



IMPACT REPORT



**Radically
creative
youth**

www.muse360.org



who we are

OUR MISSION

Muse 360 is a Baltimore based non-profit organization founded in 2004 by artist and cultural worker Sharayna Ashanti Christmas. Muse 360 is on a mission to **radically develop youth** to use their **voice and creative talents** in pursuit of knowledge of self.

Muse 360 is committed to providing our youth with opportunities that **maximize their ingenuity, self-awareness, and life skills** to help them work towards sustaining a powerfully build future.

Our **vision** is to be the center of radical transformative youth development rooted in pursuing culturally centered **critical thought and creation in the world.**

since

2004 we have...

1,841 served youth and families

76% of our youth have launch creative projects or small businesses within a year of completion.

152 youth have traveled to **12** countries

283 original art, media, or public performance projects created

48 Employed admin + teaching artists

25 partnered with local businesses

100+ engage community volunteers

95% of youth express an increased connection to their community



our programs



Rayn Fall Dance Studio est. 2003 is a Pre-professional dance and creative movement program for ages 2+.

RFDS strives to offer the highest quality of dance instruction while offering programs that parallel the needs of the community we serve. Our mission is to provide people of diverse backgrounds with an opportunity to receive training in dance while receiving exposure in the allied arts.

Rayn Fall Dance Studio Choreolab is a dynamic initiative designed to expand access to dance and creative expression for youth and adults in diverse communities.

Building on RFDS's legacy of excellence since 2003, the Choreolab travels to bring



pre-professional dance training and creative movement workshops directly to participants. Combining dance with literary components, it offers a unique interdisciplinary approach that fosters self-expression, storytelling, and cultural connection.



Spark of Genius (SOG) est. 2012 is a creative entrepreneurship and business development incubator for middle and high school students.

SOG provides the resources and development to empower Baltimore City youth to utilize the arts to cultivate their personal talents and skills (spark of genius) to become entrepreneurs.

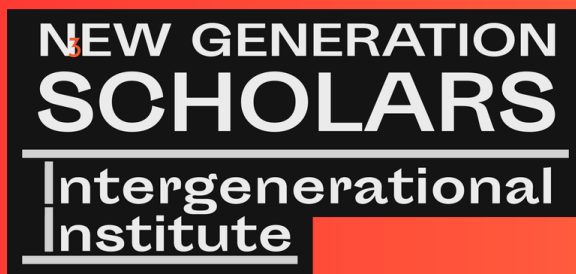


our programs



NGS Leadership (ages 13-21) est. 2007 is a year round youth development and study abroad program.

NGS provides leadership pathways that develop intellectual, social-emotional and creative competencies using an inquiry and artistic project-based approach to engage scholars in weekly corroborative workshops. Scholars have studied abroad in 12 countries including , Ghana, Costa Rica, London , Paris and more.



NGS Intergenerational Institute est. 2021

is a free, global educational platform designed for and by a collective of youth, artists, cultural workers and organizers.

NGSII hopes to unify folks of **ALL AGES** across the diaspora who are deeply committed to learning . Accomplishing this not only through the lens of history and culture but also through cooperative economics, interpersonal relations, and institutional building.



NGS Young Artist Archival Fellowship est. 2023 is designed to empower a dynamic cohort of 10 young emerging artists (18-22) in Baltimore city to conduct archival research in pursuit of preserving old and new histories of Black diasporic Baltimore and beyond.

Each fellow will be paired with one advisor. Selected fellows will be required to create new, works based on their research and will receive a stipend upon completion.



In Service to

2024

community



Muse 360



Engagements

Details

Outcome

4

Critique as Praxis Circles // Collective Artist Feedback

A sacred transformative process for generative feedback that requires a collective engagement of deep questioning with the intent to evolve and layer the work

Critique as praxis creates space for radical criticality that transforms.

- A cohort of 18 artists engaged in the Critique as Praxis process
- 4 Sessions Completed: Four transformative feedback sessions facilitated by other artists.
- At least 90% of participants report applying learned critique techniques to expand and refine their artistic practices.
- 12 New Works: The process directly contributed to the development or significant enhancement of 12 new or existing artistic projects.
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5

Sankofa Open Classrooms Series

//Transformation of Memory // A Journey Towards Knowledge of Self Through Community Archives

A program where learning is a reciprocal act of connection and discovery. Open Classrooms create an intentional intergenerational space where the community can learn alongside youth, bridging generations through the preservation of stories and histories.

- Partnered with Afro Charities/Afro News
- 68% obtained an Enoch Pratt Library Card to access online archives
- Collected 15 Oral History Stories from Participants aged 15-49
- 139 people attended the Open Classroom in total
- 72% returning for more than 1

1

360 House (360H)

360H is a intergenerational sacred space in NE Baltimore for artists, educators, entrepreneurs, activists and cultural workers to experiment communally. It is a space that will provide activations for artist residencies, intimate exhibitions, screenings, meetings, gatherings, etc.

- Newly opened space for Muse 360 Programs in Jan 2024
- Hosted the 1st NGSYAA Fellows Program
- Help 2 Mobilizing Community Meetings
- Launched Phase I Artist Residency program Nov 2024

Partners

2024



BARS provides space for youth to present their work through exhibitions and learn curatorial practices. With founder Rhea Beckett serving as a facilitator and curator, participants gain invaluable skills in exhibition design, curation, and storytelling, connecting artistic expression to cultural preservation and innovation.

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Life Code and Diaspora Solidarities, led by long-time partner, Dr. Jessica Marie Johnson we offer impactful workshops focused on African Diaspora culture and history. These workshops aim to empower youth and communities by fostering a deeper understanding of their heritage, promoting solidarity, and building connections across the African Diaspora.

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AFRO CHARITIES

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Annually, New Generation Scholars partners with Afro Charities to provide youth and facilitators with transformative access to archives. Through hands-on research and exploration, participants uncover untold stories, deepening their understanding of Baltimore's rich history and their own identities. This partnership fosters a powerful connection between personal discovery and collective memory, empowering participants to see themselves as active contributors to history and its preservation.



Muse 360 partners with Bilphena Yahwon, founder of Archive Liberia, to provide political education and explore the shared histories of Liberia and Baltimore. Through this collaboration, we also offer the community free courses through the NGS Intergenerational Institute to learn about the historical connections between these two communities, fostering deeper awareness of political and cultural movements that have shaped their identities.

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