



2025 - 2027 Funded Programs

<p>All Hands Boatworks, Inc.</p>	<p>All Hands Boatworks (AHB) engages Milwaukee youth, ages 10-18, in structured, hands-on, manual arts and humanities programming that provides extended learning opportunities, career readiness, and well-being. AHB utilizes the art, science, and the craft of building wooden boats and other projects as a teaching tool and as part of a holistic youth development strategy. Our integrated programs are offered year-round, including an after-school teen program (ages 13-18) at AHB's shop; a six-week, summer paid internship for teens; and multiple weeklong day camps (ages 10-15) either on the Menomonee River, the lakefront, or at our community boat shop.</p>
<p>America SCORES Milwaukee</p>	<p>America SCORES Milwaukee supports school communities with high quality, high-impact arts and humanities programming for K5-5th grade children that promote holistic youth development. Using poetry, service-learning, and civic engagement, paired with soccer on alternate days, SCORES strives to improve arts engagement and appreciation, academic achievement, health, and social-emotional competence of Milwaukee youth. Through city-wide and year-round afterschool and summer programs, SCORES authenticates youth voice, empowers them to affect change in their community, and fosters supportive relationships among peers and with caring adults who become long-term mentors who will support their academic, physical, and social success.</p>
<p>Art Start, Inc.</p>	<p>Creative Connections (CCX) is a year-round continuum of pathways for Milwaukeeans ages 14-24 to build artistic expertise, personal development, interdisciplinary literacy, and career readiness. CCX meets participants where they are at various stages of their lives through diverse access points, program activities, and levels of commitment, including: monthly creative sessions and weekly open studio hours where participants connect, network, and explore varied artistic mediums with peers and artist mentors; wellness and college access resources and case management supported by Art Start social workers and college advisors; paid summer internships where youth gain creative industry experience; paid Emerging Artist Residency (EAR), including weekly workshops, skill development, portfolio development, mentorship, and networking; public art projects, campaigns, and gallery exhibitions where youth collaborate with professional artists on interdisciplinary/multimedia art works that reflect their creative identities and visions; special industry projects and national travel supported by Art Start industry partners; and more.</p>
<p>Artists Working in Education</p>	<p>AWE serves a targeted population that represents the diversity of Milwaukee and emphasizes AWE's mission to cultivate community and activate imaginations with creativity in traditionally underserved neighborhoods. The AWE Artist-in-Residence (AIR) and Truck Studio (TS) programs offer free high quality art opportunities for youth ages 4-18. AWE programs will run from September 1, 2025 through August 31, 2026 and September 1, 2026 through August 31, 2027. We will facilitate Truck Studio programming for eight weeks in the summer, four days per week (M, T, W and F), from 12pm to 3pm at the REC Department identified parks and playgrounds. During the academic school year, Artist In Residence will operate weekdays during after school hours at Doerfler School CLC where youth average 3 hours of programming per visit.</p>
<p>Arts @ Large</p>	<p>Arts @ Large provides dynamic, out-of-school arts programming that inspires creativity and empowers young artists. Our Artist in Residence (A.I.R.) Academy, 2 6-week Saturday sessions offered during the academic year, and Summer Arts Camp, Monday - Thursday for 6-weeks held during summer break, serve students in grades 3-8 from across Milwaukee County. Both programs are offered free of charge, with a refundable deposit to encourage consistent attendance and engagement. These programs, led by local Artist Educators, expose youth to a diverse range of artistic disciplines and are thoughtfully integrated with our broader Community Center initiatives. This cohesive approach ensures that each participant's artistic journey is enriched through ongoing opportunities for creative expression, mentorship, and community connection. All youth programming is held at the Arts @ Large Community Center, located in Milwaukee's historic Walker's Point neighborhood—a vibrant and inclusive space that serves as a creative hub for both youth and the wider community.</p>

<p>ArtWorks for Milwaukee</p>	<p>ArtWorks provides paid art and skill-building internships for high school students, the majority of whom are students of color. We contribute to a more inclusive Milwaukee by bringing together teens of different races and ethnicities, income, neighborhoods, schools, gender identity, etc., to collaborate on projects, expand their horizons, and build a greater understanding of our city's multicultural landscape. Students choose between two internships: Environmental Arts or Graphic Design and Mental Health Advocacy. All students receive paid training, which includes creative expression and artistic development, as well as professional development workshops covering topics such as resume writing, interview skills, financial literacy, and social media presence. Our internships enrich our communities by creating publicly accessible works of art, enhancing access to mental health resources, leaving a positive environmental impact, and contributing to the development of a skilled workforce.</p>
