

Kiara Brewer

Arts Programming Overview + Teaching Artist(s) Bio

Programming

We provided an after school choir for ages 8-18. We meet at west chestnut ymca every Monday and Wednesday teaching the children self love affirmations and self encouraging songs. We also offer self love events. We have self love events for male and females which we have held some self love lock ins and we also have had just a day event of self love. What we do in those self love events is have volunteers come in and talk to our girls and boys about hygiene, they come and give motivational speeches. These events are to teach young men and women how to carry themselves and love themselves no matter what they look like because we know with social media being around it can be hard to show yourself self love.

Teaching Artist(s) Bios(s)

A'Deja Brewer, the COO, is a University of Louisville student working toward a Bachelor of Science in Communication. Following her undergraduate career, she hopes to earn a master's in Speech Language Pathology. A'Deja is the president of the Black Diamond Choir at the University of Louisville--a gospel choir open to students of all classification levels within the university. Her other acts of service have included: serving as Community Service Chair with My Sister's Keeper at the University of Louisville; serving as the Outreach Chair with Curly Connections; and serving as the assistant summer camp director at the Republic Bank Foundation. Additionally, A'Deja worked at Locust Grove Elementary for the past three years as an after-school counselor. Presently, she serves as a preschool teacher.

Kiara Brewer-Carroll is a student at the University of Louisville school of music, majoring in music therapy. Kiara is a member of the Black Diamond Core Choir, Cardinal Music Therapy Organization, and is a Leading Ladies Ambassador for the Kentucky Association of Professional African- American Women. She was awarded \$500 from the Southern Black Girl Joy Initiative to do one act of philanthropy. With this money, she gave 15 girls a day of self love, titled "Love Yourself First." Kiara was able to get various local organizations and businesses to donate their time and services by way of manicures and pedicures, art therapy, arts & crafts, and self love talks. Finally, she was crowned the 2022 Ms. Juneteenth in the "Ms." Division for the first Miss Juneteenth Kentucky Pageant.

Artistic Content of Programming

The artistic content of our program is performing arts, literature, creative arts, and music media. Our program takes place twice a year--once in the winter and once in the summer. Performance monitoring information is supported by the Mayor Youth Development Office. The office provides check-ins and follow up visits to make sure we maintain rehearsals and are teaching the youth participants in a safe environment. In order to receive data we carry out quantitative and qualitative methods. The percent of

people who will attend an upcoming performance is captured through social media polls. Following a performance, we gather qualitative data feedback surveys gathered from parents of participants and audience members. Finally, we host bi-weekly staff meetings allowing for consistent communication of relevant changes, staff needs, and/or ideas or concerns for the longevity of the group.

Educational Content of Programming

Our program consists of performing arts and music theory fundamentals. The performing arts encourage children to explore their emotions, expand their imagination, and help them develop their own, unique voice. The benefits of music theory fundamentals is to teach them the foundation of music, so that they can be knowledgeable in all genres of music. In today's society if you want to pursue music as a career you have to know how to write, understand rhythm, melodies, harmony, pitch, and scales. While every student that is a participant in our program may not desire to pursue music as a career, we want to arm them with all the knowledge necessary to make any dream a reality. In addition to the education offered, students are given the chance to practice skills by leading and instructing vocal warm-ups. We also provide one-on-one vocal techniques to help the voice expand in range.

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

Bless your spirit has not yet opened up to hiring, but our training process is measured by the participants' social development through parent surveys, by the amount of participants we gain and the invites we receive to perform.

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

To ensure inclusion of participants of all backgrounds and abilities in our program we take the time to learn each student's cultural background, hobbies, and what makes them unique. Being genuine and taking the time to learn about each child establishes trust and allows us to form a bond with them so they feel valued. We accept students of all backgrounds and learning differences and we hold each child to a high expectation. We also make sure to create appropriate accommodations for students with learning differences so that our program is truly inclusive for all students.

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

In order to keep our teachers and community center staff engaged before, during, and after programming, we meet thirty minutes before rehearsals to check in and get set up for the students. Following rehearsals we meet for about fifteen to twenty minutes to discuss our progress and information that may need to be communicated with parents. We do our best to empower one another, to be unafraid of meaningful change, and stand as strong individuals linked in arms.

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

We engaged our students to participate in the creative and learning process by setting clear learning goals and expectations for the choir. Children work better when they know what exactly is expected of them. Also, we created choir protocols to hold parents and children accountable. Creating a safe and fun atmosphere for the students is very important in the overall learning process. In order to maintain interest and meet the needs of our students, we use non-traditional and creative learning techniques. For example, when teaching vocal techniques, we use styrofoam cups, straws, and different strategies to teach breath support. In order to teach students how to sing in unison, I created a fun mirroring technique, allowing the students to visually see how the voices are supposed to blend. Finally, we have various ways of giving recognition to students. At the end of each rehearsal the students vote on which person they believe did the best during rehearsal. Students can not vote for themselves. This helps to build team bonding and emphasizes the need to support one another. Additionally, at the end of every showcase we present the girls with "I AM" awards. "I AM" awards were created based upon self affirmations. This builds self-esteem and self-love.