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# 2022 Projects Summary

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2022 brought Arts Street@Youth Employment Academy programming back to pre-pandemic times serving 171 unique youth in-person through our creative industry academies, internship, and mentorship programs. Our youth identify as 92% BIPOC and 97% low-income with many residents from our affiliate organization, Denver Housing Authority. Our creative industry academies served 194 youth with a 95% completion rate and 93% demonstrating an increase in industry skills. We partnered with Denver Public School Colorado High School Charter at their Osage & GES campuses where youth learned skills in photography, textile creations and illustration, while they earned credit towards graduation. Our summer academies worked with over 60 youth and focused on large-scale public art projects including traditional murals, creative placemaking, graphic design, photography, and textile art. Our internship program worked with 15 young adults who earned stipends while they created outstanding commissions for our clients including signage designs for Denver Housing Authority and social justice inspired art for University of Denver Law School. 100% of our interns completed their internships and showed an increase in industry skills. In addition, all youth participated in mental wellness workshops, and many took advantage of our in-house counseling services with Tamika Thomas. Most worked with our Youth Advisor, Destini Montez, for support in reaching their education, employment, and mental wellness goals, including 93% of our high school students who stayed in school or graduated. Arts Street is also privileged to work with so many amazing Denver artists who teach their skills and mentor our young artists individually and in community. Our projects highlight this work led by these outstanding creatives; Bree Angela, Katy Casper, Juan Fuentes, Chelsea Romaniello and Jasmine Wynter.

Arts Street had an amazing year creating inspiring art, forging connections with youth and building equity and opportunities in our community. We can't wait for 2023!

# Decatur Fresh Community Corner Products

## Spring 2022

With the opening of YEA's newest social enterprise, Decatur Fresh in 2021, Arts Street is assisting in supplying products for its Community Corner retail space.

## Artistic Work Aprons

Arts Street spring interns worked with textile artist, Bree Angela to design and create work aprons to sell at YEA's Decatur Fresh. Youth artists first learned about different fabric dyeing techniques, including the art of shibori from Japan. They then focused on learning other textile techniques such as embroidery, designing and stamping their own fabrics, painting on fabric, and finally how to use a sewing machine. After our young artists compiled all their original pieces of fabric, they followed a specific pattern and created beautiful and functional work aprons. You can own one yourself by going to Decatur Fresh market and looking in their Community Corner of the store. (995 Decatur St., Denver)



## Upcycled Totes

Youth attending Colorado High School Charter completed a course with Arts Street in utilizing upcycled materials and learning about entrepreneurship. Students learned skills in photography and photo transfers onto fabric, embroidery, digital design to create laser cut wood buttons and basic sewing. The totes were created by volunteer Marilyn Searles who is intent on passing on her passion for sewing to the next generation. Led by artist and Arts Street Program Manager, Chelsea Romaniello, students earned high school credit while learning more about the creative industries and building their skills. Totes can be found online at Arts Street's ecommerce shop: [www.arts-street.square.site](http://www.arts-street.square.site) and also at Decatur Fresh market.

# DHA Sticker Designs

## Spring 2022

Arts Street spring high school interns worked with Denver Housing Authority (DHA) to create digital designs that will be used for free stickers that will be distributed by DHA to the public at various events.

Youth artists were given specifications to create designs that reflected what they felt DHA represents beyond housing to residents and to Denver. Youth presented their designs to Keo Frazier, DHA Director of Communications & Public Affairs and to Bimbim Babalola, DHA Marketing & Content Specialist.

Youth expressed that their designs reflected love, community, unity and family - all things they believed DHA represents. Initially, DHA was only going to choose one design, but because of the amazing work our youth artists created, they chose a total of 4 images. These stickers will be produced and distributed starting in late spring 2022.



Sticker artists:  
Top, Evelyn C., age 17.  
Bottom, Yazimin H., age 17.



Sticker artists:  
Top, Francisco M., age 18.  
Bottom, MiaNeveah M., age 18.



