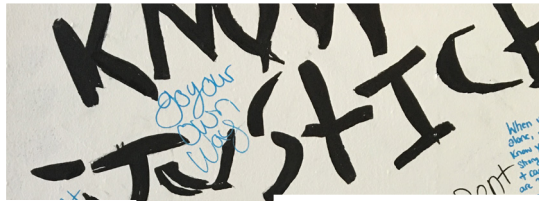
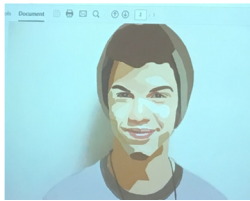


art force iowa

2016 Annual Report



*Des Moines on the planet Earth,
a small organization makes a
big difference, transforming the
lives of youth in need through art.*

TRANSFORMATIONS HAPPEN HERE

CREATIVE PATHWAYS

Creative Pathways is a supportive arts-based community for youth who have involvement in the juvenile court system. We use an arts-integrated approach to build life and work skills, as well as mentor and advocate for the youth we serve.

LILA

*names changed to protect identity

Lila came to us as a passionate artist, struggling with behavior and substance abuse issues.

Art was her passion - she wanted to do it all; make music, paint, draw.



JOHN

We first met John after a fight with his mom had landed him in Juvenile Detention.

As soon as he was released, he started participating in ArtForce.

Accompanying him through a transition from detention to shelter, to a foster home, he continued to participate in music, hip-hop, art, and dance workshops.

John wasn't happy with his foster home, and decided to leave it just months before graduation.

After a short stay at shelter, he left so that he could work and go to school. Fearing being picked up after leaving shelter, he stopped going to school.

Our staff maintained contact with him, and managed to reconnect him with his lawyer, his social worker, and in-school supports.

He worked hard for the last two weeks of high school. Now, he is waiting to attend University of Northern Iowa, where he wants to continue his passion for the arts by studying graphic design.

After failing to maintain the requirements of her probation, she was placed into detention and then long-term group care.

While in group care, she continued to participate in workshops. Combined with intensive therapy and support from her group care staff, she came to develop and appreciate her own coping

strengths and shared them with other youth in the **Creative Pathways** program

Upon release, she struggled to stay sober. Her strong relationships with the **Creative Pathways** mentors helped her to get past triggers and to focus on a successful future.



"ArtForce is the only place I completely trust her,"

reported her mom.

"I don't know what I would do without ArtForce in my life."

The **NUMBERS**

66

YOUTH SERVED

85% of youth met the goal to attend at least **8** sessions.

ENGAGEMENT

AVERAGE # OF TIMES

18.76

workshops per youth

RECIDIVISM

27.27% of our youth reoffended, compared to **36.3%** of the Polk County population.

GRADUATION

7/8 YOUTH
(87.5%)

who were on track to graduate this year, graduated.

80% OF OUR YOUTH SERVED 1 NIGHT IN DETENTION • 64% MINORITY / 36% MAJORITY

ArtForcelowa accepts troubled youth as they are - even when filled with trauma induced emotions and/or substances. ArtForcelowa works with our youth and inspires them (and the juvenile justice community) to create something from the brokenness. The youth feel supported and validated through ArtForcelowa. It has been an integral part of many youth remaining in our community, instead of going to a costly placement.

Judge Susan Cox, Associate Judge for Juvenile Court, 5th Judicial District.

ArtForcelowa provides a variety of programming for youth involved in the juvenile justice system, including youth at high risk to re-offend. These youth greatly benefit from valuable alternatives to unhealthy lifestyle choices that many vulnerable youth are at risk of gravitating towards.

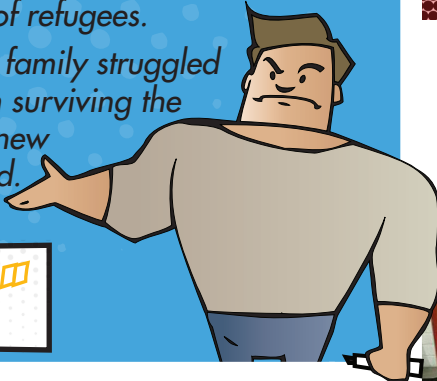
Chad Jensen, Chief Juvenile Court Officer, 5th Judicial District



STREETCRED STUDIOS

Julio was born in a foreign country and is the child of refugees.

Growing up, his family struggled but succeeded in surviving the adjustment to a new culture and world.



JULIO

StreetCred Studios is ArtForcelowa's social enterprise. The program launched in 2016 after having taken the 2nd place prize in the Ignite Community Innovation Challenge. The program employs and trains young adults, ages 16 to 24, in screen-printing, digital media, sales, and marketing. As production assistants, these young people work at StreetCred until they have the skills they need to find a better paying job or pursue post-secondary education.

