



Welcome to our May newsletter! This month, our theme is "Replenish Through The Arts & Social Emotional Learning." As we approach the summer months, it is crucial to recognize the importance of keeping children engaged in education even during their break from school. Research shows that students can experience a decline in academic knowledge during the summer months, known as the "summer slide." Through our upcoming programs and initiatives, we are committed to providing summer art activities that not only foster resilience and replenish the soul but also help fight against the summer slide. Join us in supporting our upcoming programs as we work together to ensure that children have access to enriching artistic experiences that keep their minds active and engaged throughout the summer. We invite you to support our programming this summer and year round! Follow us on social media for more updates.

[Programs List](#)

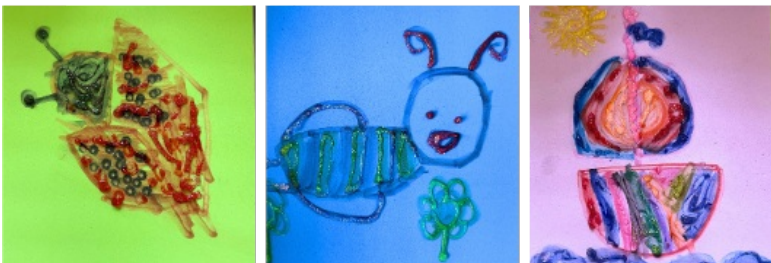
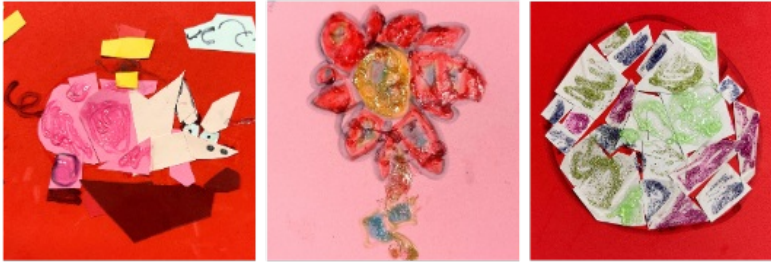
Current Programming News

In May, we wrapped up our **Free Arts Program** in collaboration with CMS elementary schools. Throughout the program, we explored various art projects such as Mosaics like the ones pictured below, while also focusing on important social and emotional learning aspects. We had a fantastic time during this semester's program and are grateful to CMS and Niner University for their support and hospitality towards our staff. We look forward to another great semester in the Fall!



**NINER UNIVERSITY
ELEMENTARY**

Student Art Work



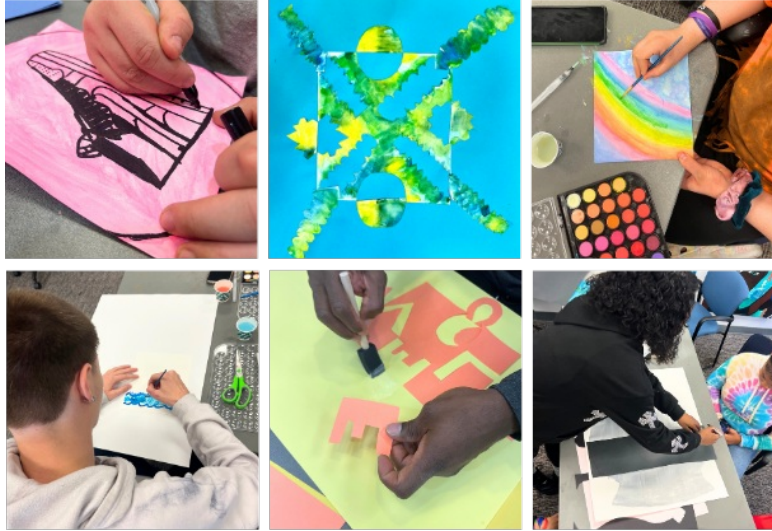
**SPRING 2024
ENCOUNTERS PROGRAM**

-Highlights-

Our Encounters and Promoting Peace + Justice Classes for the Spring semester have come to a close and what a fulfilling experience it has been for all involved. Participating students have the opportunity to explore life skills by using various art forms such as photography,

painting, and other multimedia arts, as a vehicle for positive self expression, practicing self-awareness, and mindfulness. Curated programs featuring visiting artists and facilitators provide a safe space for students to explore and express themselves and their ideas in creative ways.

We will continue our programming during our summer camps and are especially grateful for CMPD Sgt. Braithwaite and the participation of local law enforcement officers in this spring session. Their presence in the program not only provided valuable insights and perspectives, but also helped to foster positive connections between law enforcement and the community of youth we serve. This kind of collaboration is crucial in building trust and understanding between different groups.