# Denver City Council District 10 Mascots

## Spring 2022

Arts Street youth artists met with client, Chris Getzan, who is working with City Councilman Hinds in Denver District 10. Because the boundaries of Denver's city council districts have changed, Councilman Hinds is hosting several events this summer in District 10 to get to know more people living there and let them know about resources in the District. Youth artists were tasked with creating mascots to represent District 10. Our client gave the youth ideas for characters for the district like ghosts, hipsters, punks and cats. He also requested that artists consider using Councilman Hinds' service dog, Porthos, as one of the characters. (Porthos sadly passed away last summer.) Youth were also asked for names and back stories on their creations and came up with some amazing characters! The mascot designs are being used on flyers and publicity as well as being passed out as stickers at events this summer.



*Uptown Daisy is a sunflower that lives in District 10 in a hip residential area with eclectic global eateries and bars ranging from casual dives to sleek cocktail lounges where she likes to hang out. Jada K., age 17*



*Munchy Crunchy loves the smell of compost. He spends his free time in dumpsters and can crush anything with his huge feet. Justine K., age 15*



*Porthos the dog is playful and loyal. Mea U., age 18*



*Copper the Coffee is part of Copper Door Coffee shop. He gives good energy and smells delicious. Aaron G., age 19*



*Mary the ghost roams around District 10 keeping the place clean, especially in Cheeseman Park. She doesn't know she is dead, and no one has the heart to tell her because she is so nice. Francisco M., age 18*



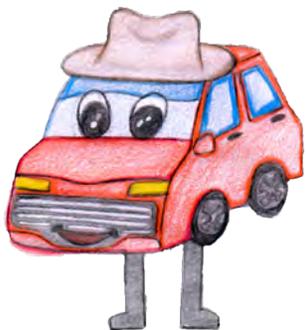
*Larry is an office man and loves to help his community. Yazmin H., age 17*



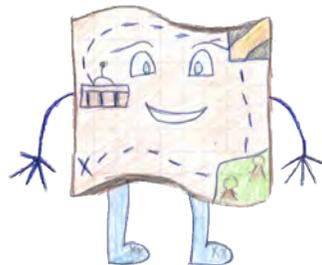
*Charlotte likes to tell scary stories to kids and re-live her youth. Evelyn C., age 17*



*Cassie loves to shop and drink coffee. She is petite and classy and lives in a bush on Capitol Hill. MiaNevae H., age 18*



*Kevin likes to give tours of the community to people visiting. Moriah D., age 17*



*Jake is a tourist around District 10. Dasia T., age 16*

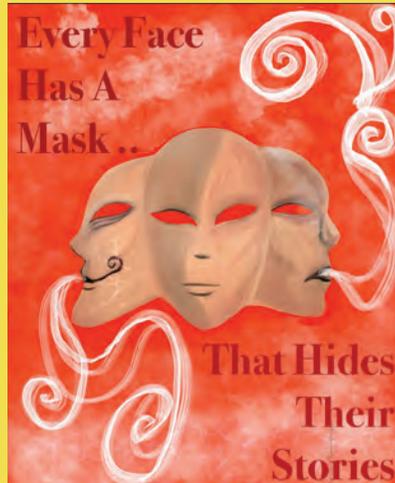
# Students Rebuild World Needs Challenge Poster

## Spring 2022

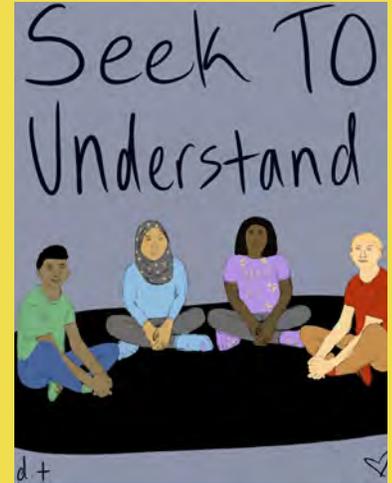
Arts Street youth artists worked on a national project for an organization called Students Rebuild. They were tasked with creating posters that amplify messages that the world needs...

