



*P.O. Box 54304, Washington DC 20032 • Tel/Fax: (866) 549-2725*

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

## OUR MISSION

Raising Expectations' mission (R.E.) is to instill cultural integrity, self-empowerment, and discipline among youth through instruction in visual/performing arts and arts apprenticeship opportunities. By developing fun-filled cultural arts activities and positive, uplifting relationships between youth, parents, and teachers, R.E. aims to bridge the communication gaps and facilitate solutions-oriented dialogue and interaction.

Since July 2005, R.E.'s cultural development, community service, mentoring/tutoring, and career development programs have used artistic expression as a means to teach valuable life skills and re-connect with today's youth.

## ABOUT RAISING EXPECTATIONS

Raising Expectations, Inc., a 501c3 nonprofit organization, consists of qualified instructors and arts entrepreneurs with experience in tutoring and mentoring youth in various core subjects and the performing arts, such as dance, art, music, poetry, and social development skills. R.E. is a recognized contributor in creating positive role models for young people, leveling the playing field for at-risk students, opening the lines of communication between youth and adults, as well as increasing cultural competency among teachers in order to reach students and address their specific learning needs.

R.E. leaders are affiliated with and bring their wealth of knowledge, community activism, and artistic expertise from organizations such as the ArtBeat Collective, AMRadio, Words, Beats and Life, United Planning Organization, the Nubian Dance Institute, the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities, D.C. Parent Teacher Congress, the Blackout Arts Collective, the National African American Drug Policy Coalition, ParkTriangle Productions, Georgia Avenue Rock Creek East Collaborative (GARCEC), the Far Southeast Family Strengthening Collaborative, and many other youth organizations in the DC metro-area.

## POPULATION SERVED

R.E.'s extended-day and weekend arts programs serve middle- and high-school students and young adults ages 10-18. We organize educational programming at schools and in the community to music studios, dance performances, theatres, art exhibits, and much more!

In addition, our programs encourage the participation of parents and teachers in our youth work projects because this provides them with quality time to reconnect with youth, close communication gaps, and learn from and respect each other. R.E. workshops designed exclusively for adults teach them creative parenting and teaching strategies as well as conflict resolution techniques.

## OUR GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Raising Expectations helps re-educate the community about the richness of their history and the value of the performing arts by promoting a high work ethic, community involvement, and civic responsibility. Our primary goals and objectives are to empower youth, parents, and teachers to raise their expectations of each other and work collectively to achieve excellence. Other objectives are to:

- **Provide** needed direction on how to involve parents and youth, and make them true partners in the improvement of schools and communities;
- **Educate** youth on how to positively and creatively express themselves by refining their unique artistic expressions using diverse mediums;
- **Recruit** role models, mentors, and internship opportunities in the field of art for youth;
- **Excite** and educate youth about diverse cultures and increase community involvement;
- **Reconnect** families for community events to celebrate accomplishments of R.E. program participants; and
- **Offer** helpful information, resources, and skills to empower and prepare communities to overcome any challenge in life.

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

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## THE NEED

Perhaps as many as 15 million American children have nowhere to go after school, making them more at risk of getting poor grades, abusing drugs or alcohol, engaging in sexual activity, and becoming victims of crime. According to the U.S. General Accounting Office, the number of out-of-school programs for school age children meets as little as 25 percent of the demand in some urban areas.

After-school and extended-day enrichment programs in safe environments are an absolute necessity in at-risk, disadvantaged communities in order to preserve their basic existence and restore their historical richness and social upliftment. Our organization also prevents young people from entering the prison system for criminal activities because they will have greater opportunities to challenge their intellect and their physical talents through participation in our after-school programs.

A 1999 poll, commissioned by the American Association of School Administrators (AASA), found that 87 percent of parents recognized that too few parents get involved in their children's education. In a Pew Research Center study, *Straight Talk From Americans-2000*, it concluded that 69 percent of parents felt more opportunities for their involvement are needed.

## OUR PROGRAM DESIGN

Experienced artists and performers provide interactive, hands-on training and exposure to the field of art, dance, spoken word, and music. *Evening workshops and over the weekend*, new topics of discussion, themes, and performing arts lessons facilitated by qualified instructors, inspirational speakers, and community activists will be provided to youth, parent, and teacher participants to help broaden their perspectives and raise their expectations of themselves and others.

