



ArtForce Iowa Annual Report

FY 2018-2019

JULY 1 2018 · JUNE 30 2019



Dear Neighbor,

It has been a journey since July of 2018.

We survived a devastating flood that destroyed 80% of our musical instruments, 50% of our screen print inventory and equipment, and 45% of our art supplies. We lost all our newly installed insulation along with our stove and refrigerator. We changed our workshop times to accommodate for the new school bell times. Because of this time change, we made an intentional decision to provide a hot meal at every workshop. We have prepared over 4700 hot meals and counting for our youth artists. We said goodbye to screen printing and hello to financial literacy certificates and increased access to employment opportunities. Since August 2019, we have served over 400 youth in central Iowa.

If you believe in our mission to transform youth in need through art, please consider supporting ArtForce Iowa in the following ways:

- Donate your first \$1, \$100, or \$1000.
- Support our #YESKINDNESS project.
- Sponsor our 6th Annual art exhibit #KNOWJUSTICE: Know Change.

Please contact me at christine@artforceiowa.org or 515-777-3182 to commit today!

With love and kindness,



Christine Her and the ArtForce Iowa Family

www.artforceiowa.org

900 Mulberry Street • Des Moines, IA 50309

@artforceiowa  



Our Mission

Transform youth in need through art

ArtForce Iowa Team

CHRISTINE HER

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

#1 value is *purpose*

YVETTE HERMANN

ARTS OUTREACH EDUCATOR

#1 value is *safety*

EMMA PARKER

DSM HEROES PROGRAM DIRECTOR

#1 value is *growth*

CODY SHERMAN

**AMERICORPS MEMBER COMMUNITY & YOUTH
ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR**

#1 value is *justice*

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Iowa State University

NOREEN RODRIGUEZ

Iowa State University



An ArtForce Iowa Tradition

We have a tradition at ArtForce Iowa that we'd like to share with you.

In workshops, we share our “highs” and “lows” for the week. We'd like to share ArtForce Iowa's 2018 fiscal year “highs” and “lows” with you.

HIGHS:

- We now offer meals to all youth artists who attend in-studio workshops.
- Community support helped us replace and replenish art and music studio supplies after the flood.
- Youth collaborations between Creative Pathways and DSM Heroes artists increased.
- A successful pilot of in-studio programs for special needs students at SCAVO and North High Schools.
- Professional Development (PD) at Lincoln High School and Ankeny School District addressing implicit bias and cultural humility.
- PD Attendees (middle and high school staff and faculty): 77
- Indirect student impact: 8,400
- Arts-integrated workshops at Please Pass the Love School Mental Health Conference, Iowa Board of Education Fine Arts Standards Conference, Iowa Interfaith Youth Camp, Iowa Victim Justice Symposium, Art Educators of Iowa Conference, PEO, the Iowa High School Speech Association (IHSSA) and Iowa Council of Teachers of English (ICTE), 2019 Americans for the Arts annual convention.
 - Attendees: 530
 - Indirect student impact: Estimated at 50,000 students
- We offer financial literacy courses and certificates through our StreetCred Ready program.

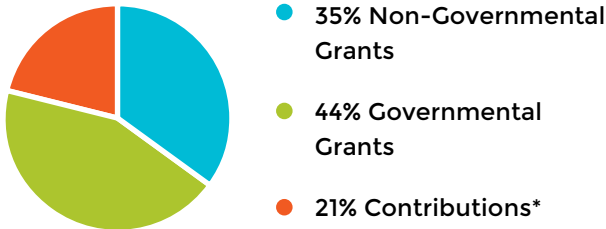
LOWS

- The flood that destroyed over \$90,000 worth of supplies, equipment and building contents.
- In order to keep offering meals to young artists, we need more resources to replenish our pantry and culinary items and ensure a clean and safe space to prepare meals.

