



ARTSONTHEOUTS

PILOT PROGRAM

REENTRY PROGRAM for INCARCERATED YOUTH

Harnessing the power of creativity to transform the lives of justice-involved youth through arts education, individualized case management, employment, and a deep belief in their ability to succeed.



**CREATING ART
HELPS ME FIND
A PLACE OF TOTAL
CLARITY AND PEACE.**

- Young Artist from
Sonoma Juvenile Hall

The Imagine Bus Project - ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND

At The Imagine Bus Project our core activity is to transform the lives of teens in the juvenile justice system by using the visual arts to build life skills and inspire behavioral change. Our methodology is based on the transformative power of creative thinking, the rehabilitative effects of art-making, essential life skill building, and the profound influence of diverse role models from the community. We enable self-expression and positive personal discovery so that young people can build empathy for others, and successfully reenter their communities with a path to a fulfilling future.

Arts on The Outs - PILOT PROGRAM SUMMARY

Arts on the Outs is a 9-month pilot reentry program where youth released from juvenile institutions will have the opportunity to receive continued arts education, individualized life skill building with a case manager, and arts employment. Additionally, a dedicated Teaching Artist will support the youth to produce meaningful artwork focused on empowering messages of hope. The commissioned art will then be exhibited publicly to inspire the broader community to think and act positively, thus causing a ripple effect throughout the community. The project will also yield portfolios for the youth to obtain a scholarship through one of our partnering art colleges.

PROGRAM GOALS and OUTCOMES

- 100% of youth will be matched with a community based teaching artist, receive job readiness training, life skill development, and immediate income through the creation of their artwork (up to \$1,000; 100 hours)
- 100% of youth will complete an individualized case plan focusing on areas of education, health/behavior
- 70% of youth will not return to juvenile hall and/or complete probation during the program period.

TARGET POPULATIONS SERVED and COMMUNITY TOUCHED

- Over 750 underrepresented youth in San Francisco, San Mateo, and Sonoma Counties will directly benefit from our programs while incarcerated
- 30 will receive intensive 1:1 reentry case management and arts coaching by 10-15 Bay Area teaching artists
- Over 600 people will experience the power of their creativity through an annual art exhibit, featuring art commissioned from the youth.
- Countless others will benefit from this project, as youth will transform their behavior and save community dollars. (California annual cost to incarcerate one youth: ~\$200,000).

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Create referral/recruitment process with Probation
- Match 30 youth released from institutions with 10-15 community-based teaching artists (both paid and volunteer) to design & execute artwork
- Match 30 youth (over 2 yrs) with an individualized staff case manager to help set & achieve goals around behavior & education:
 - o Administer youth assessment to identify criminogenic barriers to success
 - o Create a service plan, listing action steps towards goal completion
 - o Meet weekly to complete cognitive restructuring exercises and monitor progress
- Display artwork at community exhibit
- Track outcome data and prep for scale

WHY THE IMAGINE BUS PROJECT AND THIS PROGRAM?

The Imagine Bus Project is uniquely, the only visual arts education and life skills program offered to incarcerated youth in the Bay Area. Our juvenile justice youth population (ages 14-18) experiences disproportionate rates of poverty, single parent households, and insufficient time with parents/caregivers. Most often 70% of the youth we serve are minorities, predominantly Latino and African American. Our art exhibits give voice to youth who are otherwise misunderstood, unseen, and forgotten. Our programs are aligned with best practices and proven risk reduction techniques for juvenile justice youth.

THE PARTNERSHIP PLAN

The Imagine Bus Project works closely with justice system stakeholders to promote the value of art as a creative and meaningful tool for self-discovery and expression. Our Probation partners allow us weekly access to youth for art and life skill instruction and will support the project by identifying youth most in need of our reentry services and maintaining strong communication through case management (9 mos.). This project will also rely on our strong partnerships with local foundations and businesses to exhibit youth art; and local art colleges to provide scholarships and learning opportunities to our youth.