



## APPLICATION FORM

All applications must include the following information. Separate applications must be submitted for each eligible program. **Deadline: June 3, 2019.** Please include this application form with electronic entry. If you do not receive an email confirming receipt of your entry within 3 days of submission, please contact [Gage Harter](#).

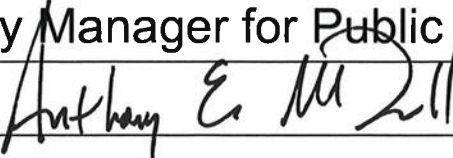
### PROGRAM INFORMATION

County: County of Henrico  
Program Title: Youth Experiencing Healing Through the Arts  
Program Category: Organizational Development

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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### SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Name: Anthony McDowell  
Title: Deputy County Manager for Public Safety  
Signature: 

## **Program Overview**

The arts have long been recognized as platforms for young people to develop skills in creative and critical thinking, interpersonal communication, and positive self-expression. In a detention environment where youth experience isolation and feelings of powerlessness, the opportunity for self-expression in a supportive environment has a significant impact in building a positive self-image and positive relationships. The arts build on positive thoughts and ideas, interrupting a pattern of negative thoughts, choices and behaviors. The James River Juvenile Detention Center (JRJDC) has partnered with the Cultural Arts Center (CAC) to develop and facilitate a cultural arts program for their residents. The arts initiative incorporates Studio Arts, Mural Collaboratives, Theater Arts, and Community Engagement. These creative experiences interconnect youth, staff, administrative leadership, and community members through various visual and performance projects. Conversations, creative collaborations, and new skills all serve to support and empower the residents. The staff has observed a decrease in internal conflicts and an increase in pro-social behavior and self-pride. To quote one resident, "It helps me to calm down and think about ideas." Engaging with local artists and performers has provided residents with a connection to a community beyond the detention walls. The arts initiative has been transformative for residents and staff.

## **Problem/Challenge/Situation Faced by Locality**

Juveniles, both boys and girls under the age of 18 who break the law and are sent to detention, often experience a lot of personal conflicts due to cultural, social and economic situations. They are often going through difficult family and personal matters. A very large percentage are experiencing depression, hopelessness, isolation, withdrawal, and loss of interest in activities or friends. When they are acting out and committing crimes, it is a cry for help. They experience feelings of loneliness, worthlessness, and guilt. They neglect their appearance or hygiene, and

have difficulty sleeping and eating. Anti-social behaviors to include self-inflicted tattooing and cutting are some traits they experience, and they demonstrate aggressive behaviors as an outlet to releasing their anger and frustration. The detention center seeks programs to engage youth and present them with opportunities that allow them to experience success, improve self-esteem, improve communication skills, manage anger and anti-social behavior. This program allows them an opportunity to release stress and anger while tapping into their creative talents, through music, theatre and art.

### **How Program Was Carried Out**

The purpose of the art initiative is to provide juveniles at the JRJDC with year-round visual and performing arts studios, classes, exhibits, and performances that will foster creative and critical thinking, positive self-image, empathy and responsiveness to others, and community awareness. The participants are Pre/Post-Dispositional Residents at the JRJDC. This facility provides local based services for residents who the court feels can benefit from treatment provided within a structured setting for a period not to exceed six months. Some may enter under a suspended commitment to the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) or are eligible for suspended commitment to the DJJ. Pre-dispositional residents receive short and medium-term care in secure custody. These are youth who are pending court action, participating in a local post-dispositional treatment program, or are awaiting transfer to another facility, and who cannot be served in an open setting. The program began in December 2016 and has continued through February 2018. The planning and development team included: The JRJDC Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Academic Principal, Program Director, The Cultural Arts Center President, Outreach Coordinator, and Outreach and Education Assistant. The planning and development task included: (a identifying and communicating the need for arts programming, (b

determining the nature of the programs that would meet the identified need, (c developing and defining those programs as Studio Arts, Theater Arts, Mural Collaboratives, and Community Engagement, (d Identifying, reviewing, and hiring artists and instructors that would be qualified and prepared to work in this unique setting, and (e Determine initial program scheduling.