<p>Bembé Drum and Dance</p>	<p>Founded in 2015, Bembé Drum & Dance is a community-based, cultural performing arts program in the City of Milwaukee that inspires intergenerational connection, community, and cultural identity exploration with Milwaukee youth and their families through percussion-based Afro-Latino musical culture. Year-round workshops take place after school and on weekends in accessible locations for youth ages 6-18 and adults. Free, public performances and community events take place throughout the city year-round, in partnership with local youth-serving organizations and performance groups. Performances and events position youth to express, entertain, and educate the community on the history, music and dance of the Afro-Latino Diaspora.</p>
<p>Black Arts MKE, Inc.</p>	<p>Black Arts MKE's mission is to increase the availability and quality of African American arts and culture. Our after school and summer performing arts camp programs provide culturally relevant arts education for at-risk youth, when they are most vulnerable to negative influences. We partner with professional artists of color to nurture social-emotional skills and creative expression through chorus/music, African drumming, and dance for elementary students. High school youth participate in an immersive summer performing arts camp exploring musical theater—acting, choreography, music, stage design, spoken word, film, and voiceover—while developing an original production. Students display their skills and engage family, friends, and community at culminating school showcases and for Camp, Day of Kuumba, an uplifting performance that celebrates their work at Peck Pavilion. Camp participants have additional performances, including at citywide events such as Youth & Family Night at Milwaukee Black Theatre Festival and the Black Arts Fest Youth Stage.</p>
<p>Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee</p>	<p>Movement Matters is a free after-school program offered by Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee (BGCGM) that has introduced youth in grades K5–8th to dance, movement, and music since 2022. Designed for all skill levels, the program promotes physical activity, cultural appreciation, and artistic expression. In partnership with 7 local dance organizations, youth experience diverse styles including hip hop, ballet, tap, African, salsa, and theatrical dance. From October to May, weekly sessions follow a two-phase model: a four-week rotation with multiple partners (October–February) and a focused three-month intensive with a single partner (March–May). The program culminates in a celebratory year-end performance for families and the community. Professional dance instructors lead programming, supported by Club staff, ensuring personalized and engaging experiences. Movement Matters fosters confidence, creativity, and cultural awareness, inspiring continued exploration in the performing arts while promoting healthy, active lifestyles.</p>
<p>CAPITA Productions, Inc.</p>	<p>CAPITA Productions, Inc. will provide tuition-free musical theater training for 3K-12 MPS students through after-school, weekend, and summer sessions that include snacks and transportation support as needed. Theater professionals will lead group and individual instruction in dance, vocal, and spoken word performance. Adult and near-peer mentors model leadership, perseverance and accountability. CAPITA's approach grows literacy, communication, and team-building skills, which supports academic achievement, resilience, and multi-generational communities. Our goal-focused approach fosters confidence and personal responsibility among students with limited access to quality theater training. Both our signature "We Are the Drum" Black History Month show and our newer Summer Showcase lets students share what they have learned about the arts, Black History, and American culture.</p>

Casa Romero Renewal Center	<p>Journeys: Exploring Identity and Voice through the Arts is a comprehensive program at Casa Romero (CR) that takes place through after-school workshops, overnight retreats, and summer day camps. The program focuses on providing low-income, urban youth with opportunities to collaborate with professional artists and explore diverse forms of artistic expression, including visual arts, poetry, creative writing, and music. These artistic mediums serve as tools for building self-esteem, fostering critical thinking, and enabling participants to express their personal messages. Ultimately, the goal is to empower youth to use the arts as a means of communicating their unique voices and as a tool for creating positive change in their communities.</p>
Craig Clifton Inc.	<p>The Elementz program is a year-long afterschool and summer mentorship program for youth ages 9–17 focusing on 3rd–8th graders that integrates life skills, academic support, tutoring, and creative development through the lens of hip-hop culture. Rooted in the foundational elements of hip-hop—DJing (music and technology), emceeing (creative writing and public speaking), breakdancing (movement and wellness), and graffiti art (visual storytelling)—youth develop academic confidence, cultural identity, leadership, and entrepreneurial thinking. Programming includes weekly tutoring sessions, hip-hop history, creative writing labs, multimedia art production, business skill-building, and cultural storytelling. Youth collaborate on projects and performances highlighting their voice and lived experiences. Entrepreneurship is emphasized through branding, product design, and digital portfolio sessions. Family engagement includes monthly events like community dinners, exhibitions, and youth-led showcases. The program operates during the school year with 1.5-hour after-school sessions 2–3 times per week, and a full-day summer intensive offering 4–5 days per week of hands-on programming.</p>
