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www.RaisingExpectationsDC.org

ABOUT R.E. INC.

Since 2005, our motto has been to "R.E.-Educate, R.E.-Unify, and R.E.-Connect Through the Arts," and our mission is to do just that at each youth arts enrichment workshop activity!

Raising Expectations Inc.'s mission (R.E. Inc.) is to instill cultural integrity, self-empowerment, and discipline among youth ages 13-22 through instruction in the visual/performing arts and arts apprenticeship opportunities. By creating fun-filled cultural arts activities and fostering positive relationships between youth, parents, and teachers, R.E. bridges generational communication gaps and facilitate solutions-oriented dialogue and interaction.

With a diverse consortium of arts educators and mentors, R.E. affiliate instructors challenge the creative energy and potential of youth and young adults. We provide skills-based, interactive learning exercises in our arts workshops. Workshops range from wooden-sculpture making to the craft of DJ'ing, and from arts healing methods to salsa lessons.

R.E. workshops and arts apprenticeships fascinate and sharpen young people's understanding of the dedication necessary to achieve artistic masterpieces. One youth at a time, we are changing their perspective of the world around them and helping them to bring people of diverse backgrounds together!

R.E. DISCIPLINES

- 1) **Dance** - Youth learn from experienced and talented dancers. Focus on choreography, discipline of body, and technique.
- 2) **Music** (includes DJ'ing and Music Production) - Youth learn how to create musical beats and rhythms with musicians, spoken word artists, and deejays. Youth also receive vocal lessons from singers.
- 3) **Visual Art** (incl. murals and mosaics) - Youth learn how to design, draw, and paint with visual artists. Youth also participate in community service and beautification projects such as public murals and mosaics.
- 4) **Graphic Design** - Youth learn how to use the computer to create graphic designs, creative signage, and advertisements for personal use or community development projects.
- 5) **Theatre** - Youth learn how acting and vocal techniques from trained thespians. Youth participate in trips to local theatre houses to see plays.

RE-Educate, RE-Unify, RE-Connect Through the Arts!

R.E. ACHIEVEMENTS

- 1) Recipient of 2009 Special Projects Grant (United Black Fund - for African Dance & Drumming workshops);
- 2) Recipient of 2008 Public Arts Building Communities Grant (DCCA/NEA - for Ft. Stevens Recreation Center Mural);
- 3) Recipient of 2008 Community Grant (Georgia Avenue/Rock Creek East Family Support Collaborative for "Stop the Violence" Youth Art Gallery and Conflict Resolution workshops);
- 4) Recipient of 2007 Small Projects Grant (ANC 4C - for Upshur Recreation Center Mural and Youth Quilting Art Trip to Baltimore Museum); and
- 5) Three Years of Annual Holiday Celebrations (honoring youth artists and arts educators; past themes: Holiday Karaoke with Santa; Kuumba & Kreativity; A Hip-Hop Holiday)

PAST R.E. YOUTH WORKSHOPS (JUST A HANDFUL!!)

More at Photo Gallery online at www.RaisingExpectationsDC.org

- ✚ *Hand-Dancing and African Dance/Drumming Class workshop series* (Youth learned how the dance steps of hand-dancing and West African traditions as well as how to drum together) –
- ✚ *“Food for Thought – Artistic Expression through Cuisine”* (Youth and Adults work together to make Thai cuisine and learn about healthy Thai ingredients from Chef Tao Vigsitaboot of the local restaurant, Thai Xing, in Ward 1)
- ✚ *“Connecting the African Drums with DC’s Go-Go Music”* (Black History Month activity with Ward 7 & 8 youth; Amadou Kouyate of In Memory of African Culture, Inc., shared various types of drumming techniques and made connections to the styles of music in go-go with drummer from Junkyard Band in DC)
- ✚ *“Cuba: The People, Places, and Sounds”* (Youth learned about the beautiful and diverse richness of Cuban culture from Abeo Anderson’s travels to the island. They viewed collected artwork & artifacts, literature, and photo collages, and also danced to Cuban hip-hop, Cuban Salsa, Son, and Rumba rhythms)
- ✚ *“Art & Space: A Community Creating Together”* (An Arts Healing Workshop led by Elva Anderson, MPS, ATR, Art Therapist)
- ✚ *“Mix’in’ and Jammin’”* (Youth learned how to use equipment in this DJ Skills Training workshop led by a panel of local disc jockeys at the Latin American Youth Center’s Art & Media House)

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