINE Fundraiser

With your support, our 2023 Annual Shine Fundraiser garnered over \$138,000! Our sponsors, honorees, and guests gathered to share their commitment to our mission. Your contributions truly helped make a difference. Funds raised help further our work and enhance our ability to deliver impactful programs which build resilience and life skills for the children in our community who need it most.



Special Thanks To Our 2023 Sponsors

## Welcoming New Staff

We are excited to formally introduce Crystal Durham as our new Program Coordinator. Crystal retired from the Preschool/Elementary educational system where she served as a teacher and director.

We also have two superstar interns currently working with us: Jenna Brackett and Brittany Hodges; who are both earning their degrees in Social Work from the University of North Carolina in Charlotte.



**CRYSTAL DURHAM**  
Program Coordinator



**JENNA BRACKETT**  
UNCC MSW Intern



**BRITTANY HODGES**  
UNCC BSW Intern



Give Today

Thank You For Your Continued Support!



The Arts Empowerment Project is supported, in part, by the North Carolina Arts Council, Arts & Science Council, United Way of Central Carolinas, and a grant from South Arts in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts.



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