Ex Fabula	<p>Youth Affinity Storytelling (YAS) uplifts youth by holding space for them to develop and practice self-advocacy skills through the power of personal storytelling. Each year, Ex Fabula will partner with organizations that serve young people, especially those of marginalized and disenfranchised identities, and place Ex Fabula teaching artists in residency at those organizations. Teaching artists will engage young people through a series of interactive storytelling workshops. Ex Fabula will also bring together youth from partner organizations and the broader community at multiple StorySlams and further extend the reach of those stories via media pieces. As young people take incremental risks and vulnerably share their stories publicly, they will build and deepen relationships and gain confidence in their voices; they will also gain skills that can be leveraged in the workplace, on civic projects, and to support their own mental health.</p>
First Stage	<p>First Stage's Theater Academy is a theater training program for youth of all ages and experiences that fosters life skills through stage skills. Taught by professional teaching artists, classes emphasize Creative Drama, Stage Movement, Voice, Scene Study, and more—providing students with a foundation in theater, as well as a deep understanding of how to relate with each other in a positive and supportive manner. To ensure access, First Stage provides Theater Academy classes and experiences afterschool at highly subsidized rates to Milwaukee youth through two outlets: targeted recruitment at MPS schools and ongoing access at the Milwaukee Youth Arts Center.</p>
Genre: Urban Arts	<p>Genre: Urban Arts operates within the Milwaukee area and the broader international arts community to provide dynamic arts and writing workshops, artist discussions, and critical analysis of art and culture through various media platforms. Founded by Nakeysha Roberts Washington, M.S.Ed—a certified ELA educator for grades 6–12 and a former Milwaukee Public Schools student and teacher—the program is rooted in fostering creativity and literacy among high school students. Our program, Genre: Urban Arts' Creative Workshops, is designed to engage 10th–12th grade students with interests in writing, visual arts, and performance art. Through a combination of workshops, gallery visits, and professional artist interactions, portfolio building, and exhibition inclusion, the initiative aims to enhance students' creative expression, critical thinking, and understanding of the arts economy.</p>
Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast	<p>Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast (GSWISE) partners with Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) to provide the Girl Scout Promise Program. Through this community outreach program, girls in grades K-12 can experience staff-led troop programs, where they will attend afterschool sessions led by specially trained Girl Scout staff who guide and inspire girls to explore new things and gain practical skills. Programming aligns with the GSLE curriculum which focuses on four pillars: STEM, the outdoors, life skills, and entrepreneurship.</p>

<p>Hmong American Friendship Association</p>	<p>Fifty years ago, the first Hmong people came to the United States as refugees—after being driven from their homes in Laos following the Vietnam War. Our project; Celebrating Hmong Identity through an Exploration of Hmong History, Arts, and Culture; is designed to help youth understand how Hmong history has influenced their culture and traditions, as well as how Hmong people have assimilated successfully into their new lives in the United States while maintaining their Hmong identity. Youth will explore Hmong cultural arts, including dance and textiles, and they will also learn about traditional Hmong village life through the creation of both a mural and the replica of Hmong village.</p>
<p>Hope House of Milwaukee</p>	<p>Hope Illustrated provides visual arts instruction and exploration for young people experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity, with the goal of supporting healthy self-confidence through skill building, connection and community. The program's core is an artist residency with Marina Lee of Beginning Dreams Forever, providing weekly hands-on, mixed media visual arts programming for youth ages 7-12 and transforming part of Hope House, where a portion of participating youth live, into a youth art gallery. When youth experience homelessness, it can erode their sense of safety – the sense that the adult world will protect them, leading to anxiety and unsettledness. It is critical that young people feel secure and be able to exercise some control over their lives to regain agency and self-confidence. The Hope Illustrated Program provides an artistic avenue for young people to express their ideas, reclaim ownership of space, and develop positive self-identity and hopefulness for the future.</p>
