

INSPIRED AESTHETICS

Kansas City, MO

Type: Program/Service

WHAT WE ARE DOING:

Inspired Aesthetics is an after school program that provides free creative and performing arts programming run by local artists, that provide both artistic training/development and mentoring.

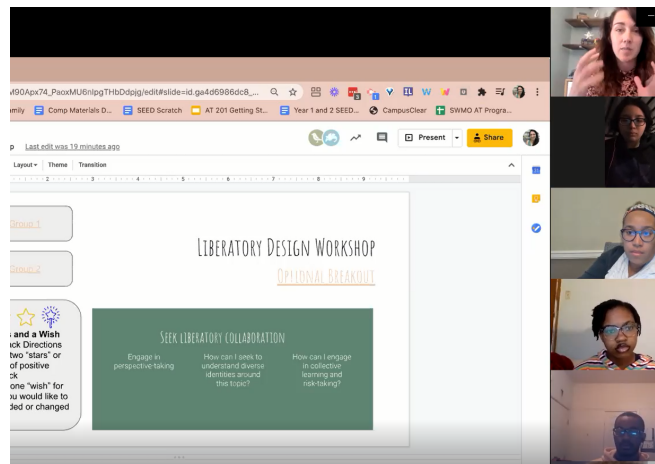
WHY WE DO IT:

There is a lack of accessible after-school options for teens in Kansas City, and our teens need safe spaces. Two years ago I lost a student to gun violence, and this year more of the same. They were both in high school, 15 and 16 years old. When it comes to need, we are focused on two areas 1) the lack of safe spaces outside of school for teens 2) the lack of access to opportunities beyond the classroom. Inspired Aesthetics is an after school program for young people in grades 9-12 that provides access to safe, top quality, year-round arts education and training, mentoring, and academic support. We are focused on creating and providing opportunities for young people who may not have access to them otherwise. We know that access changes lives



"AT FIRST I WAS NERVOUS. BUT AS IT PROGRESSED I FELT AT HOME. EVERYONE WAS WELCOMING AND SUPPORTIVE. IT WAS LIKE I CAME HOME AND AM WHERE I'M SUPPOSED TO BE."

- Student, Age 14



ABOUT OUR POP UP



An opportunity to be the first to experience what it's like to be an Inspired Aesthetics artist, over two days, participants took part in teambuilding, group discussions, and breakout art workshops. Aligned to a topic that was important to them, together they determined a shared theme for the weekend. They discovered how this theme connected them to each other, and with theme in mind, they created original works that showcased their individual voice and experiences to share with the group.

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OUR IMPACT



15 high school students attended the pop up



86% of participants would recommend Inspired Aesthetics to another high school student



94% of students reported that their participation helped them to feel more confident sharing their art/creativity **100% of students** reported that their participation in Inspired Aesthetics gave them space to share their own stories/truth/experiences



"I KNOW SO MANY KIDS WHO NEED OUTLETS OR JUST A SAFE SPACE TO BE AND THIS FEELS LIKE IT. ART IS THERAPY FOR THE SOUL, AND IN A WORLD WHERE WE ARE SPOON-FED"



- Student, Age 16

OUR TEAM



Cescily Phillips

Cescily Phillips is the Founder and Executive director of Inspired Aesthetics. Cescily is a passionate wife, mother, and educator. Growing up, Cescily experienced firsthand the impact that amazing people and programs could have on your life. An alumna of the University of Missouri, Cescily holds a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Education. With ten years in education, Cescily has served as Dean of Students at both the middle and high school levels, as well as taught both middle and high school English and Theatre. Cescily believes that with the right tools and experiences, young people can accomplish anything.

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