- Clean Oceans
- Humanitarian Aid
- Hunger Relief
- To Overcome Bias
- Art Activism

Youth learned graphic design skills and worked on Procreate software on iPads to design their posters. The posters were submitted and the Bezos Family Foundation will make a donation to programs meeting global needs for each of the posters submitted. The posters will also be seen on a national online platform and Arts Street will be printing some to put up in the community. [www.studentsrebuild.org/challenges/worldneeds](http://www.studentsrebuild.org/challenges/worldneeds)



Mea U., age 18



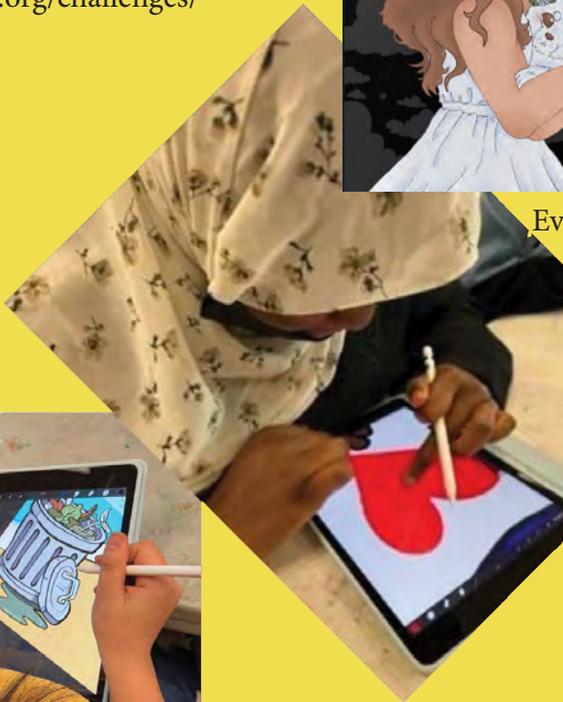
Dasia T., age 16



Evelyn R., age 17



Francisco M., age 18

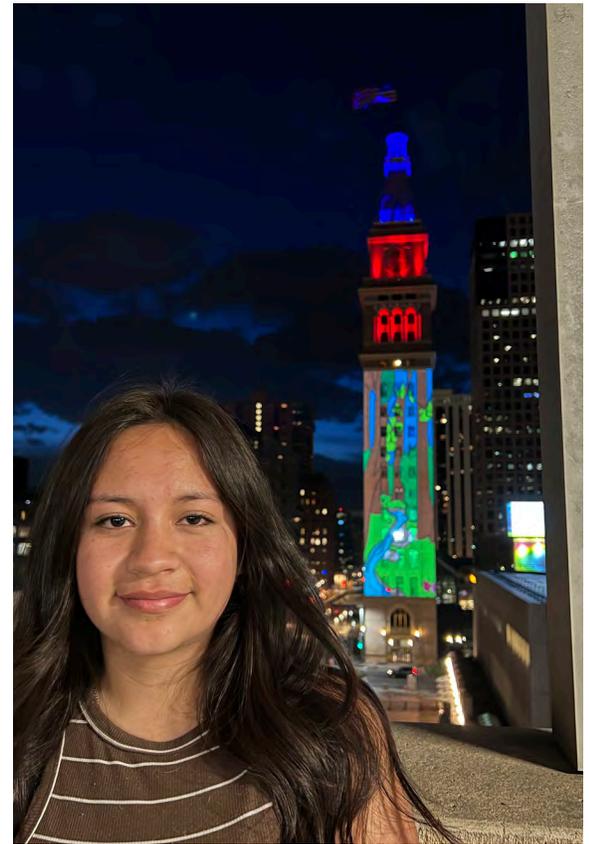


Tinah S., age 15

# Denver Night Lights Animation Project

## Spring 2022

Arts Street's project for summer 2022 is called Edible Artspaces. This project will include educating the public about urban farming, creating a community garden and public art. To kick off this project, Arts Street youth artists met with David Moke of Night Lights Denver to learn about large scale animations. Night Lights Denver projects these animations onto Denver's 16th street clock tower for the public throughout the year. Youth learned Illustrator and After Effects software from Arts Street instructor, Chelsea Romaniello and created animations reflecting different gardening and ecology themes. These animations were projected on the clock tower for everyone to see on May 19th and 20th and youth were able to celebrate this proud moment by viewing their art with family and friends.



