



INNER-CITY ARTS
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WORK OF ART

Preparing Young Adults
for College and/or
Creative Careers



INNER-CITY ARTS



WHO WE ARE

Inner-City Arts, widely regarded as one of the nation's most effective arts education providers, is an oasis of learning, achievement and creativity in the heart of Skid Row, and a vital partner in the work of creating a safer, healthier Los Angeles. Under the guidance of teaching artists, Inner-City Arts' students are immersed in a safe and supportive environment where they engage in a variety of visual and performing art forms in studio settings.

Students who attend Inner-City Arts develop skills that are highly valued in the 21st-century workforce such as collaboration, creativity and critical thinking. Inner-City Arts' services include classes during the instructional day for elementary students, after-school, weekend and summer workshops for teens, creativity-based professional development for educators, and events for the community in The Rosenthal Theater.

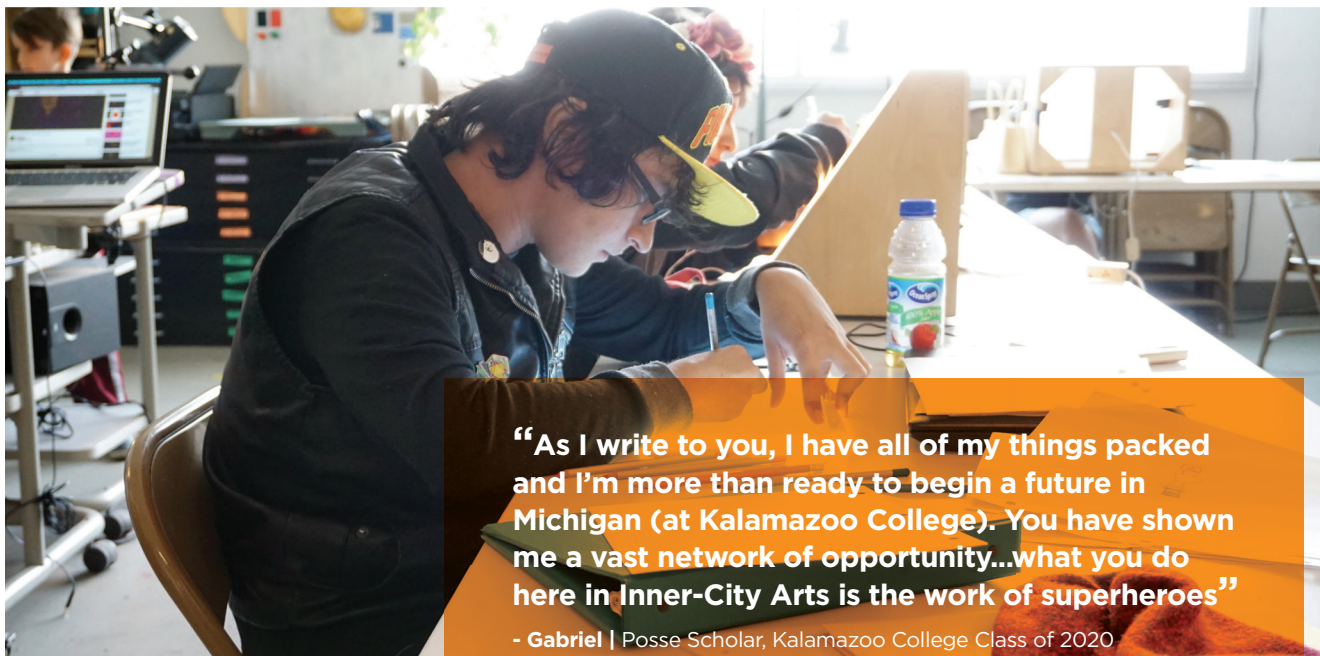
MISSION

Our mission is to engage young people in the creative process in order to shape a society of creative, confident and collaborative individuals.

VISION

We believe that the arts and creativity are transformational. Inner-City Arts envisions a society that honors the human capacity for creativity, and values its cultivation in the education of young people.





“As I write to you, I have all of my things packed and I’m more than ready to begin a future in Michigan (at Kalamazoo College). You have shown me a vast network of opportunity...what you do here in Inner-City Arts is the work of superheroes”

- Gabriel | Posse Scholar, Kalamazoo College Class of 2020

Inner-City Arts provides quality arts education to more than 6,000 students each year. Since opening our doors in 1989, we have engaged more than 200,000 of Los Angeles’ most under-resourced kids and teens in the creative arts. During this time, more than 10,000 educators have participated in professional development at Inner-City Arts, extending our impact to more than 2.5 million students.

WHO WE SERVE

82%

Hispanic or Latino

6%

Black or African American

5%

Asian

4%

White

1%

Native American

2%

Other

36%

English Language Learners

87%

Socioeconomically Disadvantaged

WORK OF ART

A college and career exploration program designed to prepare creative teens with the skills, training and real-world experience necessary for life beyond high school

Since its establishment, 93 high school students have participated in the Work of Art. Eligible teens are high school students enrolled in the middle and high school Visual, Media and Performing Arts Institutes program who have an interest in exploring a career in the creative economy, and a desire for mentorship.

The Work of Art program provides a safe, non-judgmental space for teens to identify and explore their career interests and aptitudes alongside a supportive community of adults and peers. Teens may enter into the program anytime between their sophomore and senior year in high school and will, upon graduation from high school, be clearly set on a course either towards college or employment.



Work of Art **empowers** the diverse and vibrant youth of Los Angeles to assume their rightful place as drivers of the Creative Economy of California, the nation and the world. We **connect** creative youth to public sector workforce initiatives, private employers and college resources, supporting the development of an abundant supply of new talent into the creative industries.