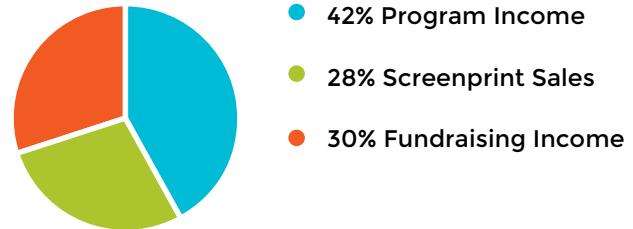
July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019 Financials

Income

GRANTS & CONTRIBUTIONS



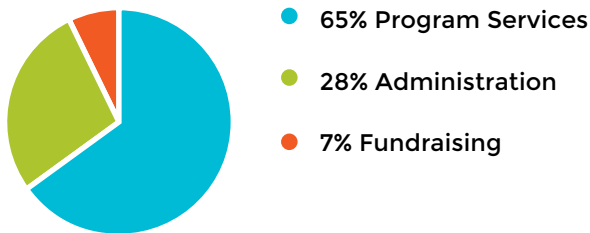
REVENUES



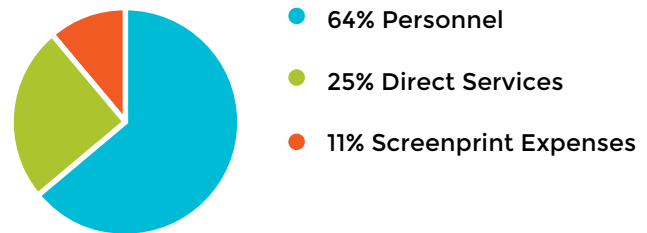
*Includes charitable income, board member contributions, corporate, Foundation and individual donors

Expenses

EXPENSES



PROGRAM SERVICES



THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS



EDUCATION WRITING KNOWLEDGE EXPRESS HOPE COMPASSION TRUTH MUSIC
BROTHERHOOD IMMIGRANT COOPERATION CREATING SOCIAL JUSTICE LOVE TRANSFORMATION C
FAMILY SISTERHOOD HEALING LGBTQ MENTORSHIP LAUGHTER HEROES #YESKINDNESS STREETCRED STUDIOS
ORIGINS REFUGEE YOUTH FRIENDSHIP GROWTH CREATIVE PATHWAYS #KNOWJUSTICE
SAFETY RESILIENCE SONGWRITING POETRY
ART



artforce
iowa

OUR PROGRAMMING

DSM Heroes

A supportive arts-based community for immigrant, refugee and first-generation American youth who have experienced violence and trauma.

A DSM HEROES STORY

Ron joined ArtForce Iowa when he was 17 years old and a senior at North High School. Ron came to America as a Karen refugee from Thailand when he was 5 ½ years old.

While a multi-talented artist, Ron found his niche as a creative writer and illustrator. His creative writing Artist mentor (Rachel Vogel Quinn) shared, "Ron is one of the most creative young writers I've ever worked with. His whimsical, unique style often turns our expected perceptions on its head and leads to deep, thought-provoking takes on the world and people. He mixes humor and pain and prose and poetry in a way I've never seen before."



Ron's illustration artwork, in a word, is raw. It depicts who he is as a person, a philosopher, a realist, a dreamer, a human navigating his way through this world. In the mixed media piece titled, "Hero", Ron's gritty use of charcoal makes the viewer question what this young artist is feeling. The two pieces created by Ron for #KNOWJUSTICE: Origins capture who he is: philosophical and hopeful while acknowledging that life is a mighty struggle.

He shares:

"Even though I am trying to be a better person from who I was yesterday, I've learned that life isn't that easy. Trying isn't that easy either, but one thing I really value about being a human is learning from the past. I can't forget my bad history, but deep inside of me, which I cannot see, new history can be created. I hope one day I will be a better person from yesterday. Acting the words I say is key to unlocking the doors."

