



Our SHINE 2025 Fundraiser Was A Night To Remember!

Dear Greetings! we are thrilled to share highlights from an unforgettable evening of creativity, connection, and purpose at **SHINE 2025!**

On October 1st, more than **180 guests** came together at the Mint Museum Uptown to celebrate the brilliance and resilience of young people across our community. Together, we laughed, created, and raised vital funds to expand access to arts-based healing and empowerment programs for youth who need them most.

Because of your generosity, **SHINE 2025** raised nearly one-third of The Arts Empowerment Project's annual operating budget, helping ensure that we can continue providing transformative arts programming, mentoring, and community engagement opportunities for youth throughout Charlotte.



[DONATE](#)

To every sponsor, board member, guest, host committee member, donor, in-kind partner, table captain, student, team member, and volunteer—**Thank you.** You made our night sparkle brighter than ever before.

Highlights From The Night

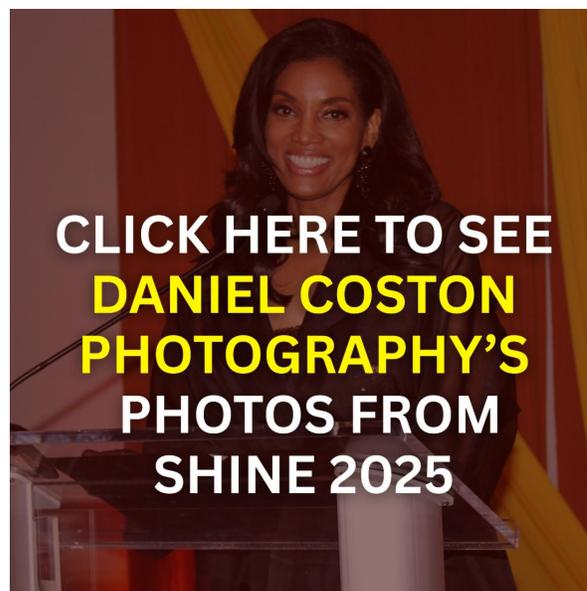
We were honored to celebrate three remarkable women whose leadership continues to inspire and uplift our community:

- Bonita Buford**, *Outstanding Community Leadership Award*
- Sonya Pfeiffer** | SE CLT
Gallery - *Corporate Leadership Award*
- Makayla Binter**, *Outstanding Leadership in Arts Award*



The live and silent auctions brought joy, connection, and meaningful support for youth arts programming in 2025.

Guests collaborated on a **community mural in progress** designed by **Makayla Binter**, recipient of this year's *Outstanding Leadership in Arts Award*.







Spotlight: Community Mural in Progress

At **SHINE 2025**, guests added their own color and voices to our community mural, designed by our honoree and artist, Makayla Binter.

As part of a grant from the System of Care Community Collaborative of Mecklenburg, The Arts Empowerment Project is leading a community-based mural project aimed at reducing stigma around mental health, increasing acceptance of services, and raising



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the arts empowerment project

INVITES YOU TO OUR

ANNUAL *Shine* FUNDRAISER

OCTOBER 1, 2025 | 6:00 PM

AT THE MINT MUSEUM
UPTOWN, CHARLOTTE, NC

500 S. Tryon Street, Charlotte, NC

We invite you to join our cause to help
children and teens envision
a brighter tomorrow.



Follow us to see more!

JOIN OUR CELEBRATION!

On behalf of CEO Natalie Frazier Allen and Board Chair Marcus Kimbrough, you're invited to a festive evening with live music, hors d'oeuvres, special performances, and auction items showcasing the best of the Queen City.

2025 SHINE HOST COMMITTEE

Natalie Frazier Allen and Hugh Allen | Katie and Mark Caldwell
Carolyn and John Corsi | Autumn M. Gagarinas
Courtney and William Hyder | Nina and James Jackson
Helen and Marcus Kimbrough | Nichelle and Sid Levy
Adrienne and Bruce McDonald | Posey and Mark Mealey
April and Joseph Penna

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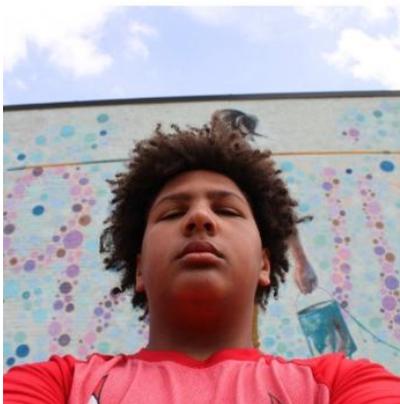
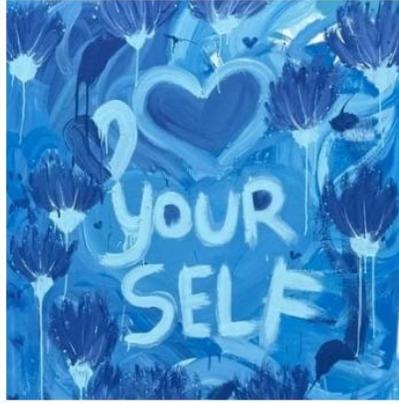
Executive Producer and Co-host of Positively Charlotte.

ATTIRE: Creative Cocktail

Stay tuned for more SHINE highlights
and share the excitement:



DONATE TODAY!



Funded in part by 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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