At the age of 18, he was in the wrong place at the wrong time. Hanging out with some friends, he was involved in a robbery.

After being incarcerated for a year, he returned to the community. Julio found it impossible to get a job with his record. After many efforts, he had completely given up.

A mentor suggested he apply for a production assistant position at



A few weeks later, he was hired and began work.

For the first time, Julio thrived in the workplace. He learned to keep track of time and to stay focused on his work.

"StreetCred helps me to value my time more, and to think about what I want to be. I'm not going to sit around and be lazy anymore. I know I can have the future that I want."



MELISSA

Melissa struggled as a child. Neglect by her parents led to long-term court involvement, including 4 years in a facility far from home.

Upon re-entry into the community, her struggles continued. After a period of success, she fell back into addiction.

Having been sober for just one year, Melissa decided to turn her life around at the age of 24. She was connected with our LiftOff program where she excelled, using her interpersonal

skills to build bridges between other participants, and improving her skills in design, sales, and marketing.

In February, she was hired as our first StreetCred Production Assistant.

Now, having completed four months in the program, she is ready to excel. She has developed skills in IT, accounting, sales, design, & screen-printing.

"ArtForcelowa showed up at just the right time. If I hadn't had LiftOff or StreetCred, I might have turned back," reported Melissa.



StreetCred Studios has developed an innovative and effective program that is transforming the lives of those they serve. Our community is fortunate to benefit from an organization that is training not only our future workforce, but our future leaders.

Kristi Knous, President Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines

4

PARTICIPANTS

INCOME

\$21650

The **NUMBERS**

SHIRTS

Printed to Date

3000

1st
YEAR
GOALS

The Bureau of Refugee Services looks forward to working with the DSM Heroes program and partnering with them in their innovative approach to serving refugee youth.

Chad Dahm, State Refugee Coordinator

75

youth served

70%

engaged in the program

75%

improved school performance

70%

reported improvement in quality of life

Looking into the **FUTURE...**

DSM HEROES

In July 2016, ArtForcelowa announced a new program called DSM Heroes, a supportive, arts-based community for immigrant and refugee youth who have experienced trauma.

This program is based on the already successful Creative Pathways model developed by staff to serve juvenile delinquents. The model has proven to reduce poor behavior among participants and improve academic outcomes.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- November** - Visit from the Chairman for the NEA, Jane Chu
- December** - 2nd place Ignite Innovation Challenge for StreetCred Studios
- April** - 2nd Annual Exhibit "#KNOWJUSTICE"
- May** - Awarded VSS Grant to serve Immigrant and Refugee Youth
- June** - Moved to new facility at 600 Holcomb Ave
- June** - Executive Director designated a Community Champion

STAFF

- John Mark Feilmeyer,**
Executive Director
- Yvette Hermann,**
Program Director
- Michelle Jackson**
Production Manager for StreetCred Studios
- Christine Her,**
Program Manager for DSM Heroes
- Emma Parker,**
Youth Engagement Specialist

SUPPORTERS

- United Way of Central Iowa
- Voya, Inc
- Polk County Decategorization
- Principal Financial Services
- The Grainger Foundation
- Wells Fargo
- Carpe Factum, Inc.
- Addam C. Medina Foundation
- West Bank
- Kum & Go, L.C..
- Kemin Industries Inc
- Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines



BOARD MEMBERS

- President:** Eric Kinman, Blueprint Strategic Consulting
- Vice-President:** Francis Boggus, Boggus and Associates
- Treasurer:** Sharon Wegner, Kemp and Sease Law
- Secretary:** Kimberly Graham, The Graham Law Collective

- James Bell, Wells Fargo
- Janet Kubik, The Principal Financial Corporation
- Debra Thomas, Mediator
- Joshua V. Barr, City of Des Moines
- Hoang Tran, RDG Planning and Design



FINANCES

| | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 (estimated) |
|----------|-----------|-----------|------------------|
| Income | \$224,000 | \$228,000 | \$435,000 |
| Expenses | \$172,000 | \$178,000 | \$351,000 |

Income in 2015

| | | |
|------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Grants | \$87,000 | 40.86% |
| Personal Gifts | \$8,208 | 2.86% |
| Corporate Gifts | \$22,850 | 10.73% |
| Fee for Service Income | \$68,350 | 32.10% |
| Fundraiser Events | \$5,103 | 2.40% |
| Screen Print Sales | \$21,400 | 10.05% |
| Total | \$212,911 | 100.00% |

| Program | Youth Served |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Lift Off | 21 |
| Smart Start | 101 |
| Detention Workshops | 213 |
| Creative Pathways | 68 |
| StreetCred Studios | 4 |
| Total | 407 |