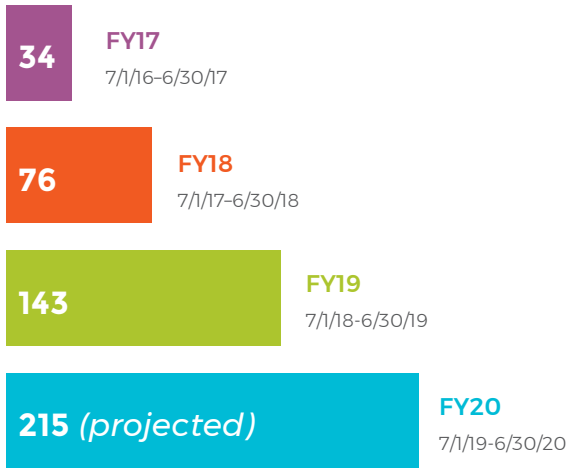
Next year, Ron will be attending the STEP program through Des Moines Public Schools. ArtForce Iowa is excited for his new journey with the STEP program to begin and ready to see the connections he will make during his time there.



📷 Above: "Hero" Charcoal and pastel on paper.

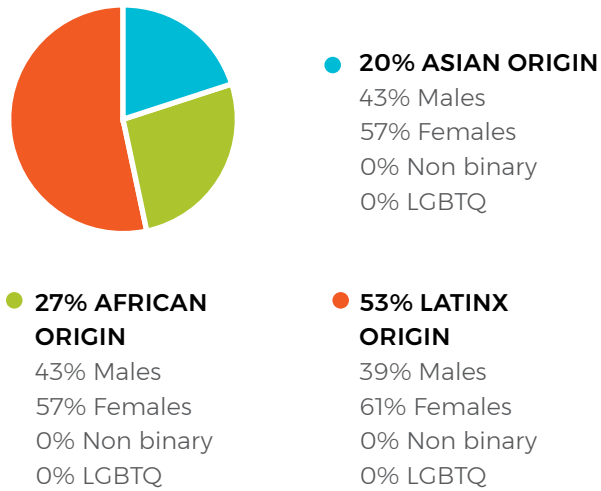
DSM Heroes

DSM HEROES YOUTH SERVED



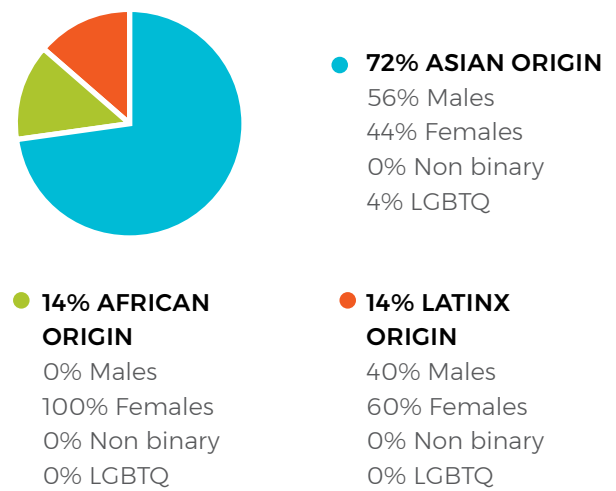
FY19 SCHOOL WORKSHOP DEMOGRAPHICS

In FY19 we served 105 youth at our in-school workshops



FY19 STUDIO WORKSHOP DEMOGRAPHICS

In FY19 we served 38 youth at our in-studio workshops



Creative Pathways

A supportive arts community for youth involved in the juvenile or family court system.

A CREATIVE PATHWAYS STORY

Tennyson was born in South Sudan and moved with his parents to Iowa when he was one year old. He has lived in Des Moines all of his life. ArtForce Iowa met Tennyson when he was referred to the Creative Pathways program by his Juvenile Court Officer (JCO, the juvenile equivalent of a probation officer). The first day he was picked up at his high school for workshop, he was bleeding from cuts near his eye and mouth. Someone had jumped him. He was casual about it: "Don't worry... it happens all the time... it's chill."