<p>Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful</p>	<p>Eco-Heroes is a multi-session program that strengthens the connection between Milwaukee youth and the environment around them. This program emphasizes that every small act makes a difference, which promotes engaged youth to initiate a positive impact in their community. By interlacing literacy with social and physical sciences, this program promotes creativity, problem solving, and teamwork. Participants are introduced to relevant environmental topics such as recycling and waste reduction, water and land pollution, energy conservation, urban habitats, and wellness and gardening. Each subject is explored through hands-on activities, group collaboration, and environmentally friendly art projects, while using a combination of indoor and outdoor program spaces throughout the school year and summer.</p>
<p>Latino Arts, Inc.</p>	<p>Latino Arts intends to conduct the 2026/2027 Summer Family Cultural Arts Series in partnership with two schools located in our Walker's Point neighborhood: UCC Bruce-Guadalupe Community School & UCC Acosta Middle School. They will be 2 weeks long & consist of 2 workshops designed for the mostly Latino families that reside in our community, i.e., they will be culturally relevant & competent (presented bilingually). In 2026, one session will be a hands-on workshop. Latino Arts Managing Artistic Director (MAD) will guide families through the history & creation of Talavera birdhouses, a traditional Mexican folk art. The 2nd session will consist of a walking tour led by Latino Arts' MAD, highlighting murals and other artwork found throughout the Latino Arts/UCC 12-block shared campus. Families will then create sidewalk art inspired by what they have seen. Pending evaluation & input from participating schools & families, our 2027 series will offer similar programming.</p>
<p>Lead2Change</p>	<p>Dream.Explore.Build. (D.E.B.) is our signature career-readiness program. When high school juniors and seniors experience D.E.B., they embark on a fruitful journey of cultivating their dreams, exploring their strengths, and building their futures that measurably increases their confidence in several life and career skills such as problem solving, professionalism, networking, decision making, elevator speeches, and more. D.E.B. includes 300 hours of instruction, reflection, sharing, professional development workshops, social emotional learning, one-on-one professional coaching, peer-to-peer feedback, and a 7-week paid professional internship (\$11.32/hour). The result is an increase in self-confidence in the 27 soft skills we measure. Our program also increases the chances that our young people will achieve success in life and the workforce by securing family-sustaining jobs. We are leveling the playing field for people of color and providing on-ramps to the workforce through meaningful exploration and skill-building that will serve them throughout their lives.</p>

<p>Lynden Sculpture Garden</p>	<p>BE THE CHANGE develops the leadership and self-advocacy skills of young refugee women and girls through arts-centered programming. During the academic year, the cohort meets monthly at Lynden to collectively explore identity and empowerment through artmaking with women artists and topical discussions with women leaders. The participants produce and disseminate a culminating publication of their artmaking and writing. In the summer, we provide participants with a menu of skill-building opportunities: intensive workshops with Lynden’s artists-in-residence; a week-long comics workshop at Lion’s Tooth in Bay View; the chance to plan and implement arts programming at our HOME World Refugee Day celebrations at Milwaukee City Hall and Lynden; and free tuition, room, and board to attend the residential World Affairs Seminar at Carroll University. By modeling female refugee/immigrant leadership—in the choice of artists, speakers, and mentors—BE THE CHANGE invites participants to construct their own vision of the future.</p>
<p>Marcus Center for the Performing Arts</p>	<p>The Marcus Center Arts Education Program connects Milwaukee youth to the performing arts industry through a culture-centered, community-based youth arts programs offering year-round engagements with professional touring artists. In this free programming, participants are mentored and taught by professional artists from similar backgrounds. Hands-on workshops in various disciplines (jazz, dance, musical theater) accelerate skill growth, while panel discussions, open rehearsals, performances, and post-show talkbacks foster a sense of belonging and explore pathways to arts careers and beyond. Engagements inspire joy while concurrently improving academics, socio-emotional wellness, and career readiness (NEA, 2012). Youth are actively engaged in activities that enhance teamwork, creativity, persistence, resilience, confidence, presentation, and emotional intelligence: power skills, a recent Forbes article labeled the “new currency” of the workplace. Supplemental engagements for entire families in neighborhoods of need foster community, belonging, and bonding moments that complement the messages shared onstage.</p>
