Baltimore Youth Arts is a creative entrepreneurship and job training program that provides artistic and professional opportunities to young people, ages 14-22, with a focus on those involved in the justice system. Our mission is to assist young people in gaining the creative, personal, and educational skills that will enable them to become leaders in their communities.

BYA believes the arts are a path towards personal liberation and self sufficiency and that they not only positively impact people facing incarceration, but also the justice system and perceptions held by the greater community.
Baltimore Youth Arts was developed based on the following:

- Youth exiting the Juvenile Justice System lack consistent access to social services;
- A large number of youth involved with the juvenile justice system have been diagnosed with mental health or behavioral issues;
- Youth involved in the justice system benefit from commingling with peers who are not (this also provides anonymity);
- The relationships between incarcerated and/or exiting youth and adults are often limited and transitory;
- Long-term supportive relationships are beneficial to young people, particularly those re-entering their communities; and
- Youth, especially those transitioning back into their communities, have difficulty seeking and securing employment.
WHERE BYA BEGAN
Studio Apprentice Program

BYA COMMUNITY STUDIO
BYA is rooted in relationship building (and maintenance)

- Open to ANY young person, ages 14-21
- Age and desire to try our program are the only qualifications
- Youth do not need to have a resume
- No need to prior employment
- We adjust schedule for participants
- Paid an hourly wage from the start
- We employ youth year-round
- We are ever-changing, based on youth’s specific needs
PRISONS DO NOT DISAPPEAR SOCIAL PROBLEMS, 
THEY DISAPPEAR HUMAN BEINGS.

HOMELESSNESS, UNEMPLOYMENT, DRUG ADDICTION, MENTAL 
ILLNESS, AND ILLITERACY ARE ONLY A FEW OF THE PROBLEMS 
THAT DISAPPEAR FROM PUBLIC VIEW WHEN THE HUMAN BEINGS 
CONTENDING WITH THEM ARE RELEGATED TO CAGES. 
ANGELA DAVIS
Employment

- Youth (Apprentices and Interns) are part-time employees
- Paid $12.50-$13/hr 8-12 hours/week

Career and College Readiness, Lifeskills

- Career Readiness and Life Skills Classes
  - Resume writing
  - Mock interviews
  - Financial Education
- College Application Support
- Presentations from local training programs
- Partnerships with local employers
  - Connect youth to job, training, and ed opportunities
I will come in first place even when I come in last place.

I am a product of the hood.

I will see an illin $.

I am Baltimore.

I will make it out!!

I am the greatest and wisest when I put my mind into it.

I am a leader.

I will speak for what is right.

I will start a movement.

Plant your mind.

I am Baltimore.

I will make it out.

I am number one.

I will always give up.
Restorative Response Baltimore

24 and None

Office of the Public Defender
80-90% of profits go to youth

Ain’t our stuff tuff?

Wear bold gear that leaves an impact.

GRAB YOURS TODAY
EDUCATE, DON'T INCARCERATE!

SUPPORT THE YOUTH

WE CAN DO BETTER THAN PRISON
The Impact

Engaged over 1,000 youth since our founding in 2015

Employed more than 110 young people in the Studio Apprentice Program (many of whom remained in our program for years)

FY 2021
● Facilitated 128 individual classes at the BYA Community Studio and Juvenile facilities
● Engaged 139 young people
● Employed 59 Youth Apprentices

FY 2022 (ending in June 2022)
● Engaged 87 young people
● Employed 48 Youth Apprentices
The Impact

Across 1 session (~3 months)

10% increase in youth who said they were able to express themselves and their ideas

9% increase in youth who felt confident (100% at the end of a session)

24% increase in youth who said they felt comfortable working with their peers

11% increase in those who strongly felt they had adults who supported them (69%-80%, with the other 20% agreeing)
THE ARTS ARE POWERFUL

Arts a a tool to:

- Help explore personal identity
- Impact community
- Communicate thoughts and ideas
- Build relationships
- Identify and manage emotions
- Gain hard and soft skills that transfer to other career paths

The Creative process demonstrates that messing up is okay and provides the imaginative skills needed to troubleshoot both artistic and real life issues.