



Arts Street

Mission As a program of the Youth Employment Academy, Arts Street uses the power of creativity to help young adults in breaking the cycle of generational poverty in Denver communities by gaining personal and economic stability through education, arts and technology, and employment training.

Location 1079 Osage Street Denver, CO 80204 (Mariposa District)

Launch Year 1996

Summary

Arts Street@YEA uses the creative arts to empower youth to pursue future education and employment opportunities. It harnesses their talents, provides them with real-world experience in creative industries, and helps them build valuable skills for the future through our arts-based programming.

Arts Street's **Creative Industry Academies** utilize up-to-date technologies to introduce youth to careers in creative industries such as graphic design, videography, marketing, and web design. Our **internship opportunities** provide youth real-world "learn & earn" experience working on client-based public art and design projects in a working studio while learning valuable job readiness training. Finally, Arts Street's **studio mentorship** provides a safe space where youth can continue to build their creative skills, find their own passions and pursue further education.

Through Arts Street's **EntrepreMURALship** program, **youth artists engage in community-centric art projects that benefit low-income communities**, especially communities with DHA housing developments. Some past Arts Street community projects have included: **Journey 2 Unity**, bringing communities together around the issues of immigration; **EnvironMENTAL**, exploring the intersection of climate change and mental health and offering solutions to City Council representatives, and the **Vote Project**, which included "get out the vote" poster designs.

Objectives

- 1 Offer youth the **foundational knowledge and skills** required to succeed in the creative industry.
- 2 Provide **supplemental income** to youth in the internship program.
- 3 Offer a safe, supportive, cohort-based environment for youth to **explore their professional interests** and plan their next career steps.
- 4 Create **public art installations** and murals in low-income communities.
- 5 Empower cohorts of youth to find their voice, **become leaders, and advocate for social change** in their communities.

"YEA!

Instant creativity arises

The moment I arrive

I could come down

Do my poetry, drawing or graphic design

My vibe

Turns more positive

With the door opening moment

Come here with a motive

They helped me create

And now the people take notice"

- Excerpt from poem by Arts Street youth Mikuh M., age 19

Neighborhood

Arts Street is located in the Mariposa District, a mixed-income neighborhood in Central Denver with 1,500 residents.



Arts Street History & Structure

Founded in 1996, Arts Street was originally a standalone nonprofit. Over the years, Arts Street built a close partnership with **YEA**. When its founder retired, Arts Street merged with **YEA** and became part of its impactful programming that helps young people gain personal and economic stability through education, arts and technology, and employment training. Today, Arts Street is a program under parent nonprofit YEA, an affiliate of the **Denver Housing Authority (DHA)**. This powerful partnership with DHA brings opportunities to youth from our most marginalized communities. Through this relationship, young artists have created public art installations at DHA developments, designed logos and signage for their buildings, and provided a youth voice at community events.

Key Partnerships

- Denver Public Schools School to Work Alliance
- Colorado High School Charter
- Denver Public Schools Career Connect

Impact

Short-term Outcomes

- Participants **gain skills and experience** in creative industry career paths.
- Participants are **stable** and can focus on their learning, training, and engagement.
- Participants gain **self-confidence and self-esteem**.
- Participants are more likely to **advocate for and engage with their communities**.

Mid-term Outcomes

- Participants gain **knowledge of the creative industry**.
- Participants receive **support in managing barriers** to personal, employment, economic, and housing stability.
- Youth increase **social and self-awareness**.
- Participants gain knowledge of how to **advocate for and engage in their communities**.

Long-term Outcomes

- Participants obtain an entry-level **job in the creative industry**.
- Participants **graduate from high school**.
- Participants **inspire others** to engage with their communities.
- Participants are **involved in advocacy and engagement opportunities** in their communities.

Contact

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