<p>Milwaukee Art Museum</p>	<p>The Milwaukee Art Museum’s (MAM) Teen Internship Program helps Milwaukee teens to develop creative and leadership skills as they learn about higher education and career pathways in the arts. This program increases access to hands-on art education experiences and resources for teens who may otherwise face financial barriers. During MAM’s teen internships, youth see behind the scenes at Wisconsin’s largest art museum, connect and collaborate with peers and mentors, and gain professional experience. The program is offered during the school year (weekly after school) and in the summer (four days/week for one month).</p>
<p>Milwaukee Ballet</p>	<p>Milwaukee Ballet provides impactful dance education to City of Milwaukee students through Relevé, our cornerstone program offering weekly ballet classes at no cost to second through fourth graders during the school year. Relevé students may also be invited to attend free, week-long dance intensives during school-year breaks—extensions of the program that promote creative movement, expression, and peer connection. Milwaukee Ballet School & Academy enhances these opportunities by offering up to 100% tuition scholarships for students from first grade through high school, allowing continued dance exploration year-round. All students learn ballet fundamentals and may experience additional styles, such as Latin Partnering, which may reflect their own cultures. These programs introduce artistic traditions and prepare students for advanced training while nurturing self-esteem and community. Dance becomes a powerful avenue for building strength, coordination, and musicality, while developing life skills like self-awareness, perseverance, and collaboration—supporting personal growth, healing, and resilience both in and beyond the studio.</p>
<p>Milwaukee Muslim Women's Coalition</p>	<p>Funding from the Partnership for the Arts and Humanities supports multi-faceted and culturally appropriate empowerment programming and community art projects for immigrant and refugee students in Milwaukee. Specifically, we will: 1) Empower immigrant and refugee students through leadership exercises, team-building activities, and discussions about cultural identity. 2) Work with therapists and social workers to address the unique trauma experienced by immigrant and refugee students in a culturally sensitive way. 3) Utilize art therapy to facilitate healing and help students cope physically and psychologically. 4) Host a community Eid celebration. 5) Cultivate a community garden.</p>

<p>Milwaukee Repertory Theater</p>	<p>Next Narrative Monologue Competition (NNMC) is a free arts education program that celebrates contemporary Black playwrights and inspires high school students to engage in healthy reflection around their leadership and performance abilities. Fall and Winter NNMC programming includes after-school residencies at schools and youth-serving agencies and drop-in workshops at Milwaukee Rep's new Education & Engagement Center, aimed at building performance skills and preparing students to audition for a regional competition. Two regional winners will receive an all-expense paid trip to New York City to participate in the national competition. Participants will be encouraged to apply for our Teen Council leadership program. In addition to providing free attendance to Milwaukee Rep performances, Teen Council will organize monthly arts workshops, culminating in a unique performance opportunity based on NNMC's core themes. New teacher resources and limited training for middle school students will further increase program accessibility.</p>
<p>Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra</p>	<p>The Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra's Community Partnership Programs deliver participatory music education and its developmental benefits to Milwaukee students who lack equitable access to these assets because of barriers including finances. For students in need, we provide financial aid so they can participate in ensemble, enrichment, and outreach options in classical, jazz, steel-pan, and Latin music. The programs foster cognitive, emotional, and social skills that youths will need in life – such as resilience, teamwork, empathy, leadership, and critical thinking – besides musical skills. Research shows that 73% of the programs' students show gains in character skills, 87% in cognitive skills, and 91% in musical skills. All students show gains in skills including time management and focus. Also, the programs advance access, equity, diversity, and inclusion in music. Of students in the programs, 66% are youths of color, 65% are from Milwaukee, and 75% come from low- to moderate-income families.</p>
<p>Neighborhood House of Milwaukee</p>	<p>Family Adventures (FA) is a dynamic initiative aimed at strengthening parent-child relationships while offering families meaningful educational opportunities. Running from 2025 to 2027, FA will provide free cultural explorations and events. The theme for Funding Cycle 1 (2025-2026), "Families That Learn Together," emphasizes humanities and arts activities focused on the celebrations and traditions of Milwaukee's diverse cultures. Held on weeknights and Saturdays, sessions will feature outings and interactive family projects, encouraging deeper cultural understanding, connection, and stronger family bonds. Events will be open to Milwaukee residents and hosted at NH and various venues citywide. With an expected annual reach of 50 unduplicated and 200 duplicated children and families, FA aims to create lasting, impactful experiences, designed to nurture learning, strengthen family bonds, foster meaningful connections, and celebrate the rich cultural diversity within our city.</p>
