

# DEVELOPING ARTISTS

Since 1999 · Registered Charity: 20-2798203



## WHY WE EXIST

*“Arts education isn't something we add on after we've achieved other priorities, like raising test scores and getting kids into college. It's actually critical for achieving those priorities in the first place.”*

*- First Lady, Michelle Obama*

## WHO ARE WE?

Developing Artists is a nonprofit organization founded in 1999 that is dedicated to providing students from culturally diverse backgrounds the opportunity to proclaim themselves as artists and reach their full potential. We help kids find THEIR place and THEIR connection to THEIR community through participation in the arts. We have impacted over 1200 young artists during our 12 seasons in addition to thousands of young audience members. We are now in a position to take the program to the next level.



## WHO ARE WE TARGETING?

- Youth between the age of 12 -18 who attend Middle and High Schools in the 5 Boroughs of NYC, where arts programs have been cut or have never been in place.

## WHAT IS THE STRUCTURE OF THE PROGRAM?

- A 10 session course offered in the Winter, Summer & Fall, centered on the creation and performance of an original show that is inspired by issues raised by the students (age groups 12-14 & 15-18) in the class.
- Our teachers incorporate fundamentals of acting, writing and all the elements of the performing arts to build an ensemble that will celebrate their unique collaboration.
- Selections of the best work are taken to REBEL VERSES Youth Arts Festival where our students perform alongside many other invited youth groups in a two-week engagement in front of a live audience.

*"We all dream that one day we will achieve something we believe is much bigger than ourselves. We as artists hope that what we do matters and moves the people who see it. have the courage and drive to reach for my dreams and express myself through art because of what I learned from Developing Artists."*

- Alex Flores

DA Member Since 2004  
Actor, film/theater and star  
of THE MAZE RUNNER



## HOW DO THE STUDENTS BENEFIT?

- Participation in REBEL VERSES Youth Arts Festival as well as our classes, teaches young artists the dynamic relationship between performer & audience and the importance of connecting with their own community.
- Improves their self-confidence, empowers their creative voice and helps them learn the value of collaboration.

## HOW IS DEVELOPING ARTISTS DIFFERENT?

- REBEL VERSES Youth Arts Festival is the only festival in America of its kind where young artists can benefit from coming together to engage and exchange with their artistic peers.
- Our students work alongside professional actors, writers, and directors providing a level of training that nurtures our young artists as seriously as we would adult participants.

### **WHY DOES DEVELOPING ARTISTS MATTER?**

- According to Grantmakers in the Arts, from 2011 to 2012, appropriations to the National Endowment to the Arts saw a decline of nearly 6 percent, while state resources saw a decline of about 5 percent. Local entities, likewise, contributed less funding to the arts in 2012.
- There is a shortage of professional level performance arts training in New York City for many under-served communities.
- There is also a lack of opportunities for various youth organizations to experience each other's work. Sharing work allows students to see other artistically-minded young people, facilitate partnerships, and share support systems between organizations.
- Developing Artists is particularly committed to engaging with young people from socially disadvantaged backgrounds and has a proven track record of engaging positively with those who face significant barriers in their daily lives. Our core commitment is to bring serious performing arts training to those young people most in need; drawn from lone parent backgrounds; from ethnic minority communities; those who have suffered physical, sexual or mental abuse.

### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

**Email:** [info@developingartists.org](mailto:info@developingartists.org)

**Website:** [developingartists.org](http://developingartists.org)



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**Artistic Director:** Jill DeArmon **Executive Director:** Jinn S. Kim **Managing Director:** Chris Bell  
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