



the arts empowerment project

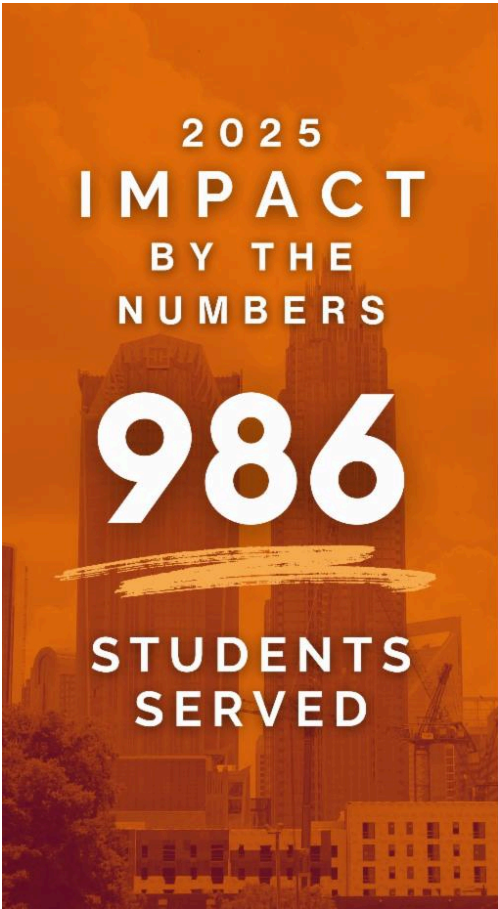
APRIL | 2026 | NEWSLETTER



OUR COMMUNITY IMPACT!

In 2025, we proudly served **986 students** across our programs! Our reach spanned across grade levels, with 65% of participants in elementary school, building strong creative foundations early on. Together, we delivered **5,563 hours of student engagement across 184 sessions**, supported by 37 dedicated facilitators, 106 volunteers, and 26 community partners. These numbers reflect more than participation—they represent meaningful connections, creative expression, and a thriving community. Take a look at our **2025 Community Impact Report highlights**, or click below to download a PDF version.

HIGHLIGHTS




5,563
Total Student
Contact Hours


1,469
Cumulative
Student Attendance


184
Total
Sessions

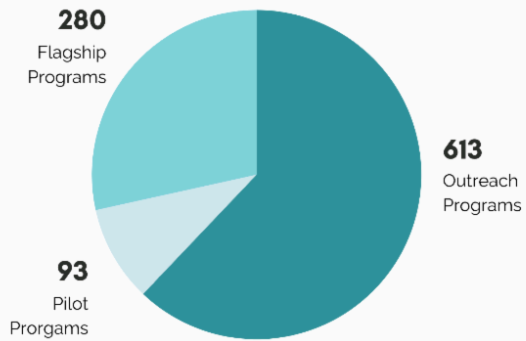

106
Total
Volunteers


26
Community
Partners

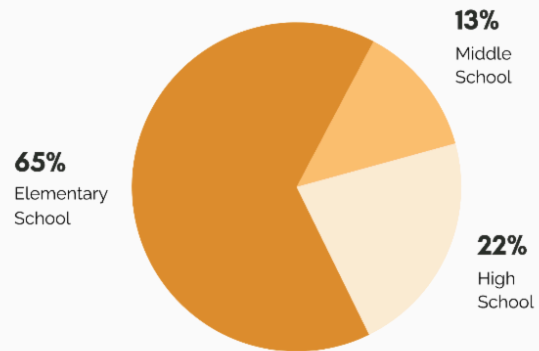

37
Program
Facilitators

986 Students Served Breakdown

By All Programs & Outreach



By Grade Level



7

RECENT PROGRAMS



Facts & Snacks: Exploring The Art Of Healing

Featuring art activities, snacks, performances
and a Child Abuse Prevention Panel.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for Facts & Snacks: Exploring The Art Of Healing. Your presence made this meaningful. The pinwheels we planted in front of the VAPA Center symbolize Child Abuse Awareness Month! We hope their beauty will inspire you to reflect on the importance of protecting children and creating safe, environments where children feel supported.

We are deeply grateful to our incredible panelists, Angelica Foster, Carla Carlisle, Natalie Frazier Allen and Judge Aretha Blake for sharing their insight, expertise, and commitment to child advocacy.

A special thank you to our talented performers:
Elizabeth Erenberg, Friday Jones, and Larrin Granderson.

To our volunteers and community members, thank you for your support!



Hip-Hop & Healing

"Brushstrokes & Balance: Mindfulness Painting Workshop"

Our recent Hip-Hop & Healing session brought creativity and reflection together in a powerful way. Special thanks to partners My Brother's Keeper Charlotte, and artists YUNG Citizen and Michael Grant for leading the conversation on the "Beat of Wellbeing," where they explored how hip-hop can serve as a mental health toolkit that empowers youth to use their creative skills to strengthen community wellness. Participants also had the chance to begin a collaborative canvas piece, marking the start of an ongoing community art project that will continue to evolve in future sessions. We're grateful to everyone who shared their energy, and contributed to this experience!



