

## Report to Anna Mirabai Lytton Foundation:

The 10 photography students learned many forms of image making throughout the 6-week summer program. Youth met for 4 hours daily, working alongside youth in the visual art and audio production tracks (30 youth total). They photo track was led by photographer Beverly Price (<https://www.beverlypricephoto.com/>).

Youth worked in their individual creative tracks and collaborated with the other mediums on the exhibition building process. During the weekly seminar youth practiced social emotional skills such as, communication, goal setting, sharing their work and giving peers feedback, and resolving conflict. On Friday's youth visited local museums and parks, including the American Visionary Art Museum in Baltimore, Hirshhorn Museum, and American Art Museum. Youth saw how artists expressed their ideas and emotions through their art and how the work was curated to tell a story.

The summer began by setting a foundation and focusing on the subject they know best – themselves. Youth created a series of portraits that focus on the topic of authenticity. Each student dived into the art of portraiture to capture each other's uniqueness. This project reflects the importance of expressing who you are and acceptance around being your authentic self.

The **self-portrait** project was titled, *Chamber of Reflection*. The work was placed by students in LAYC's Corner Gallery space at the Corner of 14<sup>th</sup> Street & Columbia Road, NW; a busy intersection on the same block as LAYC.



Several visiting artists were invited into the class to share their expertise. One guest artist was a lighting photographer that assisted youth with their portraits.



Youth continued to learn about lighting when another visiting artist came to work with them on a **still life** project. Youth created their own settings or environment and then documented them.

The program revisited a project it worked on 10 years ago named, *Art On Call*. LAYC created works of art for the obsolete call boxes in the community. These turn of the century wrought iron poles held a phone that was used in an emergency to call for help before individual households had phones. The youth decided to name this project ***Heart on Call***. The idea was to use this public art project to call forth kindness. Youth embellished the images of the community with bright colors. The audio production track collected audio from the neighborhood. A passerby by can look and listen by using a QR code with their phone.



The final exhibition continued the theme and was titled, ***Heart on Call...Feel the Beat***. The youth decided that it was important to continue the idea

The photography students highlighted the art of simplicity and the beauty of black and white photographs. The students show the photographic process of documenting familiar faces, places, and things in their everyday life. The students captured subjects in a spontaneous manner. The youth said they aim to remind the viewer about the importance and beauty in the everyday environment. The youth are encouraging us all to reflect on how we all play an essential role in the heart and beat of Washington, D.C.



**Sample of Youth Artist Statements:** Each youth in the program is asked to reflect on their art making process and themselves as artists.

### **Pierre**

My name is Pierre.

I'm 18 years old and my artistic journey was hard but also inspiring. What I think about art is that when I see things I make it in a creative way. I envision nonfiction things that you see in dreams into reality. I also love photography. I started photography at 8 years old when I picked up my first film camera. It was great that I found out about angles, shadows and lighting. I found out that I'm into studio photography and I think that this could be a career for me.

### **Zoe**

Zoe, Photographer. Going into the program, I kept my head down and didn't talk to anyone. I was constantly thinking my work wasn't enough. However, going outside and doing photography with my peers really helped me gain more confidence in both my art and socializing. I'm glad I tried something new and learned a new skill.

### **Kimberly**

Hello my name is Kimberly. I feel artistic when I take photos. Photography helps me express myself authentically. It made me come out of my comfort zone by putting my voice and perspective out there. I believe that expressing yourself is important because your opinion matters too.

### **Asia**

My name is Asia. I enjoy painting and photographing life's bitter-sweet and natural events. My art expresses the pain, love, and relief of my life journey. My photographs depict my experiences and everyday observations of the world around me. The purpose of my photography is to instill the truth and values that I perceive. Although my mind's process is not as quick as the click of my camera, it never fails to deliver the message that I could not.

### **Catarina**

Hola mi nombre es catarina ;

Me siento feliz porque algo nuevo que hago es parte de mi.

Porque es importante expresarse, porque eso nos quita el miedo en dar nuestras opiniones y también es muy importante para nuestra vida.

El arte es lo más lindo que me ha pasado y eso me hace sentir bien al hacer algo nuevo.

Las materias que necesito es hacer bien mi trabajo en el arte.

El proceso que utilizo es, pensar bien lo que hago.

Mi único trabajo es estar feliz y hacer lo que la vida me de.

El arte es algo manifestada para mi porque conozco cosas nuevas.

Quiero que lo tomen en cuenta y que mi arte les inspire.

Mi meta es conocer cosas nuevas y mejorar de lo que yo sé y que mi inspiración llegue al arte.

Mi inspiración es que todo esté bien y también una de las cosas que me inspira es seguir trabajando y hacer bien mi trabajo en el arte.

### **Christa**

My name is Christa Madikaegbu and I like to make art because it allows me to manifest and produce work from the imagination. If I can think of it, then it can be created. Usually when I make something, I feel inspired yet impressed with myself because I prove to myself I'm still able to create. My main goal as an artist is to perfect my crafts, whether it's drawing, photography, or writing. I always want to improve my creative skills.