# Graduation 2022



## Congratulations!

We are so pleased to congratulate all our YEA 2022 high school graduates. This graduating class had many challenges over their time in high school, with figuring out new ways to go to school during a pandemic and missing out on many social activities. However, they stayed motivated and positive and earned their diploma.

Many of our graduates are planning on attending college and are already working to save up some money. One of those is Tony N., a West High School graduate. (photo to left).

Tony has completed several Creative Industries academies with Arts Street and has also worked as an intern during the school year at the Arts Street studio. Tony is currently employed at Safeway and plans to attend college in the fall 2022 and major in graphic design. An amazing artist, we are so proud of Tony and all our other amazing graduates.



# Arts Street Edible Artscapes Project

## Urban Gardening Summer 2022

Arts Street and lead artist, Katy Casper, worked with 22 youth artists, ages 14-20, over 6 weeks this summer, to learn the principles of permaculture design and create a regenerative urban farming installation with integrated artistic elements in Denver's La Alma neighborhood. This installation is in front of Denver Housing Authority's Tapiz residential public housing. Youth met with residents from the community for input on planting and design.

Through their experience, youth learned techniques for planting and maintaining garden space, for creating public art and produced easy to share information about the process to educate the community. This installation will provide produce for the community, educate about permaculture and urban farming and beautify the neighborhood.

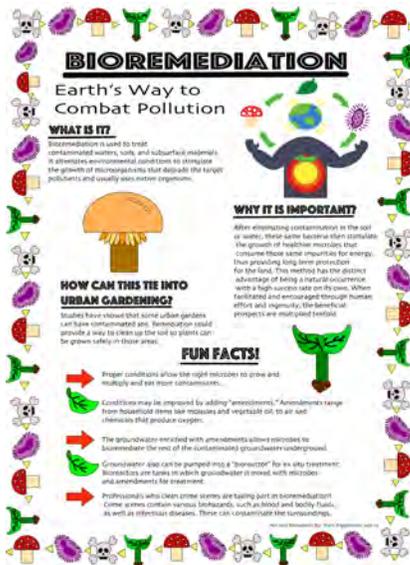
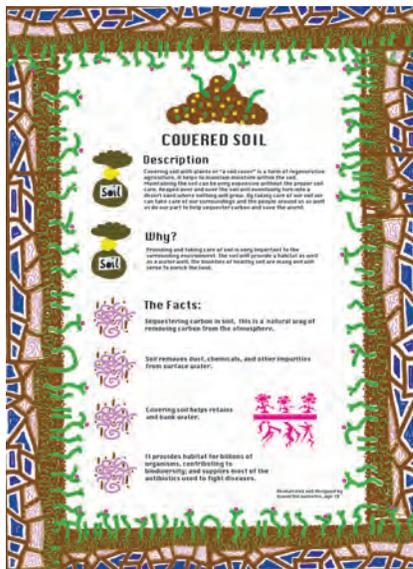


# Arts Street Edible Artscapes Project

## Community Education & Poster Design Summer 2022

A secondary element of the Edible Artscapes project was to educate the youth about urban farming so that they could then spread their knowledge into the community. Each youth was assigned a topic which they researched in depth about urban farming and/or the environment (such as bioremediation and desertification). Using Adobe Illustrator, youth then digitally designed a symbol for their topic and created a poster with facts and illustrations on their subject.

The symbols were also incorporated into the large painted mural of the urban garden they created in front of DHA's Tapiz building. The posters will be displayed on the new Arts Street website and the garden will have signage with a QR code connecting the general public to the posters so they can learn more.