Tennyson was not a talker, but his writing talent emerged one workshop and caused excitement among the ArtForce family. The voice, the rhythm, the rhyme, the truthful and revealing lines of poetry were already music. He began to smile more often and talked about studying music theory in college.

Tennyson worked in the recording studio on spoken word poetry and rap while studying the ukulele and bass guitar with an ArtForce Iowa mentor. He developed a personal brand, "Spades," and art-directed concepts for record cover art. His lyrics juxtaposed street violence and love, apathy and pain, immersion in drug culture and the will to survive. He released a track for exhibit at KNOWJUSTICE: Finding Home and moderated a panel of police officers, lawyers and juvenile court officers at KNOWJUSTICE: Manifesto in 2018. Research during his songwriting process inspired him to take on a modern rap opera, and he began to shape a "mixtape" that told the story of Bobby, an "everyboy" left to his own devices to survive.

We were with Tennyson to celebrate his case closing in juvenile court.

Months later, Tennyson informed us he had been kicked out of his house by his mother on his 18th birthday. He could no longer rely on his best friend. He had stopped going to school. Tennyson shared that he needed access to health care and a place to stay. He opened up to us about his depression and struggle to want to go on in this life. Tennyson's pain was palpable and evident in his face, his voice, his gait. We listened to him, heard him, offered support and gently suggested he seek mental health services. Tennyson has good reason to be skeptical of support that is not his own idea, and he turned down clinical help. He did accept a ride to a local shelter and then kept his distance for a few months.

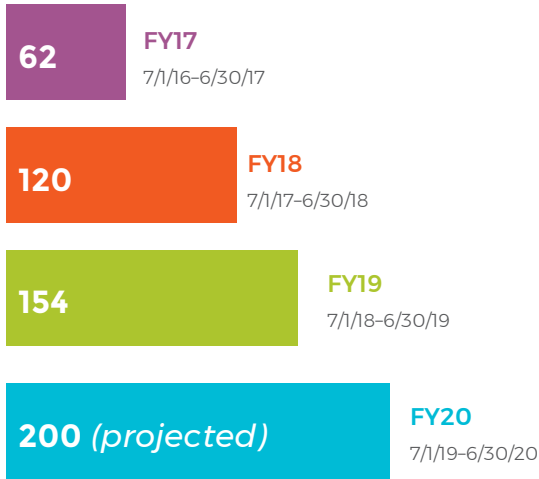
Tennyson visited ArtForce Iowa on a Tuesday after seven months' absence and shared that he has a job. He started college classes at DMACC and received a six semester scholarship through our partnership with the DMACC Foundation. He's back in the recording studio, too.