<p>Neu-Life Community Development</p>	<p>Neu-Life Community Development is a near-northside nonprofit providing year-round educational and recreational programs for youth, ages 5-18. One of the most popular education programs/experiences is the annual youth-led Art Show, which exposes students to new genres and mediums of art.</p>
<p>Radio Milwaukee</p>	<p>Grace Weber's Music Lab (GWML) is a free monthly music and arts education program and talent accelerator for Milwaukee area high schoolers to connect with and be inspired by music industry professionals and each other. GWML provides opportunities to build performance skills; make connections between engaged and talented young people from different neighborhoods; expose participants to the multiple career opportunities available in creative industries; and to experience performances and talks by professional musicians and entertainment industry professionals.</p>
<p>Reflo</p>	<p>The Reflo Environmental Internship program offers paid experiential learning and personal growth opportunities related to the environment, climate education, and sustainability for Milwaukee-area high school students. The summer intern session (May - August) supports community-based projects throughout the city and assists with green infrastructure maintenance and land stewardship projects. Intern sessions emphasize building capacity to support projects while gaining knowledge and career awareness related to green infrastructure, engineering, and climate change with the opportunity to collaborate with other environmental youth groups and partner organizations throughout the program as they develop personal and professional skills.</p>

<p>Running Rebels Community Organization</p>	<p>Through the Running Rebels UNITY Arts program, Milwaukee youth ages 12-24 engage in a wide range of creative disciplines across the performing, digital media, and visual arts fields. The program comprises weekly workshops that balance education & instruction with dedicated time for exploration, practice, and creative project development in both individual and group settings. Youth also have consistent access to opportunities for performance and publication. UNITY Arts programming is offered year-round during out-of-school time at Running Rebels' East and Central locations, complemented by occasional offsite experiences with our community arts partners.</p>
<p>SHARP Literacy</p>	<p>SHARP's Summer Arts Program, in partnership with Community Learning Centers (CLCs), combats summer learning loss—still critical due to post-pandemic setbacks. Students engage in hands-on art, movement, and read-alouds in a creative, supportive environment that builds confidence and encourages self-expression. Each session strengthens social-emotional skills and peer relationships through collaboration and open-ended learning. Programs serve Kindergarten through 6th grade with curriculum options like S.T.A.R – SEL Through Art and Reading, Garden & Greenhouse: Growing Creativity, and STEAM Dream Team, all designed to integrate creativity with arts, literacy, and science. Our Summer Arts Program services—including student learning, educator pay, and partner agreements—will remain unchanged for this summer, with the exception of free Education Tours.</p>
<p>Signature Dance Company</p>	<p>Signature Dance Company is a pre-professional performance company that nurtures girls through the art of dance while instilling leadership values. Our program offers year-round dance training for girls ages 3 to 18+, with a focus on building confidence, discipline, and purpose. Dancers train in a wide range of styles including ballet, jazz, hip hop, lyrical, modern, contemporary, and Afro-fusion. Classes are offered weekly and are designed to develop both technical skills and expressive artistry. In addition to regular classes, company members participate in rehearsals to prepare for several major performances each year, including our signature Winter and Spring Concerts, community showcases, and ministry-based performances at local churches and events. Our Summer Arts Intensive provides an immersive experience where dancers engage in technique classes, choreography labs, and performance training, culminating in a dynamic end-of-session showcase. We also host leadership retreats and mentorship activities. Through every class and performance, Signature creates a space where girls are celebrated, challenged, and encouraged to use their gifts to uplift their communities.</p>
<p>Skai Academy</p>	<p>Skai Academy offers K4-12th grade youth the opportunity to engage in high-quality after-school, out-of-school, and summer multicultural arts experiences, including theater, visual arts, and music, with integrated extensions in language arts, history, math, and science. The program promotes equity through interest-based learning, fostering creativity, skill development, social awareness, and educational curiosity. By providing a diverse range of activities with professional artist mentors, high school and college assistants, and senior community volunteers, we aim to inspire students and deepen our impact on their individual growth and collective achievement.</p>
