



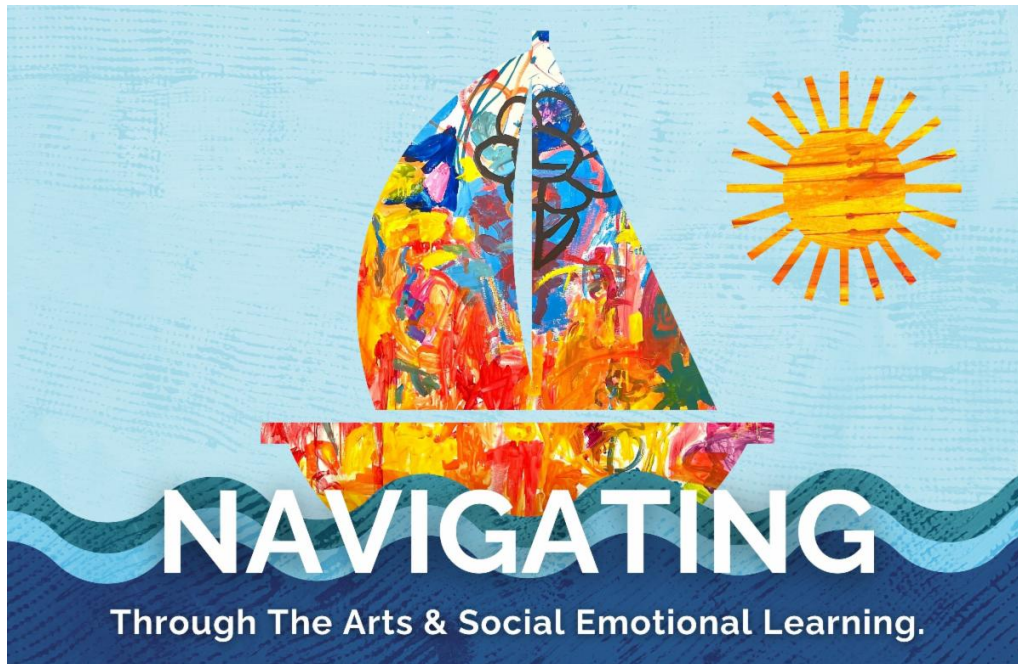
the arts empowerment project

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July | 2024 | Newsletter

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\*All textures and artwork displayed are created by students who have participated in our programs.



Welcome aboard to our latest newsletter and learn more about how we are "navigating through the arts and social emotional learning" with the students in our community.

This summer, we've had the pleasure of hosting multiple age groups at our camps. K-5 students and teens from partnering organizations in our community joined us for a unique photography and book making experience. We are grateful for the support we received for this program and look forward to continuing our mission through our upcoming Culinary Camp in August and our highly anticipated SHINE Fundraiser on October 16, 2024. We appreciate your ongoing support and commitment to our organization and the youth we serve.

Sincerely,  
Natalie Frazier Allen | Founder & CEO  
The Arts Empowerment Project

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**Recent Programming News**

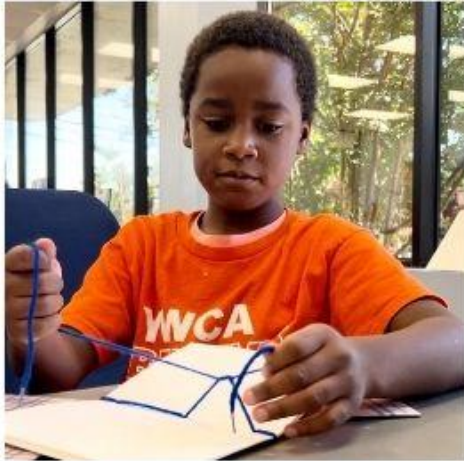


### ENCOUNTERS: LIFE SKILLS

This summer's Encounters Program was a fantastic opportunity for K-5 students from local YWCA Centers and teens from our partnering organizations to join us for a unique photography lessons and book making experiences. Students used a combination of Polaroid and professional cameras to capture special moments of themselves and explore the community focusing on capturing the essence of their surroundings and creating personalized photo albums and printed books to cherish.

Throughout the program, the theme of community was emphasized, tying into important life skills lessons on positive connections, building resilience, and social and emotional awareness. Students worked with artist and poet Shane Manier to pair their photos with impactful poems, resulting in a beautiful book that will serve as a keepsake for all students. Talented artists and facilitators along with several creative organizations, including Arts+, McColl Center, Nine Eighteen Nine Studio Gallery, Planet Improv, and Youth Meditation, partnered with us to provide a positive outlet for students to express themselves, explore new opportunities, and connect with their community in a meaningful way.