# Edible Artscapes Banner Projects

## Summer 2022

As part of the Edible Artscapes summer project, Arts Street a team of 20 youth, ages 14-18, create outdoor banners inspired by nature. Our young artists started by taking a field trip to Denver Botanic Gardens, sketching, and photographing for inspiration. Led by Denver artist, Bree Angela, they learned the differences between synthetic and natural dyes and created textiles using both. The natural dyes were some of the favorites as wonderful smells wafted through the studio from our dye vats. In addition to dying their own fabrics, Denver artist Jasmine Wynter led youth in creating botanical stencils that were then used with spray paint on upcycled vinyl. Their beautiful hand-dyed fringe was used to add a fun flourish. Some of these amazing banners can be seen outside of the Osage Café & Mercado at 1015 Osage St. and on the patio of Decatur Fresh at 995 Decatur St.



# Sun Valley Photo Mural

## Summer 2022

Denver artist photographer, Juan Fuentes led a team of 21 Arts Street youth artists, ages 14-21, to complete a community mural in DHA's Sun Valley development. Youth first learned basic photographic skills and then went on several photo shoots around the Sun Valley neighborhood. For some of the artists, due to the redevelopment in the area, they were photographing empty lots where they once lived. In addition, youth ran a portrait photo booth at the Sun Valley block party and took photos of area residents. Photos were then printed on large paper and wheatpasted on the side of the Sun Valley People's Hub building. Youth also created several smaller collage murals for the inside of the building. Youth learned valuable creative industry skills, earning a stipend for their artwork. They were extremely proud of their photography that showcased a neighborhood in transition.



*Above: Three Sun Valley youth had the chance to be photographed in front of the plot where their house used to be.*



*Above: Juan Fuentes and assistant Adama Bamba demonstrating how to wheatpaste on the Sun Valley People's Hub.*



# Public Housing Unit Signage for DHA Joli

## Summer 2022

Arts Street worked with a team of 21 youth artists on a project creating designs for a Denver Housing Authority public housing building. Youth first met with their client, DHA, to learn about theme, specifications, and deadlines. Led by artists Chelsea Romaniello and Jasmine Wynter, our artists first created backgrounds using various watercolor techniques. They then hand drew botanic designs and digitized their drawings. The watercolor backgrounds were also digitized, and the youth layered their elements to create beautiful, original designs. These designs will be produced as permanent unit signage for DHA's Joli public housing building in Sun Valley.



*Youth artists creating backgrounds with watercolor techniques  
Below: Final signage art after digital manipulation.*



*Below: Working in Photoshop can be tricky, but provided a great platform to combine drawings and backgrounds while also editing color and saturation.*

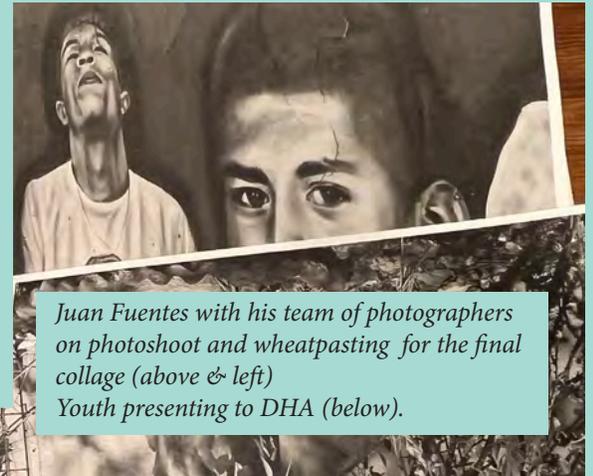


*Right: Using Colorado animals and botanicals as inspiration, youth hand drew all of the illustrated components to layer with the painted backgrounds.*

# Public Art Photo Mural for DHA

## Fall CHSC Osage Students

Arts Street students from Colorado High School Charter, ages 14-19, worked with Denver artist photographer, Juan Fuentes, to create a unique public art photographic mural for Denver Housing Authority's public housing building on Broadway. Youth first learned basic photographic skills and then went on several photo shoots in the surrounding neighborhood to capture historic landmarks and the current community. They learned photo editing with Denver artist, Adama Bamba, to bring their photos to life and convert them to high contrast black and white art. Finally, working in small teams they learned about creating detailed collages that combined historic photos with their own photos for the final pieces.



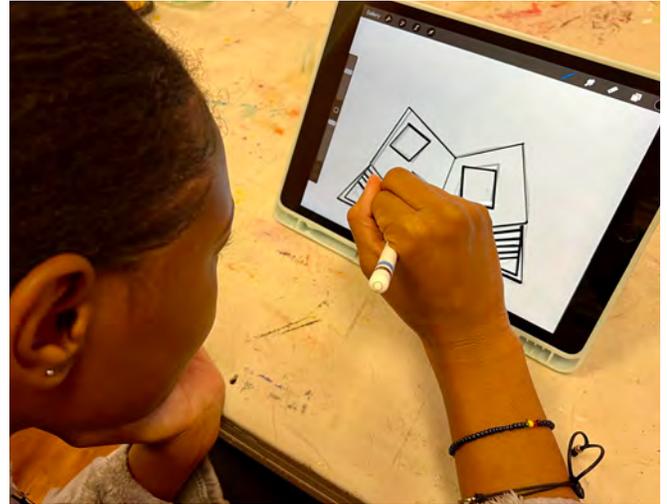
*Juan Fuentes with his team of photographers on photoshoot and wheatpasting for the final collage (above & left) Youth presenting to DHA (below).*



# Garden Of Justice Banners

## Fall Internship 2022

Arts Street's youth artist interns were given an exciting task: create art for University of Denver's Law School that represents social justice issues important to the Denver community. A team of youth, ages 14-18, started the process by researching an issue that was important to them, taking into consideration how it related to their own lives. Next, they worked digitally to create a symbol that not only represented the issue but expressed a solution and encouraged change. From there, they worked with Arts Street staff to turn their symbol into a flower that could be used as a stencil on a large textile banner. Finally, using hand painted dye techniques and a resist transfer process, they worked with Denver artist Bree Angela to create a "garden of justice" on their banners, combining the symbols and thinking about color and pattern. The team created beautiful banners and wrote artists statements about the meaning behind their creative symbol.



Above: Shamirra works on the digital design for her symbol.  
Below: The team poses in front of their banners with DU staff and Avayah works on layout before the final dying.



# Garden Of Justice Symbols



**Avaya, age 14, East High School**

I chose the social justice issue of youth gun violence. This is important to me because in the past year we have lost teens to both the jail system and to violent deaths. There have been many incidents that have happened, and I have no clue why kids are getting hold of these guns. I have lost a couple of close friends to gun violence, and it does not get any better as time goes on. The symbol I created is a teddy bear holding a revolver. Something that I was trying to show is that gun violence is doing nothing but taking people's kids away and putting the perpetrator in a bad place.



**Esmeralda, age 16, Compassion Road Academy**

I chose the social justice issue of homelessness and healthcare. This is important to me because I feel that we should do more to help the homeless and help more people with healthcare. This means that we would be helping more homeless people by getting help when they need it and having somewhere for them to sleep at night especially when it's cold. So, I believe if we help the homeless with the care they need like food and water and somewhere to sleep there could be less people in the hospital. The symbol I created is a little man with a dog.



**Estrella, age 14, Colorado High School Charter**

I chose the social justice issue of LGBTQ community rights. This is important to me because I feel we should all be treated the same and a lot of people in the community get harassed and get discriminated and disowned for trying to be who they are. This means that this affects them a lot and changes their life in many ways. I believe people around the world face violence and inequality because of whom they love, how they look, or who they are. Sexual orientation and gender identity are part of our selves and should never lead to discrimination.



