



Creative Suitland

A Joe's Movement Emporium Project

Creative Suitland, a project of Joe's Movement Emporium, is an arts-based community development strategy to include residents and businesses in defining the cultural and creative spirit of Greater Suitland area. It seeks to **enhance the local creative industry through job creation, artist opportunity, audience development, creative placemaking, and art education.**

In specific, Creative Suitland provides **free and affordable arts and cultural programs, artist services, and vibrant gathering spaces for Greater Suitland area.** In partnership with local artists and renowned groups, Creative Suitland gathers the community around arts and cultural experiences while supporting the local economy in Prince George's County.

In 2023, Creative Suitland presented 144 in-person performances and 21 community engagement events reaching 12,000 individuals across Prince George's County.

CreateTEEN:

Instilling the Arts to Foster Growth and Unity Among Greater Suitland Teens

Funded by a County Hope in Action grant, Creative Suitland operates the free anti-violence program CreateTEEN, providing **year-round dance, poetry, creative writing, arts workshops, and creative mental breaks** in 4-6 week sessions to promote mental well-being and positive connections among Greater Suitland teens aged 12-17. It offers a safe space for **self-care, socialization, and professional development** for rising creative entrepreneurs in Prince George's County.



In the year 2023, CreateTEEN has attracted 300 teens from Greater Suitland area. These young minds have had the opportunity to immerse themselves in dance, mindfulness and poetry workshops, gain insights into the music industry, and perform arts from their perspectives. These engagement practices spark a lasting interest in the arts within Greater Suitland area, encourage community involvement to contribute to the local creative economy.

C.H.O.I.C.E.S.:

Addressing the Need for Post-Incarceration Support Within Prince George's County

C.H.O.I.C.E.S. is a **4-month creative wellness program** designed for recently incarcerated individuals re-entering society. It delivers a multifaceted approach to wellness by providing an outlet for artistic expression, fostering connections to the community, and enhancing a sense of belonging. **C.H.O.I.C.E.S. delivers 3 focused initiatives:**

Visual Arts

Designed by **Cary ArtBae Robinson**, this workshop infuses artistic concepts with life lessons to inspire participants to explore their artistic talents while learning from experienced Artbae artists.

Spoken Word & Poetry

Session I - The Write to Speak: This workshop addresses trauma's impact on mental health, using writing experiences to help participants articulate their voices and thus rebuilding their self-esteem.

Session II - Stage Write: Participants transition from writing to performance, learning to manage fear and anxiety through practical public speaking exercises and peer-reviewed rehearsals.

Family Unification

Monthly workshops offer family-centered activities and events to repair the family bonds strained by incarceration, fostering stronger emotional and financial support networks. A family celebration event will be hosted at the S.L.O.T.H. Wellness Lounge to honor the achievements of each participant.

Artistic Awakening: A Teen's Journey from Uncertainty to Achievement

One of our teen participants joined the program feeling disconnected and uncertain. Over time, he developed a keen interest in the arts, which led to **his personal inaugural art show in August 2023**. There, he successfully sold his artwork and, more importantly, discovered a powerful sense of purpose and pride in his abilities, which showcased the positive transformation Joe's helped to nurture.



About Joe's Movement Emporium

Through two cultural arts hubs in Prince George's County, Joe's Movement Emporium was built for artists by artists. Seeking to stimulate the art economy, Joe's offers artists of all ages a safe space to create and learn technical skills through job development programs. **TODAY**, Joe's is the largest independent nonprofit performing arts center in Prince George's County, serving more than 75,000 individuals annually through a scaffold of arts programs and community-focused services.