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| **How arts education made an impact for BIPOC unstably housed youth** | |
| *Quote*  *- Colleague, Title* | |
| **THE NEED**  In 2017, Innovation & Performance (IP) partnered with the NW Network of Bi, Trans, Lesbian and Gay Survivors of Abuse (NW Network) to examine the overrepresentation of youth of color among homeless and unstably housed young people in King County, WA. IP supported NW Network in analyzing qualitative data gleaned from focus groups with over 100 homeless youth of color. One key insight was related to focus group participants' desire to participate in "typical" adolescent activities - like art or sports - but their search for housing prevented them from participating after school. As the NW Network's [Youth of Color Assessment](https://issuu.com/thenwnetwork/docs/youth_of_color_needs_assessment__fi) notes, "Many of these sacrificed activities and opportunities are the same ones young people said often helped them when they're having a hard time".  **OUR APPROACH**  IP partnered with Seattle's Office of Arts and Culture (OAC) to explore how the City might support homeless youth through activities to support their creativity while also connecting them to trusted adults. OAC is a key partner in [Creative Advantage](https://www.creativeadvantageseattle.org/), a citywide initiative to establish equitable access to arts education for each and every student in Seattle Public Schools.  **THE RESULTS**  OAC led the implementation of the Creative Youth Development (CYD) Secondary Arts Project, which brought community teaching artists into two high schools in Seattle Public Schools (SPS) who enroll high numbers of youth experiencing housing instability: South Lake High School and Southeast Interagency Academy. The Secondary Arts Project invests in high quality, culturally responsive arts programs to promote creative learning and educational engagement. Participating students developed stronger interpersonal skills, 21st century skills like communication and collaboration, and were exposed to and practiced concepts of creative workforce development and creative entrepreneurship.  **READ MORE**  Creative Youth Development, Arts Strategies for Engaging Unstably Housed and Homeless Youth, Seattle Office of Arts and Culture: <https://www.creativeadvantageseattle.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/2019_9-CYDFieldScan.pdf>  Creative Youth Development, Engaging Students of Color Experiencing Housing Instability in Seattle Public Schools: <https://www.creativeadvantageseattle.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/2019_9-CYDFieldScan.pdf> | **DEPARTMENT PARTNERS**  Office of Arts and Culture  **PROJECT**  **DURATION**  2018  **IMPACT**  Provided a safe space and creative outlet for homeless youth  **KEY DEPARTMENT**  **CONTACTS**   * Ashram Hasham (OAC)     **FOR MORE**  **INFORMATION**  **CONTACT**   * