



# Youth Empowerment Performance Project

## Community Arts Program - Teaching Artist Description

### Mission

YEPP strives to create a brave environment for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex (LGBTQI+) youth experiencing homelessness to explore their history, investigate new ways to address their struggles and to celebrate their strengths through personal, leadership and community development programming that incorporate different art-expression forms.

### Community Arts Program

The Community Arts Program is a variety of drop-in art-based workshops provided as a creative outlet for LGBTQI+ youth in the Chicago area. Offerings may include writing, ballet, modern dance, vogue, visual art, photography, fashion, film, and music among others. The goal of the Arts Program is to offer free, low-threshold opportunities for LGBTQI+ youth experiencing homelessness to access a creative community space that will cultivate their artistic skills. In alignment with our five core frameworks, each workshop will also support participants in healing, building self-confidence and fostering community relationships.

### Applicant Strengths and Qualities

A strong applicant will possess the following qualities:

- Excellent and reliable communication skills
- Experience in the performing and/or visual arts
- Strong teamwork ethic and collaboration skills
- General understanding of YEPP's core organizational frameworks: restorative justice, transformative justice, harm reduction, trauma-informed care, and education for liberation
- Ability to take initiative in a self-directive manner considering YEPP's frameworks
- Great time management skills
- Experience working with youth
- LGBTQ+ identified folks highly encouraged to apply

## Primary Tasks and Responsibilities

Teaching Artists will:

- Attend YEPP's mandatory Volunteer Training to get familiar with YEPP's history, guiding frameworks and approaches to the work.
- Develop a lesson plan that incorporates creative skill-building, community building, and trauma-informed frameworks
- Bring all levels of styles and techniques to share with the space
- Incorporate interactive learning & opportunities to share work developed in the workshop
- Facilitate a group of up to 10-20 young people (ages 18-29)
- Redirect participants to the group agreements & YEPP values when necessary
- Create a Brave Space for expression, creativity, and growth
- Consult with the YEPP CHAT (Community, Healing, Accountability & Transformation) Team in the event there is a situation that calls for us to consider an accountability process among group members and/or YEPP staff.

## Additional Requirements

All staff, interns and volunteers are expected to uphold the values, frameworks and mission of YEPP. All staff, interns and volunteers must have an overall commitment to serving the participants of YEPP, and to contributing to a positive, respectful and accepting environment.

## Payment

Teaching Artists for the Arts Program engage on a volunteer/pro-bono basis. YEPP is unable to provide stipends at this time, yet we do recognize the importance of compensating artists for their work. In exchange, we are willing to discuss a bartering system that offers YEPP as a resource for TA's within the programs and services that we currently provide. Please reach out with any questions you may have regarding the resources we offer.

## Next Steps

Following the completion of the [Teaching Artist Application Form](#), the Director of Programs, will reach out via email to schedule an interview. Following the interview, teaching artists must attend a mandatory Staff/Volunteer Training Session where there will be more details and information given about hopes, expectations and YEPP as an organization.