To listen to his tracks, visit: artforceiowa.org/media



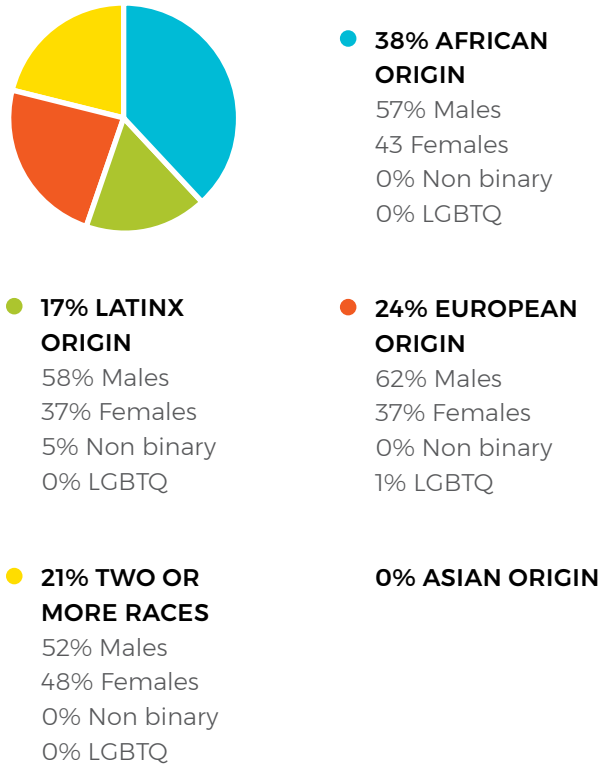
Creative Pathways

CREATIVE PATHWAYS YOUTH SERVED



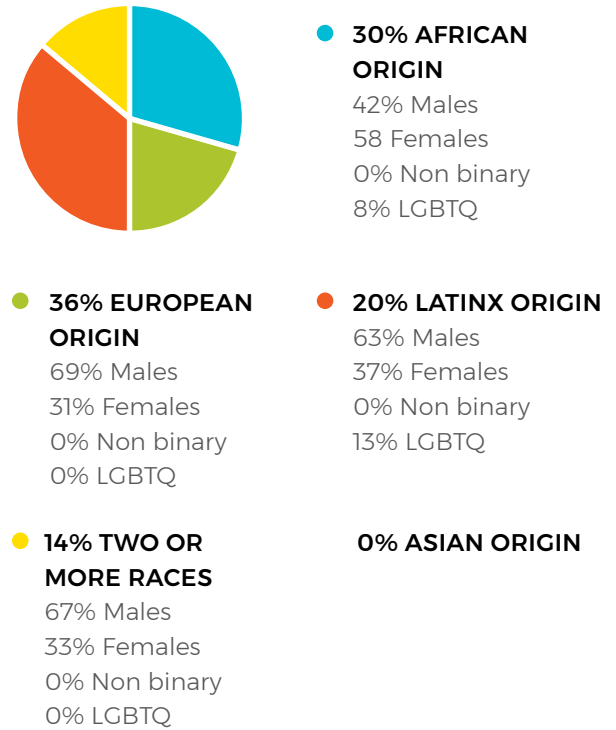
FY19 SCHOOL WORKSHOP DEMOGRAPHICS

In FY19 we served 110 students at our in-school workshops



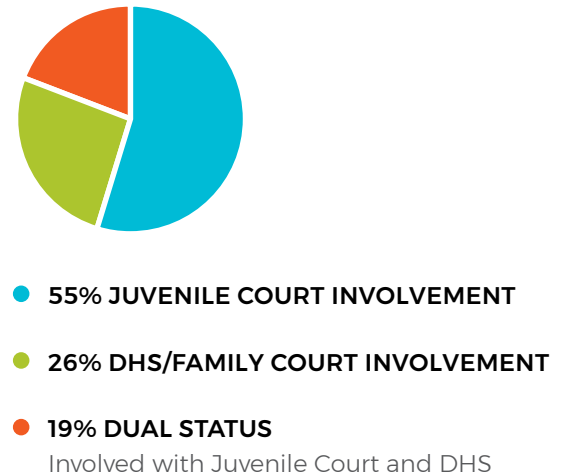
FY19 STUDIO WORKSHOP DEMOGRAPHICS

In FY19 we served 44 students at our in-studio workshops



COURT INVOLVEMENT

In FY19 we served 42 court involved youth

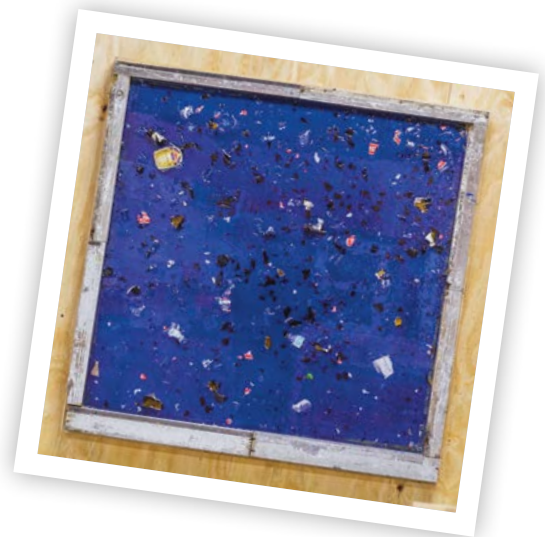


#KNOWJUSTICE: Origins

Our 5th Annual #KNOWJUSTICE: Origins art exhibit took place in Building One, a warehouse behind our studios. In the Spring of 2019, we converted Building One into a gallery space.