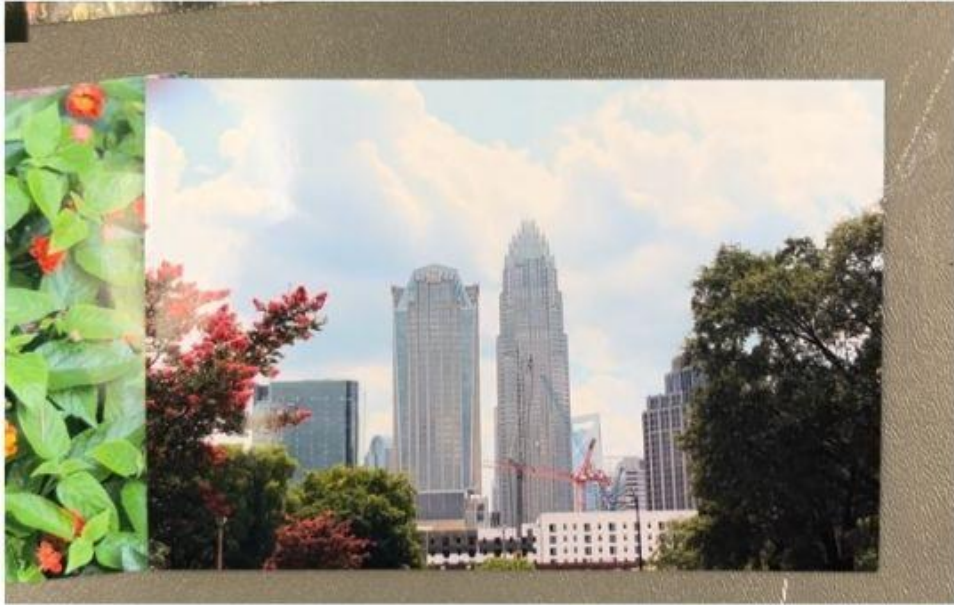






# TEEN ENCOUNTERS

*- Highlights -*





@theartsempowermentproject

### ENCOUNTERS: PROMOTING PEACE + JUSTICE

As part of our Summer Encounters: Life Skills Program, CMPD Officers joined us for the Promoting Peace + Justice segment of our program, which addresses community policing, responsible decision-making, gun violence prevention, implicit bias, and breaking cycles of trauma and violence. Sergeant Brathwaite and local CMPD officers actively engaged in meaningful dialogue with students by answering questions, sharing thoughts and experiences, fostering connections, and promoting a culture of peace and justice within our community.



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## Upcoming Events

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As we continue our Encounters: Life Skills Program offerings, we are excited to host our **Summer Culinary Camp**! This program, led by professional chefs, will immerse students in the world of cooking and culinary arts. The themes for this summer's camp are "Summer Hosting" and "The Best Celebration." Students will develop skills in healthy eating, nutrition choices, shopping on a budget, meal prep, cooking, and etiquette. Participants will also have the opportunity to explore various career tracks in the culinary arts.



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**Summer CULINARY CAMP!**

**August 7th & 14th**

🕒 10am-3pm \* Must attend all class dates.

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

This program, led by professional chefs, will immerse students in the world of cooking and culinary arts. The themes for this summer's culinary camp are "Summer Hosting" and "Best Celebration", where students will develop skills in healthy eating, nutrition, shopping, and cooking. Participants will also have the opportunity to explore various career tracks in the culinary arts.



For more info, contact the Program Coordinator at: [crystal.durham@theartsempowermentproject.org](mailto:crystal.durham@theartsempowermentproject.org)



the arts empowerment project

**Summer CULINARY CAMP!**

Tuesdays & Thursdays on:  
**August 6th, 8th, 13th & 15th.**

🕒 10am-3pm \* Must attend all class dates.

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

This program, led by professional chefs, will immerse students in the world of cooking and culinary arts. The themes for this summer's culinary camp are "Summer Hosting" and "Best Celebration", where students will develop skills in healthy eating, nutrition, shopping, and cooking. Participants will also have the opportunity to explore various career tracks in the culinary arts.



For more info, contact the Program Coordinator at: [crystal.durham@theartsempowermentproject.org](mailto:crystal.durham@theartsempowermentproject.org)

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
Join us for our Annual SHINE Fundraiser on  
**October 16, 2024 at 6:00 PM**



the arts empowerment project  
INVITES YOU TO OUR ANNUAL

**Shine**  
FUNDRAISER

**October 16, 2024 - 6:00PM**

**THE MINT MUSEUM UPTOWN  
CHARLOTTE, NC**

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**



The Arts Empowerment Project is excited to announce its 2024 Annual Fundraiser!

Proceeds from this event will help continue the organization's mission of breaking cycles of violence and trauma by providing art opportunities that ignite change in vulnerable youth. Invitation with ticket and event details to follow.

We look forward to having you join us!

Contact us for more information at:  
[Natalie@theartsempowermentproject.org](mailto:Natalie@theartsempowermentproject.org)



Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to support vulnerable youth in our community and follow us on socials to see the impact you've made!



THANK YOU!



Left to right: Board Member, Dwayne Wilson with Summer Interns Daimen McNeal and Ian Rosenberg

We are thankful for the invitation from Blumenthal Performing Arts, which provided our team with an opportunity to be a part of a wonderful networking event and attend a performance



of “Back to The Future: The Musical.”

We look forward to navigating through more of these exciting opportunities and invite you to support us as we continue our mission by broadening horizons, fostering resilience, and building life skills to make a positive impact in the lives of vulnerable youth through the power of creativity and connections.

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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/Promoting Peace + Justice, HeART Packs, Free Arts, Art Vocation/Career Day, Culinary Camp, and Fall/Winter Holiday events.**

To learn more about us -please email us at [info@theartsempowermentproject.org](mailto:info@theartsempowermentproject.org) or visit <https://theartsempowermentproject.org/about/>

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.

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North Carolina Arts Council  
fifty years of leadership



**Infusion Fund**  
A Partnership for Arts + Culture



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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