**Evangelina, age 18, Colorado Charter High School**

I chose the social justice issue of abortion rights. This issue is important to me because safe methods of abortion and contraceptives are being banned and criminalized. This means unsafe methods of abortion will be practiced and there are still people who will need or want abortions. I believe this is unjust and extremely dangerous. There are many reasons to need an abortion from unwanted pregnancies, fetal fetal impairment, victims of rape or incest, and risk to the pregnant person's health and many more. Under these abortion bans and laws, people will seek unsafe abortions that could put their health at risk.



**Jada, age 17, Girls Athletic Leadership School**

I chose to focus on LGBTQ rights and healthcare to shed light on the fact that there are certain people who feel they can't take care of themselves over being themselves and often face challenges in society. This is important to me because I believe healthcare should be accessible and comfortable for all genders, races, and sexualities. The symbol I created was an LGBTQ heart with healthcare signs within it.



**Justine, age 16, Girls Athletic Leadership School**

I chose the social justice issue of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) rights. This is an important issue because people of color, especially black people, are automatically labeled the moment they step into a room. This means people of color must go the extra mile when it comes to applying for jobs. People of color are also expected to act and look a certain way in a work setting to be considered professional. I believe if we don't judge people based on how they appear we might surprise ourselves learning that we are all just human and deserve a chance in this world. The symbol I created is a feather that has a crown on it, under the crown is an equal sign representing equity.



**Leila, Age 14, Denver South High School**

I chose the social justice issue of immigration. I chose this issue because I know how America gives immigrants the responsibility of keeping the U.S. stable but treats them as if they are dirt (lower than them or unimportant). This means that immigrants came to America for a good life but instead, they were forced into poverty. I believe we need to work towards changing how immigrants are treated. The symbol I created is two people shaking hands. This is meant to show people united and equal. One of the hands symbolizes the world and the other symbolizes immigrants.



**Nehemiah, Age 14, Colorado High School Charter**

I chose this social justice issue of racial inequality. This is important to me because there are people that are like me and that can't or don't want to speak up about this issue because they fear they might get called out for it. This means that these people can't stick up for themselves and can't say something because that might get them attacked and get called a racial slur by other people. I believe that if we work together then we can stop this, and we don't have to be racist to one another. The symbol I created was a scale that was balanced and that represents that all people are equal, and people shouldn't be treated differently for the way they look and their skin color.



**Neveah, age 15, George Washington High School**

I chose the social justice issue of black women empowerment and equality. This is important to me because I've experienced being treated differently by other girls because of the color of my skin, hair texture, and habits. I believe that as a young woman, talking about this kind of thing, and showing that this isn't okay is important for society. The symbol I created is the back of a black woman with her afro, representing authenticity and showing that we, as black women, shouldn't be ashamed to be our natural selves.



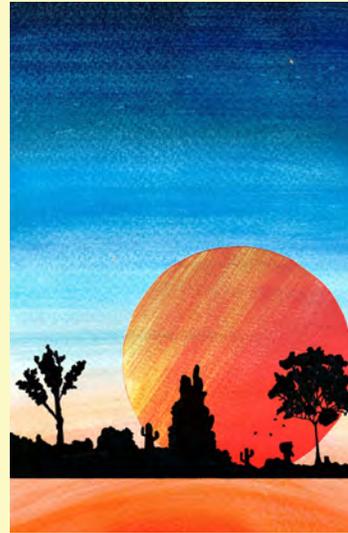
**Shamirra, age 16, Denver South High School**

My name is Shamirra Singletary. I go to Denver South High School, and I am 16 years old. I chose to do the social justice issue of racial equality in schools. This is important to me because I think everyone of every race should be treated as if their culture matters which it does. This means that teachers learn about their students' culture to prevent them from feeling different. I believe students should feel comfortable in their culture without everyone telling them that it doesn't matter or not learning more about it.

