

Youth Arts Action- Art for Social Change through the Decades

Over the summer, our program will delve into the power of art for social change through exploring different art styles that were prevalent or emerged during each decade starting with the 1960s. Through hands-on activities, discussions, and reflections, youth will learn about the role of art in addressing social issues, self-expression and fostering positive change within their community. The cumulative event will be an open house where youth will come together to explore new styles of creativity alongside other Antyx Programs.

Objective: This 7-week program aims to engage youth in art as a tool for social change by exploring various artistic styles throughout the decades. Through this, youth will gain a deeper understanding of the art styles throughout history and how they influence our modern forms of art. The program will culminate in an event that bridges Antyx programs to invite youth to explore various styles of creativity and how there is power for change in many forms of art.

Rationale: The purpose of this program is to introduce youth to the art styles and mediums that defined each decade and how art has been used as a tool to articulate themes of movements through elevated change across history. By exploring different artistic expressions, we aim to inspire creativity and provide a historical perspective on the evolution of art. Through engaging in these activities, youth will gain a deeper level of understanding of how art has shaped and been shaped by society. Ultimately this program will empower youth to use creativity as a means of social change, fostering empathy and community engagement.

Social Emotional Learning Outcomes: While all six domains of SEL outcomes will be addressed throughout this 7-week program the primary focus will be on Initiative and Problem Solving. The development of these skills will be at the heart of the discussions and projects completed in this semester as the historical creative influences of problem solving and initiative of the past will spark conversations for artistic action today. Youth will build the capacity to articulate initiatives that art can foster and offer art-based solutions to modern social issues. These outcomes will be evident through the art pieces completed and discussions throughout the 7 weeks.

Week 1: 1960s Pop Art

During the first week, youth will dive into the vibrant world of Pop Art, a significant art movement that emerged in the 1960s. They will learn about artists of the time who used popular culture imagery and bold techniques to challenge traditional notions of art. The art activity for this week will involve creating their own Pop Art-inspired pieces, using bright colors and iconic imagery from popular culture.

Discussion Point: How does Pop Art reflect the spirit of the 1960s and its influence on contemporary art? How does your piece relate to your own experiences in our culture and community?

Week 2: 1970s Tie Dye

This week youth will explore the colorful and expressive art form of Tie Dye, which gained popularity during the early 1970s. They will discover the history and techniques behind Tie Dye, including different folding and dyeing methods. The art activity for this week will involve creating their own Tie Dye designs on fabric or clothing, experimenting with vibrant colors and patterns.

Discussion Point: How does Tie Dye represent the movements and ideals of the 1970s and does this relate to any social change relevant today?

Week 3: 1980s Graffiti Art Style

Youth will dive into the world of Graffiti Art, which emerged as a powerful form of self-expression in the 1980s. They will learn about the origins of graffiti and its evolution into a recognized art form. The art activity for this week is creating graffiti-style artworks on canvas. Youth will have the opportunity to explore how graffiti can be a powerful tool to articulate ideas for change. Today's session will invite youth to explore a social issue or a personal form of expression to convey in their art piece.

Discussion: What social messages can be conveyed through graffiti art, and how does it impact urban environments?

Week 4: 1990s Cartoons and Anime Influences

In today's session youth will explore the colorful and imaginative world of cartoons and anime, which played a significant role in popular culture during the 1990s. They will examine iconic characters and their influence on society. The art activity for this week is creating their own cartoon or anime characters or illustrations inspired by their favorite cartoons. Youth will create their art piece on 9x12 mixed media paper utilizing markers and colored pencils that suit the expression of their character.

Discussion: How do cartoons reflect societal values and influence the way we perceive the world?

Week 5: 2000s Installation Art Explore through Sculpting

This week youth will explore the captivating world of installation art by exploring the medium of plaster sculpting. Installation art offers a unique and immersive experience, transforming spaces into thought-provoking environments. By working with plaster, youth will create a miniature three-dimensional sculpture of what they would create if they were creating an installation piece. The intention is to explore how powerful installation art can be as a form of communication and as a catalyst for social change.

Discussion: Where would you implement your sculpture if it was a life-size installation? What is the theme and messaging that aligns with it?

Week 6: 2010s Renewed Popularity of Minimalism

Today's session will be an exploration in the form of minimalist art, while it has been present for several decades there was a renewed popularity in the 2010s. Minimalism focuses on simplicity, utilizing clean lines, geometric shapes and a limited color palette. This art style often conveys a sense of tranquility, emphasizing the beauty of simplicity and the reduction of elements to their essential form. Youth will take an image they resonate with and scale it down to its most basic form of creation on 5x7 mixed media paper with the use of ink, marker and colored pencils, using simple shapes and lines that invoke the essence of the image.

Discussion Point: How can the principles of minimalism be applied to our daily lives? What can we learn from the emphasis on simplicity and essentiality in art that can be translated into our own experiences and decision-making processes?

Week 7: 2020s Summer Wrap Up

This cumulating open house event will provide an opportunity for youth to celebrate their own artistic expression and how it relates to the modern world. Youth will have the opportunity to rotate through the various Antyx Programs and celebrate the artistic expression of contemporary times. Bridging all the programs together will invite a cross-communal environment where youth can learn and engage with youth and facilitators from different Antyx programs.

Discussion: How was your experience trying a program with a new creative medium?