



# Arts Street

**Mission** YEA provides opportunities for wellbeing, empowerment, and self-sufficiency, allowing young adults to thrive.

**Location** 1079 Osage Street Denver, CO 80204 (Mariposa District)

**Launch Year** 1996

## Summary

Arts Street@YEA uses the creative arts to empower youth to pursue future education and employment opportunities. It harnesses their talents, provides them with real-world experience in creative industries, and helps them build valuable skills for the future through our arts-based programming.

Arts Street's Creative Industry Academies utilize up-to-date technologies to introduce youth to careers in creative industries such as graphic design, photography, and public art. Our internship opportunities provide youth real-world "learn & earn" experience working on client-based public art and design projects in a working studio while learning valuable job readiness training. Finally, Arts Street's studio mentorship provides a safe space where youth can continue to build their creative skills, find their own passions, pursue further education and receive support for their continued mental wellness.

Through Arts Street's EntrepreMURALship program, youth artists engage in community-centric art projects that benefit low-income communities, especially communities within DHA housing developments. Some past Arts Street community projects have included: Journey 2 Unity, bringing communities together around the issues of immigration; [EnvironMENTAL](#), exploring the intersection of climate change and mental health and offering solutions to City Council representatives, and the Vote Project, which included "get out the vote" poster designs.

## Objectives

- 1 Offer youth the foundational knowledge and skills required to succeed in the creative industries.
- 2 Provide supplemental income to youth in the internship program.
- 3 Offer a safe, supportive, cohort-based environment for youth to explore their professional interests and plan their next career steps.
- 4 Create public art installations and murals in low-income communities.
- 5 Empower cohorts of youth to find their voice, become leaders, and advocate for social change in their communities.

*"YEA!*

*Instant creativity arises*

*The moment I arrive*

*I could come down*

*Do my poetry, drawing or graphic design*

*My vibe*

*Turns more positive*

*With the door opening moment*

*Come here with a motive*

*They helped me create*

*And now the people take notice"*

- Excerpt from poem by Arts Street youth Mikuh M., age 19

## Arts Street History & Structure

Founded in 1996, Arts Street was originally a standalone nonprofit. Over the years, Arts Street built a close partnership with YEA. When its founder retired, Arts Street merged with YEA and became part of its impactful programming that helps young people gain personal and economic stability through education, arts and technology, and employment training. Today, Arts Street is a program under parent nonprofit YEA, an affiliate of the Denver Housing Authority (DHA). This powerful partnership with DHA brings opportunities to youth from our most marginalized communities. Through this relationship, young artists have created public art installations at DHA developments, designed logos and signage for their buildings, and provided a youth voice at community events.

## Key Partnerships

- Denver Housing Authority
- Local Denver artists
- Denver Public Schools School to Work Alliance
- Colorado High School Charter
- Denver Public Schools Career Connect

### Contact:

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## Short-term Outcomes

- Participants gain knowledge of the creative industry.
- Participants receive support in managing barriers to personal, employment, economic, and housing stability.
- Youth increase social and self-awareness.
- Participants gain knowledge of how to advocate for and engage in their communities.

## Mid-term Outcomes

- Participants gain skills and experience in creative industry career paths.
- Participants are stable and can focus on their learning, training, and engagement.
- Participants gain self-confidence and self-esteem.
- Participants are more likely to advocate for and engage with their communities.

## Long-term Outcomes

- Participants obtain an entry-level job in the creative industry.
- Participants graduate from high school.
- Participants inspire others to engage with their communities.
- Participants are involved in advocacy and engagement opportunities in their communities.

### Learn more:

[Arts Street Website](#) • [Facebook](#) • [Instagram](#)

