

# EMPOWER

— The Imagine Bus Project —

[www.imaginebusproject.org](http://www.imaginebusproject.org)

## SUCCESS

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

In 2001, The Imagine Bus Project was founded.

In 2014, we focused our programming on justice-involved youth 13-18 years old

In 2016, we introduced our Life Skills Curriculum into our YOUTH STUDIO programming

In 2017, we launched our ARTS ON THE OUTS pilot and started to reduce recidivism

At The Imagine Bus Project, we **EMPOWER** juvenile justice youth to thrive due to the generosity of donors like you who have supported our programs. We have much to celebrate **TOGETHER**. Here are some of the notable highlights that your donations have helped make possible these past 12 months.

### THE VALUE OF YOUR 2017-2018 CONTRIBUTIONS

#### **LIFE SKILLS and FINE ART EDUCATION PROGRAMS for INCARCERATED and REENTRY YOUTH**

This year, TIBP Program Managers and Teaching Artists continued to hone the delivery of our unique Life Skills Curriculum. Whether they are IN or OUT, justice-involved youth leverage this program to learn how to make healthy choices when faced with life challenges. With our programming, skill building and art projects revolve around emotional, social and cognitive skills taking, youth from reflection to the how-tos of communication, empathy and conflict resolution, as well as goal setting and preparing to thrive after incarceration.



Provided 240 **YOUTH STUDIO** sessions: Weekly 90-minute fine arts and life skills classes for 750 youth in five locations across San Francisco, Sonoma and San Mateo counties.

Piloted **ARTS ON THE OUTS**: A continuation of the arts education paired with case management and employment opportunities for youth released from juvenile institutions. Already, this program has seen 80% of reentry youth NOT reoffend upon release. (The standard rate of recidivism is 70%.)

Developed **Life Skills** curriculum: A method designed to support the needs of incarcerated youth, with lessons in empathy building, communication, decision-making, goal setting.

Work closely with our **two program managers**: They continually improve and innovate how to engage our youth, and inspire and train our Teaching Artists to **EMPOWER** our students.

Employed and trained **ten local artists**: These accomplished educators understand our population, and become lifelong sources of inspiration.

Served as **one of a kind organization in the Bay Area**- The Imagine Bus Project is the only LIFE SKILLS and FINE ART EDUCATION program offered to incarcerated and justice-involved youth in the Bay Area.

### **A SAMPLING OF STUDENT SUCCESSES**

After benefitting from YOUTH STUDIO in the hall, students can apply to join **ARTS ON THE OUTS** (AOTO) upon reentry and continue working with our Teaching Artists (TA) and Case Manager, receiving individualized life-skills training, arts education, case management, and a stipend.

Monica (18 years old) began AOTO in September '17 and is working on a project that involves multiple canvases that create a collage. She would like to display these in Los Guilicos Juvenile Hall. Additionally, Monica's TA helped set up an informational interview with a college student to learn how to manage her time and explore different methods for achieving success and to learn how to be a good college student herself.

Jerry started AOTO in June '17 and is working on a bike project that everyone is impressed with. He is making an ornate low-rider bike. While overcoming the challenges of getting the proper parts, learning how to persist through hurdles; he's learning perseverance and all the lessons that come with goal setting, determination, understanding process and success over time. He's preparing these pieces for our student art exhibition to take place in March. He will personally attend our show. Jerry (18 years old) also got a job with a mechanic, which is fully aligned with his passion to make, fix and build riding machines.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE SUCCESS**

Our Staff and Board are laser focused on the needs of incarcerated and reentry adolescents—bold and daring leaders, working collaboratively to serve a worthy mission.

Our Staff is committed to the development of our program curriculum; and our teachers are accomplished artists from the communities they serve who are passionate about freeing justice-involved youth. This past year, our Board of Directors has grown even stronger with resource-rich leaders in the fields of science, law, education, design, film, marketing, leadership development and entrepreneurship.

We hope you find our recent successes inspiring and worthy of your ongoing support. Our greatest fundraising goal this year is to increase our capacity to build on the success of our innovative pilot, **ARTS ON THE OUTS**, leaving a legacy as we strive to help juvenile justice youth break the damaging cycle of incarceration now and forever.

**THE IMAGINE BUS PROJECT**

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