The final class of the semester, held on May 4th, was a special one dedicated to creating an art piece in honor of the Fallen Local Law Enforcement Officers: Deputy U.S. Marshal Thomas Weeks, CMPD Officer Joshua Eyer, NC Department of Adult Corrections Officers Sam Poloche, and William Elliot. This beautiful tribute not only honored the memory of these officers, but also served as a reminder of the sacrifices they have made in service to our community.

As we reflect on the experiences and lessons learned in the Encounters and Promoting Peace + Justice Classes, we are filled with gratitude for the opportunity to come together, learn from each other, and work towards a more peaceful and just society. We look forward to continuing this important work in the future and encourage others to support our work in breaking the cycles of violence and trauma in the Charlotte community.

Upcoming Events



Summer HeART Packs

END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR HeART PACKS ARE HERE AGAIN!

Our End of the School Year HeART Packs will be distributed again soon! Our collection is underway through Saturday, June 1st. **HeART Packs will be distributed to benefit for underserved children in the community in K-5th grade.**

Many of these children lack the means for opportunities over the summer for camps or extracurricular activities. These packs provide an outlet for creativity, brimming with colorful art supplies, drawing pads, toys, games, snacks, and even gift cards and messages of hope.

Please click on our wishlist below for the link to donate.
Thank you!

HeART Packs Wish List Summer 2024



the arts empowerment project



2024 | 3rd Annual



Summer HeART Packs

What are HeART Packs?



HeART Packs are filled with:

- Assorted Art Supplies
- Snacks
- Toys
- Gift Cards
- Handwritten messages of encouragement.



They provide opportunities for children to participate in art and other activities from home. Especially for students who don't have the means to attend summer camps.



Packs will be distributed at the beginning of summer.

How can you help?

1 DONATE ART SUPPLIES

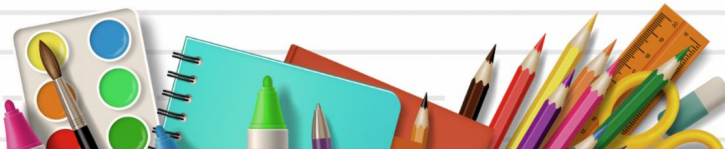


VIA OUR AMAZON WISHLIST



<https://amzn.to/3R0SKV4>

2 VOLUNTEER FOR PACK UP DAY



VAPA • 700 N Tryon St, Charlotte, NC 28202

To volunteer, donate or for more information, please contact:
julia@theartsempowermentproject.org

ART VOCATION DAY

6-27-24

Get ready for one of the most highly anticipated events of the year - **ART VOCATION DAY!** We are thrilled to host our second annual celebration where 140 students from grades K-12 will come together. They will have the unique opportunity to learn from a variety of visual, performing, and musical artists about potential careers in the art industry. Through interactive activities, students will explore the world of creating custom music, dance, and visual and digital arts. This event not only provides exposure and inspiration but also integrates social-emotional learning components into the art-making process, making learning a truly enjoyable and enriching experience!



the arts empowerment project

2024 | 2nd Annual

ART VOCATION DAY • JUNE 27

📍 VAPA • 700 N Tryon St, Charlotte, NC 28202

Featuring local artist...

Join us for a day of:

- 💡 Creativity
- 🎨 Art
- 🧠 Learning

from visual and performing artists!

- Lunch will be provided
- For K-12 grade



For more information, contact the Program Coordinator at:
crystal.durham@theartsempowermentproject.org



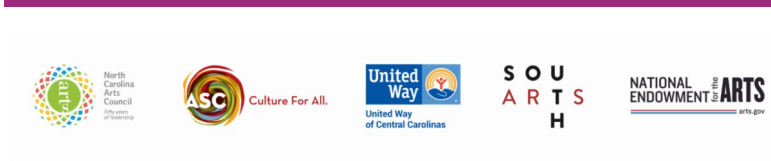
Give Today

Thank You For Your
Continued Support!

We have many opportunities to participate or volunteer for our various programs. Our 2024 programming consists of our **Encounters/Life Skills Program, HeART Packs, Promoting Peace + Justice, Art Vocation/Career Day, Culinary Camps, and Fall/Winter Holiday events.**

Keep posted for more information about us -please email info@theartsempowermentproject.org

Thanks to our volunteers, sponsors, donors, and team members who continue to keep our programs operating to serve some of the most vulnerable children in our community.



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.



The Arts Empowerment Project | 700 North Tryon Street | Charlotte, NC 28202 US

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