## RE PROGRAMS OFFERED

- **Dance/Music/Art Classes & Talent Shows**  
Youth learn various dance, music production, and art techniques from renowned instructors; Various talents are celebrated *through art and dance shows, poetry slams, competitions, and history- and culture-based contests.*

- **Computer and Web Design Programs**  
Youth learn how to make their own websites and create their own art designs on the computer.
- **Mentoring Programs**  
Community activists, entertainers, college students, parents, and others facilitate discussions with R.E. participants in order to establish consensus and overcome various problems in the community, such as poor academic performance, substance abuse, teen pregnancy, and crime.
- **Career Development Programs**  
Youth learn in a seminar setting how to develop their resumes and define their interests. Individual attention through appointments with counselors will also be provided.
- **Community & Arts Apprenticeship Programs**  
Youth develop their leadership skills and professional experience by participating in arts-based community projects and apprenticeships with renowned artists.
- **Tutoring Programs**  
College students assist younger students with schoolwork, research projects, and homework problems (Parents will also be encouraged to participate in tutoring to learn from college students about a particular subject challenging their children).



## OUTCOMES

Through our programs, youth participants will exhibit a greater respect for their parents, teachers, and others in the community, as well as gain a greater appreciation of the arts. They will also learn better ways to articulate and resolve their problems with their strengthened confidence, intellectual and analytical skills through our arts-based exercises. Our programs will excite youth about the arts and the important connection between academic achievement and arts consciousness.

Participants in our program will be more likely to uplift expectations for themselves and their communities. Youth will improve their leadership skills and be more successful in their chosen academic/professional careers and personal relationships.

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## CHECK OUR CALENDAR ONLINE FOR UPCOMING ARTS ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

### PAST COMMUNITY EVENTS

- ✦ *Kuumba & Kreativity* (R.E.'s 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Holiday Party with focus of African principles and Kuumba, or creativity. Included performances by drummers, dancers, poetry, and candle-lighting. Held at Martin Luther King, Jr. Library)
- ✦ Ward 4 Mural Art Dedication Ceremony (DC youth from Ward 4 schools created public art mural for Upshur Recreation Center after student brainstorming session on “Re-Educate, Re-Unify, Re-Connect Through the Arts” design theme. Mural unveiled and dedicated to Ward 4 on last day of project)
- ✦ *Holiday Karaoke Party* (In collaboration with DC IdolHands program and co-sponsored by Ward 1 & 4 businesses at Java & Cream coffeehouse)
- ✦ *Youth Open Mics* (In collaboration with The Fountain of Truth & Atmosphere Cafe, featuring youth spoken word artists)
- ✦ *Unity in Hip-Hop: African American History Through Dance* (Performances by Dance Depot and Spoken Word/Rap at MLK, Jr., Library)

### PAST YOUTH WORKSHOPS

- ✦ *“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)
- ✦ Trip to Baltimore’s Walters Museum for *Quilting Art Exhibit* and Documentary on Gee’s Bend, Alabama, quilters (Sponsored by ANC 4C Small Grant)
- ✦ *“Mixin’ 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)
- ✦ *WHUR 96.3 FM Radio Station Tour* (Youth from MentoringWorks2, Inc., were given a hands-on tour of Howard University’s radio station. They learned about all of WHUR’s studio departments, such as promotions & marketing, programming, news, HDWorld, and management. Youth also had the opportunity to meet Triscina Grey during her live Midday show and talk On-Air!)

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- ✦ *Lincoln Theatre Tour* (Youth from Area DC Parks and Recreation visit historic theatre and learn about stage production, lighting, theatre seating, and history of great African American performers during Harlem Renaissance)
- ✦ *Meet Wesley Clark* (Youth learned art techniques in artist's home studio and contributed their own works to masterpiece in freestyle exercise)
- ✦ *Mic Check... One Two... One Two* (Youth experience first-hand exposure to ParkTriangle Productions music studio; youth write and perform own rhyme to popular beat and mix tracks in studio)
- ✦ *Learning to Sculpt* (Youth visit Howard University's Sculpture studio where they learn from and critique the works of Akili Ron Anderson, known DC sculptor, stain glass artist, and painter)

And Many More! ....

## DONATE TO RAISING EXPECTATIONS

Your tax-deductible donation to Raising Expectations, Inc. provides for audio/visual equipment, art supplies, musical instruments, computers, and software programs to be used in instruction. Funding also provides for van transportation and access to studios where students and parents will learn the skills and discipline behind music production, sound engineering, dance choreography, and graphic arts design, as well as create their own music and songs, art designs, and dance performances with experts in the industry.

Raising Expectations also uses funds raised to organize community performances and talent showcases that bring families and communities together and honor past and present innovations in the music and arts industry.

If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation to Raising Expectations Inc., a 501c3 non profit organization, please make check payable to "Raising Expectations, Inc." *Or you can simply donate online through our PayPal Account online at [www.RaisingExpectationsDC.org](http://www.RaisingExpectationsDC.org).* Thank you for your support!



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