#KNOWJUSTICE: Origins was a process of discovery of beginning points. Youth chose to explore themes addressing migration, core values, life journeys, personal hardship, systemic bias and the concept of where things began. Artist mentors served in support roles, as production assistants, camera operators and eager audiences. Artist mentors and Drake Law students worked together to weave in difficult concepts, such as disproportional incarceration of people of color and immigrant discrimination.

#KNOWJUSTICE: Origins, the 5th annual art exhibit of ArtForce Iowa, embodies youth artists' perspectives on how we got to where we are. ArtForce Iowa youth artists are encouraged to proudly share their beliefs about justice, personal power and the world.



📍 The renovated warehouse where #KNOWJUSTICE: Origins art exhibit took place, Building One.

📍 Top: "Summer Storm". "The colors of this piece remind me that bad weather always passes. Nature, even when she is terrible, is always beautiful." Youth artist: AP. Acrylic on canvas.

📍 Center: "Untitled". Youth artist: Ron

📍 Bottom: "Ay man, you want a Sprite?" "Soda used to be what we all drank." Youth artist: AB. Mixed media.



- 📍 #KNOWJUSTICE: Origins art exhibit in Building One.
- 📍 Second from top: "My wealth, poverty, hunger". Poetry written by youth artists of ArtForce Iowa. Mixed media.
- 📍 Third from top: "Cosmic Cranes". "Migration is beautiful and natural." Youth artist: LAD. Mixed media.
- 📍 Bottom: "Hee." Youth artist: DP. "'Hee' is the Karen word for home. This model is the house I was born in. I spent 6 years of my life there. When my family came to America, we gave the house to my mom's

oldest brother. He has lived there for the past 10 years and just had it rebuilt in March." Mixed media.

- 📍 Top and center: "The Maze of Life." "The making of this maze took time and patience just like growing in this life. As we build to our goal, sometimes we need others' help to reach our goal. This maze represents the choices we make in life. You can choose your own path, but some can be difficult." Youth artist: Ron. Wood, paper and graphite
- 📍 Bottom: DSM Heroes youth artist M singing at the #KNOWJUSTICE: Origins opening night.



#KNOWJUSTICE: Know Change

www.artforceiowa.org/kjknowchange

May 7TH, 2020 • 5:30 PM-8:00 PM
900 Mulberry Street • Des Moines, IA 50309

Join us for our 6th annual youth art exhibit #KNOWJUSTICE: Know Change May 2020. We are partnering with Drake Law School and Youth Justice Initiative to dive into what matters most to our youth artists and how to make ourselves “be the change we wish to see.” In order for there to be meaningful change, we must start with how to represent ourselves and resist negative labels. Then our youth artists take the lead as we help them process and design artwork that reflect (and may cause) the change they wish to see.



#YESKINDNESS

**Spare some change for real change?
Give \$1 to support youth in need!**

Whether you pledge a dollar for a day, a week, a month or a year, your #YESKINDNESS gift will help transform youth in need through art. Your dollar will support:

CLIENT ASSISTANCE

Last year, ArtForce Iowa spent more than \$5,500 on client assistance. Youth artists need bus tokens, haircuts for job interviews, work clothes, household items, school supplies and hygiene products.

COALITION BUILDING

Help us reach out as proper hosts and ambassadors to people and organizations who make art in our city and promote equity for all young people.

EDUCATION

Our artist mentors need training and community members who work with youth need safe self-directed learning opportunities.

♥ **SAY YES TO KINDNESS!**

Donate your first dollar to www.artforceiowa.org