From March to May 2018, the twelve-week Healing Arts Pilot Program began with 8-16 students attending once a week for two hours. The students were Post-Dispositional residents selected by the JRJDC leadership. One CAC instructor facilitated and four to six JRJDC staff supported each project. The Studio Arts program served to introduce the participants to a variety of art mediums and tools. The 12-week program began with a pop-up gallery in the classroom. The students were able to view 25 art pieces varying from printmaking to painting to collage, all created by local professional artists. Over the next several weeks, the student artists explored many of the same media as displayed in the pop-up. Art projects and media included: drawing, watercolor painting, acrylic painting, printmaking, collage, pastels, color pencil, and graphic design. The youth were able to develop small canvas pieces of art during this block. Dedicated art supply storage on-site provided residents with the opportunity to continue art projects beyond the scope of the scheduled programs. At the conclusion of the program, at least one piece of artwork for each student was selected for professional framing. Based on the success of the pilot, the Studio Arts Program continued and is currently year-round. The opening session in June was once again a pop-up gallery. One important difference in this pop-up gallery were the displays of artwork alongside the professional artists' pieces. In addition to meeting weekly for small-group sessions, additional sessions were scheduled for a large canvas project which was also completed within the period. Eight 30"x40" canvas' paintings were created by student artists to be permanently displayed at the JRJDC. Each painting was created by a single artist with themes such as leadership, loyalty, and gratitude. Avian Mills, Local Artist and Business Owner worked with 4-6 student artists to

paint a mural in one of the counseling offices at JRJDC during the months of April through August 2018. A series of small canvas painting projects introduced the artists to the nature of acrylic painting and its tools. The artists used a grid system to sketch and transfer the original mural design on the wall. While the original design was Ms. Mills', as they began to paint, it evolved and changed from the original concept into a piece displaying each artist's unique touch. In October of 2018, Hamilton Glass, Richmond Artist and Muralist held a three-day workshop with 15 student artists at JRJDC to brainstorm and conceptualize a mural project for the JRJDC gym. By the end of the three-day workshop, the student artists had determined the concept and communicated their overall design wishes to Mr. Glass. He, in turn, took the artists' concept and designed a mural for one wall in the gymnasium. The mural design was submitted and approved by the JRJDC leadership and the painting was scheduled. During the last week of November, Mr. Glass transferred the design to the gym wall and then worked with student artists to complete the mural. The mural was completed on Friday, November 30. Connecting with the Cultural Arts Center for community engagement allowed our students a broader perspective on art. The Cultural Arts Center invited the student artists to attend two productions: Quill Theater's ***Brave New World*** and the ***Eleone Dance Theater***. At the conclusion of the Eleone Dance Theater performance, students participated in a private question and answer session with the performers. The conversation between the students and dancers was profound and exhibited the depth of thought that the students were capable of. In addition to the performances, the program sponsored a tour to the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts' ***Terracotta Army Exhibit***. Another way to bring out creativity in the students and include community engagement opportunities, Monica Moehring, owner and director of Stage 3C in Richmond began developing and implementing a theater arts program. About 12 students participated in improvisation, character development, and performance workshops. In addition, students learned, rehearsed, and performed five short skits; the performance took place at the JRJDC holiday celebration. among parents, guest, and

JRJDC staff. Not only has Henrico County General Government provided the funding for the Arts Initiative, but the leadership and staff at the JRJDC are actively involved in every program component as co-facilitators and/or support staff. The leadership and staff continue to support the program beyond the scope of the scheduled elements by encouraging and providing the student artists with opportunities to continue the positive creative process. JRJDC leads consistent communication and evaluation processes between all stake-holders in the Arts Initiative ensuring that the programs are purposeful, relevant, meeting the needs of the students, and satisfying the objectives of the Arts Initiative. Henrico Public Schools as a partner has contributed by allowing teaching staff to participate in art instruction, in the development & execution of music/theatre preparation, design and painting of props, and by providing material resources for the art and music/theatre activities. The Cultural Arts Center at Glen Allen has provided personnel to assign, schedule, and evaluate all program facilitators and instructors, personnel to maintains the art supply and equipment inventory, on-site and off. Our partners consistently reviews and evaluates program plans and art supplies to ensure that they are meeting the needs of the students and the objectives of the Arts Initiative.