96%

of high school students
who completed the
program in 2017 graduated
from high school.

.....

89%

were admitted to a
four-year college or
university





“Thanks to Work of Art, I had the honor of attracting the interest of a Dreamworks storyboarder during the Work of Art Career Fair. Holli took notice and connected us. Going to Dreamworks Studios and negotiating plans to work on a project together was a dream come true. Many other opportunities were presented to me, each as interesting as the last. Shadow days spent touring Disney and Nickelodeon Animation Studios also offered me a better perspective. I believe the organization has well-prepared me towards my path as an animator.

Inner-City Arts is now a second home to me. The knowledge I have walked away with, undoubtedly, has firmly molded me, not only into a more professional and open-minded artist and animator, but also a more prepared and mature individual.”

NOEL QUINTERO, *Work of Art student*
2017 Barbara J. Schreter Scholarship recipient

PROGRAMMING

Students may apply in the winter of each year to enter the program. The application process includes submission of an application form, an essay, a letter of recommendation, and an interview. Once accepted, Work of Art students will explore and participate in the following areas:

COLLEGE READINESS

- College fairs
- Personal statement workshop
- SAT prep
- FAFSA workshop
- Referral to pre-college programs
- Portfolio development
- Scholarship opportunities

CAREER EXPLORATION

Real-World Experiences

- Inner-City Arts Summer internships
- Winter tour days with partners
- Spring Shadow days with partners
- Inner-City Arts-funded externships

Workshops

- Resume workshop
- Mock interviews
- Guest artist workshops

Resources and Opportunities

- Annual Creative Career Fair
- Networking opportunities
- Custom business cards

PERSONAL & CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

- Studio classes in Institutes
- Financial literacy workshop
- Goals-setting workshop
- Parent conferences
- Leadership development
- Professional arts experiences
- Annual Big Bear Lake retreat

"My goal as a Hip Hop artist is to use my music to inspire. I choose music because it is my number one outlet. I want to express myself to the world and make my voice heard. To influence others to love each other. The world is a very violent place and I want to change that. I want to touch the world's heart and show everyone its beauty."
-Solomon



WAYS TO GET INVOLVED IN CAREER DAYS

Work of Art Career Days is a four phase series of career engagement activities for youth. As a Career Day professional, you can choose to participate and take advantage of one (or all four) phases of the series.

Who benefits from Career Days?

Inner-City arts students crave access and insight into careers that are connected to their interests. They want to meet people and learn about the creative economy, so that they can better envision themselves in it. These young people are ready to make the transition into adulthood and have a need for support. Adult community members involved with Inner-City Arts, including our Volunteers, Partner Organizations and Board Members, possess a wealth of education, expertise and opportunity that they can share directly with these students simply by opening their doors to them. Career Days offer a clear and immediate path for providing service to students.

THE FOUR PHASES OF CAREER DAYS ARE:



1 | Career Fair Day

Inner-City Arts invites professionals from the creative sector to come to Inner-City Arts and talk with High School students about their specific industries, and professional career pathways. Career Fair Day Professionals represent careers that are connected to the current Inner-City Arts High School Institute classes in the visual and performing arts. Professionals will be speaking with students in an indoor/outdoor “career fair” atmosphere.

HOW TO PREPARE:

Professionals send job description(s) for specific positions in their organization or field.

Professionals create and send a document called “A Day in the Life of a...” which articulates a “typical” work day for those positions. Inner-City Arts will create a large poster/display of this piece for you.

Professionals inform what sort of “swag” they wish to bring (if any) as giveaways for the students

Professionals inform what visuals they might wish to display at their four foot table on the day of the event, which will help the students understand the company, or industry, its mission, brand, function, etc. Visuals can be in any medium – laptop, banners, marketing materials, etc.

Professionals send contact information and title for the person(s) they will send to the event.

This event is open to all Inner-City Arts middle and high school Institute program students, including 50 Work of Art students, and could involve up to 100 visits to your table.



2 | Group Tour Days

Professionals from the creative sector invite small groups of Work of Art students to come to their workplace. This glimpse of the environment, the people and the activities there gives students a sense of workplace etiquette, and an opportunity to get a broader sense of the organization and the career sector. Work of Art students will experience:

DAY OF THE EVENT:

Students will commute to your workplace
Students will tour your facility, with a brief introduction to the leadership of the organization.

The students will learn about:

- Priorities of the organization (mission, product, etc.),
- The path the professional took to get to their position
- Challenges in the industry
- What the organization looks for in an employee

This event is open only to the Work of Art students.



3 | Shadow Days

Professionals from the creative sector invite Work of Art students to come to their workplace for an individual (half or full day) work experience. Students will select the organizations that they wish to visit, based on their current understanding and interests. This visit creates a mentor/mentee relationship for a day, with students gaining an upclose look at a specific job, and possibly even affording the student a hands-on work experience that contributes in a meaningful way to the organization.

WORK OF ART STUDENTS WILL EXPERIENCE:

4 – 8 hour “shadow experience” with someone from the organization during a typical work day

Possibly take on a project for the day (and see it through to completion)

This event is open only to the Work of Art students and would involve one or two students spending the day with your company.



4 | Paid Externships

Inner-City Arts will fund externships with partner organizations that can last for up to 6 weeks during the summer. Students must have already had one summer of employment at Inner-City Arts in order to be eligible for placement with your organization. The nature of the duties and hours will be determined on an individual basis, and will be agreed upon during the spring of each year.

This opportunity is open only to Work of Art students.