<p>Sojourner Family Peace Center</p>	<p>Sojourner Family Peace Center offers holistic healing opportunities for children and their families following experiences of abuse. Through our Healing Arts Programming, youth are empowered to explore alternative ways of healing and expressing their emotions. These creative outlets include drop-in after-school arts sessions, family art nights, specialized community collaborations centered on the arts, dedicated artistic experiences, and a week-long summer camp experience. The overall goal of our program is to help children build self-confidence, recognize their potential, and feel supported as they work toward their personal goals.</p>
<p>Taylor 4 ALL</p>	<p>Taylor 4 ALL is an innovative 8-session arts program using superhero storytelling to build resilience, emotional intelligence, and self-efficacy in Milwaukee youth ages 8-17. Participants identify strengths, process challenges, develop coping strategies, and create personal narratives transforming adversity into agency.</p>

TBEY Arts Center	TBEY Arts Center will establish a partnership with four Milwaukee schools and/or community organizations to provide high-quality arts education through the TBEY ArtReach Program. Students in grades K4-12 receive instruction in music, theatre, dance, and visual arts, led by professional teaching artists, culminating in end-of-year student showcases in each discipline. Select students from these partnerships will further expand their artistic journey through TBEY's Summer Exploring Arts Camp, where campers engage in diverse arts experiences throughout the summer. Guided by local artists, students explore various creative disciplines, participate in field trips and cultural activities, and showcase their work in a final presentation. Additionally, selected students may participate in two major productions and an art exhibition: 1. A Journey Through Dance (Summer Dance Concert, Jun-Aug) 2. Spring Theatre Production (Feb-Jun) 3. Art Exhibition (Jan-May) TBEY ensures Milwaukee students gain transformative arts experiences, fostering creativity, confidence, and artistic growth.
Teens Grow Greens	Teens Grow Greens will provide paid internship and apprenticeship work experiences for Milwaukee teens, ages 14–18. The program will engage teens through two hands-on learning tracks: a foundational internship followed by a more intensive apprenticeship for second year teens who have successfully completed internships. Both focus on culinary arts, food justice, entrepreneurship, leadership development, and community problem-solving.
TRUE Skool	The "TRUE Skool Experience" describes our multi-faceted and tiered year-round approach to youth engagement while staying on course for our targeted outcomes of serving youth families and communities through transformative arts and Hip Hop culture. We provide after school, weekend and summer experiences. Youth who participate in TRUE SKOOL develop creative skill sets unique to the TS Experience, entrepreneurial skills, and leadership development. Following the MPS calendar we complement the youth's educational journey providing supplemental arts education that reinvigorates the excitement to learn, advances a youth's communication skills, and inspires creativity. Our Fall and Spring sessions take place after school, and each 10-week session ends with a "Showcase & Gallery" performance that invites friends, family and community to celebrate the youth's accomplishments. These important milestones keep the youth motivated to return for future sessions to advance their skills. During the summer youth apply for a 6-week paid internship.
Urban Ecology Center	The Urban Ecology Center's non-school day and summer programming provides high-quality learning opportunities by transforming Milwaukee's parks into outdoor classrooms and engaging youth in inquiry-based education, all while having fun and exploring nature. The Center's unique summer camp program combines the outdoor adventure of a traditional nature center camp with the benefits of science-based learning that helps curb summer learning loss. The Center offers scholarships for students to attend these programs at low cost, based on financial need. The Adventure Day programming takes place on non-school days during the school year, and offers a blend of academic learning with hands-on, outdoor experiential learning and skill-building opportunities. These programs are designed to serve young people living in the historically underserved neighborhoods around each branch: Washington Park (zip code: 53208), Riverside Park (zip code: 53211), and Menomonee Valley (zip code: 53215).
UWM ArtsECO	Milwaukee Visionaries Project (MVP) is an academic-year media arts program that provides Milwaukee area middle and high school students with conceptual and technical development in art, design, media and technology. Students learn and use industry-standard tools across a range of media to create work centering issues in their lives and communities. Participants meet weekly on UWM's campus to learn filmmaking, animation, and media literacy from professional artist educators, grounded in a student-centered relational approach to learning and mentoring unique, creative products. Engaging in all stages of production - from story development and critique to hands-on creation - students produce original short films, showcased annually at the Milwaukee Film Festival and other community venues. MVP shines a spotlight on youth voices by centering student voice, equity, and culturally sustaining practice through filmmaking to empower diverse Milwaukee youth with future forward communication skills, creative confidence, and pathways to college and careers in the arts.