**Financing and Staffing**

	<b>Jan-June</b>	<b>July-Dec</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Studio Arts</b>			
Instructor	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$9,000.00
Supplies	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$5,000.00
<b>Theater Arts</b>			
Instructor	\$950.00 \$	\$6,375.00	\$7,325.00
Supplies		\$250.00 \$	\$250.00

<b>Mural Art</b>			
Instructor	\$3,250.00	\$3,250.00	\$6,500.00
Supplies			
<b>Wall Art</b>			
Instructor	\$1,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$4,000.00
Supplies	\$500.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,700.00
<b>Prep</b>			
Instructor	\$250.00	\$750.00	\$1,000.00
<b>Performance/Museum</b>	\$150	\$150.00	\$300.00
<b>Administration</b>	5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$10,000.00
			<b><u>45,075.00</u></b>

**Program Results**

Since the Arts Initiative began, the leadership and staff at JRJDC have noticed an upturn in positive communication between residents and a decline in the number of reported behavior incidents between residents. It is the mission of this organization to engage the youth who are detained in our facility, who we call our customers and promote healing and help them to see the possibilities. another example of our program success is evident in the mural project. Through our partnership with the Cultural Arts Center, we were able to commission Artist Hamilton Glass to work with our youth to develop a concept for a mural for our gym wall. He was able to connect with our multi-cultural population by sharing his story of overcoming struggles to follow his dream. Although none of the organizational staff or administration participated in the project, the mural that came out of the project reflects the story of what we do. The mural articulates youth feeling as they enter our facility such as anger, frustration and regret. Then as a result of mentoring,

groups and counseling inside the facility, there are words to describe the change to reflect their ability to cope and finally as they are released, they are able to see the possibilities of success, which they experience through projects, activities and experiences. Another success is that we were able to recognize a change in these youth's attitudes, behavior, grades and participation in school as a result of the impact of this program. They notable began to open up and express themselves through poetry, music, theatre and art. Program participants were able to complete art drawings and paintings and see them displayed in schools and at the Cultural Arts Center. One of our girls' paintings was so compelling, it was a self-portrait of her as a pregnant teen in detention. She talked about her painting and seeing herself as a future mother, and her fear of bringing a new life into this world. Resident participants attended theatre events to experience something many have never experienced before, the art of acting and self-expression. They developed a concept for their own theatre event and put on a show with skits and music that touched all who attended. The program was able to promote Community Awareness by helping the residents see beyond their immediate surroundings to the positive opportunities that exist for creative engagement, whether at home or at the JRJDC. Upon leaving the JRJDC, one of the students makes regular visits to the Cultural Arts Center to see the art exhibits. This student also begins a personal art collection by purchasing her first piece at the CAC. Students requested the opportunity to see the Hamilton Glass murals in the City of Richmond and to meet other Richmond artists. Students express the desire to continue to visit museums with their families. Upon exhibiting their artwork in a private showing with community leaders, students were able to converse and share how and why they created their artwork. Upon leaving JRJDC, students are offered a small art kit containing drawing pencils, watercolor paint, and multi-media paper. As the program progressed more students accepted the kit, reflecting pride in their positive creative efforts. The program promoted Positive Self-Image, Empathy and Responsiveness to Others. The students in the Theater Arts program performed in December in front of Henrico County



officials and other localities officials. They exhibited pride and respect for themselves and others; they verbally and physically supported each other as they acted in short skits and designed art. While students were initially hesitant about participating, the Studio Arts programs quickly became a favorite as residents discovered their individual styles of creativity. This resulted in students displaying respect for the program leadership, respect for the tools they are using, and positive language/social skills. Many of the residents had never had the opportunity to participate in visual art programs. Rather than problem-solve through pre-determined activities, students were able to examine and work through artistic challenges created by themselves. JRJDC staff observe the students using free time to draw or working on other art-related projects.

### **Brief Summary**

The Healing Arts program is worthy of an award as it changes the lives of troubled youth by exposing them to the beauty of art through self-expression. Because of many life challenges, the youth coming into a juvenile detention center have difficulty coping with and controlling their anger. The program allows them a more positive way to release stress and express themselves in ways they have not been able to in the past by giving them an opportunity to discover personal talents in art and theatre. As a result of this valuable program, we have seen visible changes and less negative attitudes and behaviors displayed by these youths. Additionally, there has been improvement in youth grades and participation in our school program. The Healing Arts program also allows an avenue for healing. Often, these youths are withdrawn and as a result, display anti-social behavior. The Healing Arts program teaches them that they can communicate their feelings through music, art, and theatre. This program is greatly impacting the lives of these youths by giving them additional tools to deal with anger and frustration through self-expression. Thus, allowing them to return to their communities with more enhanced coping skills and a new appreciation for the arts. One of the attachments, displays a picture of our gymnasium mural that

was developed and painted by our youth in collaboration with artist Hamilton Glass. The mural articulates the feelings and emotions of youths while in this setting. The mentoring and development the youths receive here from our teachers, staff, and volunteers will help increase their chances of success and accomplishment as they transition back to their homes and communities.