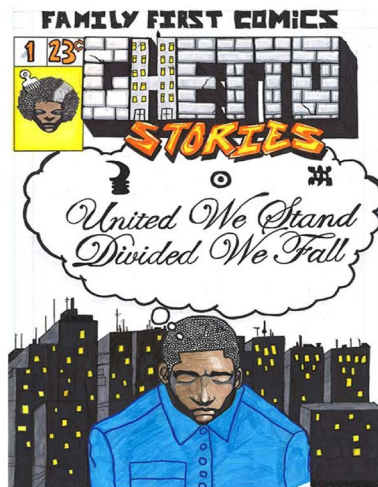


YOUTHSTUDIO

LIFE-SKILLS and Fine Art Education 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



**ART IS THE MEDIUM
IN WHICH HUMANS
EXPRESS DEEPER
THOUGHTS AND
EMOTIONS THAT
CAN'T QUITE BE
FULLY EXPRESSED
VERBALLY.**

- 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.

Youth Studio - PROGRAM SUMMARY

Youth Studio engages incarcerated youth in fine art as a vehicle for them to build upon life-skills they need to reduce their risk of recidivism. Each 90-minute session begins with an introduction to a life-skill that explicitly builds upon the most common criminogenic factors that lead to repeat offenses (anti-social thinking, temperament, and associates) as well as the important non-cognitive skills like communication, decision-making, and empathy needed to be successful. The youth then engage in a corresponding fine art-project taught by community-based Teaching Artists who serve as strong role models and informal mentors. By introducing art materials, techniques, and the creative process in a formal large group setting, youth are exposed to positive methods for expression and communication and are inspired to discover their best-selves and yearn for a positive future.

PROGRAM GOALS and OUTCOMES

- 80% of youth will report that they have hope for their futures
- 80% of youth will report an increase of life-skills (communication, pro-social behavior, empathy)
- 80% of youth will report that they learned something new about themselves
- 80% of youth will demonstrate an increased understanding of positive forms of collaboration and constructive communication through skill building in the arts
- Staff at all partnering juvenile detention centers will report decreased the level of tension in the facility

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 through the continuation re-entry program, Arts On The Outs
- Over 600 people will experience the power of their creativity through an annual art exhibit, featuring art commissioned from the youth.

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.

YOUTH STUDIO serves this population in the following ways:

1. ENSURES adjudicated youth have access to a high-quality arts education

In the process of art making, youth learn new forms of communication and develop skills in various visual arts media including painting, drawing, sculpture, digital photography, and mural making.

2. PROVIDES time and space for youth to reflect and explore their potential

TIBP's programs give students the opportunity to tap into their creativity, explore their imagination, and make visual connections to the world through the arts. Participation in the arts plays a key role in youths' development and supports creating a valuable educational system that contributes to building a healthy and equitable society.

3. STRENGTHENS youth bonds to their creative talents and creative professionals

Developing creative skills and building a relationship with a consistent nurturing adult produces many healthy outcomes in a young person's life: measurably greater attitudes towards learning, more confidence in social relationships, and fewer tendencies to initiate risk-taking behaviors.

4. OFFERS resources and opportunities for youth to take risks and learn from failure safely

The arts classroom provides opportunities for youth to develop a sense of accomplishment and achievement by exploring their own unique character, developing personal strengths, cultivating a strong voice, making mistakes, and being witnessed and supported in the process.