<p>VIBEZ Creative Arts Space</p>	<p>Together We Create is a multigenerational arts initiative hosted by VibeZ Creative Arts Space, offering free, drop-in workshops for families in underserved Milwaukee communities. Held weekly during the school year at three local school sites, the program provides a rotating lineup of hands-on art activities including painting, fluid art, poetry, watercolors, and crafts. Each session is designed to support individual creativity while strengthening family connections and promoting mental wellness. Participants enjoy a welcoming space, a healthy snack, and take-home creative materials to continue their exploration beyond the session. Together We Create is a safe, joyful space for families to express themselves, build community, and grow through art.</p>
<p>Victory Garden Initiative</p>	<p>VGI's Youth Education Program (YEP!) highlights growing food and environmental stewardship while positively impacting food security for Milwaukee youth. YEP! utilizes our 1.5-acre urban farm in the Harambee neighborhood and a network of school gardens as an outdoor laboratory for teaching practical garden skills, composting, and nutrition. YEP! is an invitation for Milwaukee youth to come together, make new friends, learn outdoors, achieve food security, and positively impact their physical, mental, and developmental health. Our program includes an After School Chef-in-Training Club and Summer AgriCorp camp for a year-round immersive experience in all things food!</p>
<p>Walker's Point Center for the Arts</p>	<p>Walker's Point Center for the Arts provides cultural programming that is rooted in sustainability, inclusivity, and community engagement. For 38 years, WPCA has been a vital creative hub in Milwaukee, advocating for historically underrepresented artists and ensuring equitable access to the arts for youth and families—particularly those in Walker's Point and surrounding neighborhoods who face economic and social barriers. Our programs focus on high-quality, accessible arts education and culturally relevant community events that reflect and celebrate the diverse identities of our community. We offer free or low-cost visual and performing arts workshops, exhibitions, and youth programs designed to empower individuals through artistic expression, promote cross-cultural understanding, and nurture creative potential.</p>
<p>Wild Space Dance Company</p>	<p>Wild Arts: Summer Creative Arts Camp is a free, half-day, three-week summer program offered at MPS-Lincoln Center Middle School of the Arts for 5th through 8th graders. Participants attend workshops in dance and creative movement, visual arts, and spoken word poetry. They gain inspiration and engage with the community on a field trip to Milwaukee Art Museum for a social justice tour focusing on artists of color. A culminating youth-led performance and exhibition of original dance, poetry, and artworks is presented for friends and family on the program's final session. Wild Arts Summer Camp provides students with creative and fun structured activities in a safe, supervised environment at no cost to them.</p>
<p>Wisconsin Bicycle Federation</p>	<p>The Bike Fed will provide four - one-week humanities themed adventure bike programs for 64 total teens over the 2 year cycle. One camp will focus on Visual Arts such as public murals, museums, and explore the connection of art, traffic safety and community building. Youth will have the chance to meet local artists and create their own art inspired by the things they see on their bike rides. The other weeklong camp will be focused on exploration by bike of various food and cultures of Milwaukee's diverse communities. We will visit local ethnic landmarks and restaurants to prepare, eat, and learn about various foods and recipes of different cultures. Youth participants will each be able to borrow a bicycle, receive a helmet, water bottle, and various pieces of equipment that will support continued use of bikes as a mode of transporting themselves around the city beyond the camp programming.</p>
<p>Woodland Pattern Book Center</p>	<p>Woodland Pattern's Youth Literary Arts Program (YLAP) provides year-round interdisciplinary arts programming with a focus on creative writing. YLAP consists of four main avenues of student engagement and serves students in grades 3–12. The YLAP's Community Learning Center (CLC) programs serve students at MPS school sites through after-school and summer creative writing sessions. The program also hosts two one-week inter-arts Poetry Camps each summer, which include meals, workshops, field trips, and student-led readings that are open to the public. YLAP's Milwaukee Queer Writing Project's (MQWP) programming partners with high school GSA clubs and LGBTQ+ community organizations to offer LGBTQ+-led writing workshops. Finally, YLAP supports the Milwaukee Youth Poet Laureate (MYPL) program, which is aimed at providing widespread opportunities that prepare Milwaukee youth to become expressive thought leaders.</p>