

Healing Walls Project

Arts Programming Overview + Teaching Artist(s) Bio

Healing Walls Project (HWP) provides programming to schools, In-patient and Outpatient centers, Metro Community Centers, Adult Behavioral Centers, Senior Citizen Centers, Community Development Organizations and Art Organizations. The programming is in the form of workshops, classes, professional development and public art initiatives. HWP serves approximately 2,000 people each year. 75% of our programming takes place in Louisville's Russell, Shawnee and Portland Neighborhoods. The other 25% of our programming takes place in other neighborhoods in Louisville and other cities throughout the United States. We primarily serve children ages 8-16 and adults 21-55.

Teaching Artist(s) Bios(s)

Ashley "ACE" Cathey (Lead Artist, CEO Healing Walls Project) is a multidisciplinary social change artist, curator, muralist and CEO. Her large, oil and acrylic portraits hope to centralize the experiences of black bodies during and after the African Diaspora. Cathey's self-taught artistry started to emerge ideas of feminism through the lens of women of color; who have influenced her through the art of music, literature, and spoken word.

Cathey's work has gained local and global recognition from the supporters of her movement. Recently, she curated the exhibit "Black Before I was Born: a meditation on identity" to speak on the lack of representation in the world of fine arts. She believes art is activism and often uses her pieces to bring a voice to social issues and realize creative place making. Cathey's progression has also led her to create opportunities for other emerging artists through her arts organization. Cathey is the Founder and CEO of The Healing Walls Project, an arts organization revolutionizing the way we create public art, focusing on the amplification and healing of BIPOC artists through the creation of public art in their communities around the USA.

Michelle Johnson, CFO at HWP and Mural Manager from Louisville, KY residing in Atlanta, GA brings her unique perspective to the Healing Walls Project with her background in artist and corporate management as well as artist development and branding. Johnson is a performing artist who enjoys connecting to her local community through music. Teaching artists including Healing Walls Project artists Brandon Wickliffe, KeVon Dunbar and Keely Falcon

Artistic Content of Programming

Our programming is focused on cultivating a space of healing through the creation of public art by unifying the creative with their community to work collaboratively while amplifying their shared experience. This is accomplished by skilled instructors who have real world experience facilitating hands-

on workshops covering the fundamentals of mural making from community engagement to color mixing, design, drawing techniques, equipment safety, hazmat material training, mural/sculptural installation and potential job placement. Examples include Art in the Park, box murals, sensory art installations, paint by numbers murals, temporary murals, chalk murals, vinyl installations and large-scale mural collaborations.

HWP's programming also encourages confidence in the development of a personal art practice. By sparking the interest in visual art making and exposing non-traditional creatives to art making practices that are not normally accessible to them. HWP accomplishes this by providing support, mentorship and supplying the tools and the knowledge necessary to begin an art practice for stress management, leisure, as a coping hobby or to catalyze a potential art career.

Examples of programming include:

- Muralist and Student Mentorship Mural (professional muralist and student create and complete a mural during school hours inside the school building)
- Fluid Art Making (exploring the connectivity between the body and the medium)
- Breathe and Pour (exploring breath work and non-verbal communication while creating movement art)
- Practical Art Making as a Coping Mechanism classes include: medallion creation, pendant sculpting and fiber arts (exploring processing anxiety through art making)
- Art as a Living Thing (exploring ephemeral art making and art's impact on the environment)
- Spark2Streets (interactive art installation created by students where they plan and execute immersive rooms in or outside school space. rooms are patronized by the public)
- Mother/Child and Father/Child Guided Art Creation (exploring fostering communication between parent and child; canvases, clothing, etc.)
- Box Mural (up-cycled mobile mural installation using boxes to create a temporary mural wall in schools and community centers)
- Assemblage Sculptures (participants bring found objects from home or clean-up of the community to create a sculpture)
- Community Mural (community participates in the ideation and creation of a public indoor or outdoor mural)

Outcomes are measured by the engagement during the process, pre and post survey to the participants and the community that receives the art, reflection on the process, quality of the end product in association with the draft and identifying sense of belonging.

Educational Content of Programming

- Provides glossary and practical knowledge of materials needed to create art.
- Team building - exposure to working in a team centered environment. The confidence in working with other people to accomplish a shared goal.
- Forklift, Boom Lift, Aerial Lift equipment training

- Prompt participants to use their communication, empathy, patience and intuition to work in community spaces
- Conflict Resolution by exposing participants to working environments that require flexibility. (outdoors, in the elements with large teams and community members)
- Math - measuring wall space, materials needed and weight capacities. Scaling murals from design to execution.
- Science - hazmat safety, safe chemical usage and mixing, using the proper materials for the desired outcome

Outcomes are measured by the efficiency and safety compliance of a project, mental and physical wellness of the participants post project, continued attendance and the quality of the end product in association with the draft and identifying sense of belonging as well as the collaboration with other art organizations and the community (school, neighborhood center) for the evaluation of the finished product.

Process for hiring, training, and evaluating performance/effectiveness.

Hiring: artist calls, teaching artist calls, training artists to become teaching artists and job posting.

Training: facilitated through HWP instructors and affiliates including University professors, on the job training, mentorship, volunteer work and testing. practical learning: museum visits, skill sharing, HWP group outings and collaborating with local art organizations.

Evaluation: quarterly assessments of mental wellness, skill set as it relates to standard practices, peer-to-peer evaluation, post project/workshop participant surveys and feedback from centers and partners.

How are participants of all backgrounds and abilities included in programming?

HWP ensures that all programming is accessible to differently abled participants through our training with in-patient and outpatient centers, through our diversity, equity and inclusion centered environment and continued training. By working with and learning from social justice and community upliftment organizations and receiving guidance and development strategies lead by the affected majority

How do we engage teachers and community center staff before, during, and after programming?

We outreach before and during the project by connecting with the staff on what their needs and wants for the project outcome are and connecting with the community to gather their shared needs and wants for the project. We do this by having engaging meetings, surveying of participants pre and post projects, providing safe space for open and honest dialogue during and after the process for reflection.

How do we engage participants in the creative and learning process?

HWP engages participants by staying relevant in regards to cultural, economical and art practices. Our artists and teachers are often a reflection of the community that we are serving and a representation of the possibilities. HWP engagement is led with honesty, transparency and a willingness to learn from any person with any skill on any level. Instructors are given DEI and Sensitivity training. We also engage with participants by allowing their voices to be heard through the creation of art and through the feedback throughout the process. HWP aims to stay up-to-date with the most current art trends and happenings to best relate to an ever changing demographic.