Artist Michael Grant, TAEP CEO Natalie Allen, Artist YUNG Citizen, MBK's DeAnthony Logan
at Hip-Hop & Healing 2026.



"Where The Wild Things Are"

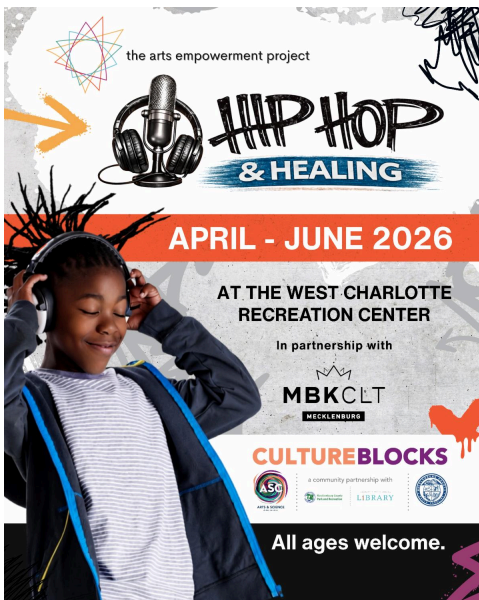
A Fiber Arts Monsters Workshop

Over several weeks at Charlotte Lab School, Arts Facilitators Cat Babbie and Pam Imhof guided K–5 students through a hands-on fiber arts journey that culminated in a delightful Gallery Showcase of “little monsters.” Each student wove their own unique creature, bringing personality and imagination to life through yarn and storytelling. The celebration was made even more special by TAEP intern Emily Iley, who read *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak a classic story about facing fears and embracing adventure. Inspired by the book, students also wrote original stories to build imaginative worlds around their monsters, turning the showcase into a vibrant fusion of art, literacy, and self-expression.



Pictured: Charlotte Lab School Teacher Emily Funk, Arts Facilitator Cat Babbie, TAEP Intern Emily Iley and Arts Facilitator Pam Imhof.

UPCOMING SPRING / SUMMER EVENTS & PROGRAMS



Hip-Hop & Healing

A Youth Focused Program, Open to the Public.

Hip-Hop & Healing is a creative residency featuring 60 minute sessions that engage the community through visual and performing arts, amplifying storytelling and spoken word as a platform for healing and expression. Come as you are. Explore creative pathways to careers in the arts.

Students will also receive credit for volunteer hours.



MAY SCHEDULE

WED, 5/6/2026 | 5:30PM
Kinetic Connection: Dance & Wellness with Charlotte Ballet

SAT, 5/9/2026 | 11:00AM
Bars & Battles: Black Men, Mental Health & the Mic (Panel)

WED, 5/13/2026 | 5:30PM
The Youth Mic: "Mic as Medicine" Youth Edition

SAT, 5/16/2026 | 11:00AM
The Foundation: Hip-Hop Dance with TwinNation

WED, 5/20/2026 | 5:30PM
Healing in Harmony: Community Dialogue Circle

SAT, 5/23/2026 | 11:00AM
The Healing Canvas: Collaborative Art Piece Kickoff

WED, 5/27/2026 | 5:30PM
Pop-Up Gallery: Community Showcase

Program Timeline: April - June 2026

Location:

West Charlotte Recreation Center
2401 Kendall Dr, Charlotte, NC 28216

In partnership with: The West Charlotte Recreation Center, community artists & My Brother's Keeper Charlotte

***Hip-Hop & Healing is sponsored by ASC Culture Blocks—a community partnership funded by Mecklenburg County.**

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Food served at each session.



the arts empowerment project

SUMMER HeART Packs

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Summer HeART Packs

Pack Up Day: Saturday May 30th
Time: 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Help us pack **125 HeART Packs** for students K-12 in underserved communities. With your support we can meet our goal! Our Summer HeART Packs are filled with **art supplies, snacks, toys and summer goodies!**

[DONATE SUPPLIES](#)

[RSVP to Volunteer on May 30th](#)



Game On: Build Your Own Game, Explore Coding, Ai, & Building a Portfolio

Ready to turn your love for gaming and coding into a real-world skill? We're looking for students who want to build, play, and explore the future of technology.

No experience necessary.

Contact Ava Powchak via the email below for more information about this program.

Ava@theartsempowermentproject.org



Give Today

Thank You For Your Continued Support!

We have many opportunities to participate or volunteer for our various programs. Our 2025 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 visit 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.

How did you like this email?



CULTUREBLOCKS



Funding provided, in part, by the ASC Culture Blocks. Funding also provided, 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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