



the arts empowerment project

A NEW SEASON, A FRESH UPDATE | 2026 | NEWSLETTER



SNIP, SNIP - We're Open! ✂️ 🎉

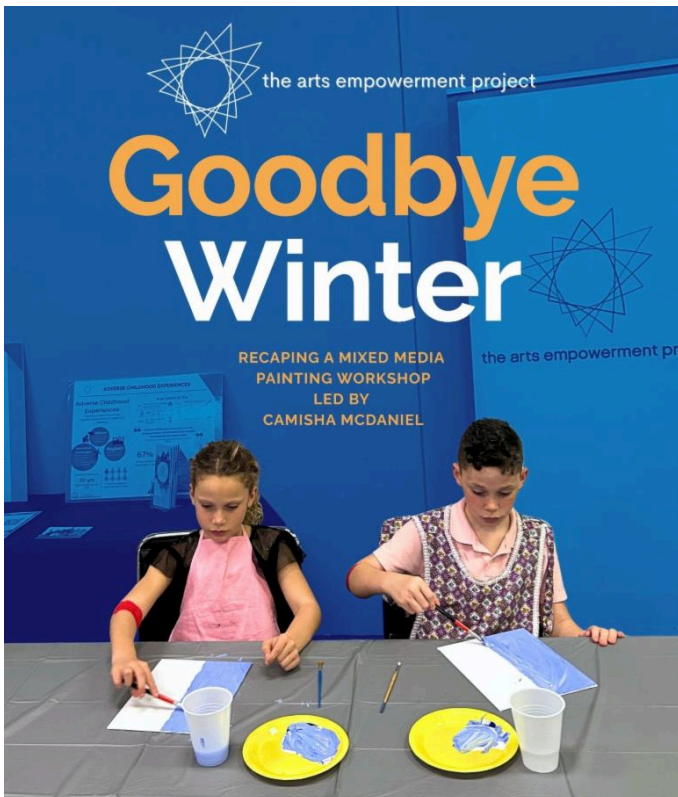
Thank you to everyone who joined us in celebrating the ribbon cutting of our newly renovated classroom space—an exciting milestone for our organization and the students we serve.

This transformation represents more than just a physical upgrade; it's a vibrant, inspiring environment where young people can learn, create, and grow. **With this new space, we're expanding our programming and opening the door to even more opportunities that foster creativity, confidence, and community.**

We are deeply grateful to our board members and longtime donors for planting the early seeds of this project and continuing to champion our growth, and we extend special thanks to all our partners, including the Albemarle Foundation, Alfred Williams & Company (Charlotte), Dorerre Construction, The Foundation For Black Philanthropy | Foundation For The Carolinas, Gensler (Charlotte), Jordan Zell, Joey Penna, Lowe's Companies, Inc. (Central Charlotte), and the VAPA Center—for helping bring this vision to life.



RECENT PROGRAMS



GOODBYE WINTER

Open Studios Workshop
Led By Artist Camisha McDaniel
March 21, 2026

Artist Camisha McDaniel guided guests through a mixed media journey of transformation—a drop-in workshop focused on art and letting go of the cold to make space for growth, color, and new beginnings.



SPRING CULINARY CAMP

"Tex-Mex Culinary Dishes"

Culinary Classes with CPCA Chefs

March 21, 2026

Our Spring Culinary Camp is officially in session!

Students dove into Mexican-inspired flavors—cumin, bouillon, and cinnamon filled the air as they explored new techniques and recipes. The highlight? Handmade tortillas that brought it all together! Huge thank you to Chef Beth and Chef Deidre for guiding such a flavorful and fun kickoff. Our students loved every moment!

UPCOMING FALL EVENTS / PROGRAMS



Hip-Hop & Healing

A Youth Focused Program, Open to the Public.

Explore the four pillars of hip-hop while building tools for mental wellness. Through storytelling, public speaking, creative expression, and mural design, participants learn new ways to express emotions and reduce stress. Each **60 minute session** is a drop-in experience —come as you are, connect with others, and create a lasting legacy in West Charlotte.

Program Timeline: April - June 2026

Full Program Schedule (Dates/Times):

<http://bit.ly/4sHFkK8>

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER.

Location:

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

APRIL
Each 60 minute session is a drop-in experience. See caption for registration details!

4/4/2026 | 11:00AM
The Mic as Medicine: Community Open Mic (Vol. 1)

4/8/2026 | 5:30PM
Verses & Voices:
Women, Mental Health & Survival (Panel)

4/18/2026 | 11:00AM
Brushstrokes & Balance:
Mindfulness Painting Workshop

4/22/2026 | 5:30PM
The Pulse: Hip-Hop & Healing Spring Concert

4/25/2026 | 11:00AM
Rhythm & Release: Community Music Jam

APRIL IS NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

FACTS & SNACKS
EXPLORING THE ART OF HEALING

JOIN US
APRIL 18 • 11AM - 1PM
VAPA | 700 N Tryon St, Charlotte, NC 28202

Performances • Panel Discussion • Art Activities

Facts & Snacks: Exploring The Art Of Healing

Date: Saturday, April 18

Time: 11am - 1pm

Join us for our annual panel discussion and pinwheel planting event dedicated to Child Abuse Prevention Month!

We are engaging the community through:

- 🎨 Drop-in art activities
- 💙 Pinwheel planting
- 🍿 Snacks
- 🎤 Performances from local artist
- 🧠 Panel discussion

Follow us on our socials for more announcements!

FACTS & SNACKS • EXPLORING THE ART OF HEALING

the arts empowerment project

Panelist



Angelica Foster
Guardian ad Litem
Program Supervisor



Carle Carlisle
Author & Strategist for
Mental Health & Resilience



Natalie Frazier Allen
Founder & CEO
The Arts Empowerment Project



The Honorable Renee Little
Juvenile District
Court Judge

Performers

Elizabeth Erenberg | Flautist
friday jones | Singer
Larrin Granderson | DJ

Activities

Button Making
Community Mural
Pinwheel Planting



the arts empowerment project

GAME ON

BUILD YOUR OWN GAME. EXPLORE AI. BUILD A PORTFOLIO.



TIMELINE

COMING SOON...

MEETINGS ARE TWICE A MONTH. (1 IN PERSON, 1 VIRTUAL)

VAPA | 700 N TRYON ST, CHARLOTTE, NC 28202
@theartsempowermentproject

Game On: Build Your Own Game, Explore Ai, Build A Portfolio

Ready to turn your love for gaming 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.

Interested in participating?

Reach out to our Program Coordinator **Ava Powchak!**

Email: 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



a community partnership with



North
Carolina
Arts
Council
*Fifty years
of leadership*



S O U
A R T S
H



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.



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

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!