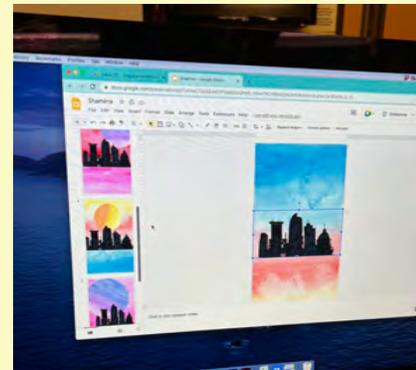
# Public Housing Unit Signage for DHA Sol

## Fall Interns 2022

Arts Street's youth artists worked with client Denver Housing Authority in designing unit signage for "Sol"-DHA's family public housing building in Sun Valley. Youth worked with DHA to develop designs inspired by the building's sun theme. Guided by Arts Street staff, youth created watercolor backgrounds and solar circles, depicting sunrise and sunset gradients. They then researched the different landscapes seen in Colorado, identifying specific images to showcase those environments; the desert, mountains, city of Denver, plains, and rivers/lakes. Each youth hand drew a silhouette of their chosen landscape and then digitally combined the three elements (background, circle and silhouette) to create over 50 unique signs to be printed and used for upcoming DHA apartments.



Some examples of completed signage ready for the building.



Above: Digital mock-ups of the signs. Left: Estrella and Avayah work on their watercolor techniques for the sunrise/sunset backgrounds.

Below (left): Youth combine all the elements for each sign digitally. Below (right): Justine presents her final work to DHA.



# Mental Wellness, Opportunities & Successes

## Mental Wellness for YEA Youth

YEA is thrilled with the addition of Destini Montez to our staff in June 2022. YEA was awarded a 3 year grant through Caring for Denver that provides support for mental wellness advocacy and workshops for all youth participants. As YEA's Youth Advisor, Destini will be meeting 1:1 with YEA youth and assisting them to reach their education, employment and mental wellness goals. In addition, she will be coordinating mental wellness workshops and more in-depth therapy through our partner Urban Collective Counseling. Destini has already made a huge impact with our youth, from providing emotional support to guidance on resources for basic needs.

Therapist Tamika Thomas of Urban Collective Counseling has worked with YEA throughout the years, but with our Caring for Denver grant, she has stepped into an even larger role. Tamika is providing mental wellness workshops for youth in all our industry academies and internships as well as providing 1:1 therapy and resources. Through her mental wellness workshops, Tamika provides education on mental health issues as well as tools for youth to take with them. Feedback has been outstanding with 95% of workshop participants saying they became more aware about mental health issues and 89% saying they learned a new skill to cope with challenges.



Top: Art piece from the "Draw your Inner Bully" workshop.  
Below: Destini connecting with youth during class.



## Building Equity in Access to Performing Arts

YEA recently formed a new partnership with COCETA, a non-profit whose mission is to provide access to Denver area performing arts events for underserved youth, especially those identifying at BIPOC. Through this partnership, youth from any of the programs in YEA will be able to attend events such as the ballet, symphony, immersive art, and theater. In September, 10 participants were able to experience Cirque du Soleil. Everyone was astounded by the performers, costumes, music, and stage design. Our youth were clapping and cheering through the entire performance. In October, 10 additional youth attended the Colorado Ballet's Dracula- experiencing ballet for the very first time. Meow Wolf and Disney on Ice are up next. We are so grateful for COCETA and their donations and are looking forward to introducing YEA participants to many new experiences in the arts.

Top: Youth awaiting Dracula ballet  
Below: Cirque de Soleil performance.

## Youth Successes

Arts Street celebrated youth artist and YEA participant Adama Bamba on his 21st birthday. Adama has participated in Arts Street since he was 15 and has evolved into a youth leader and program arts assistant. This summer Adama worked on the Edible Artscapes project, leading the video component and even teaching some of the creative technology workshops. This fall Adama is continuing to assist with Arts Street high school level classes while also attending college full time. Most recently, Adama was interviewed and his photography featured in Community College of Denver's Talon magazine (link to that article). Adama is majoring in art education, and we are eager to have him continue to grow with our organization.



Top: Photograph taken by Adama on the cover of the CCD magazine.  
Below: Adama helping youth with Adobe Illustrator

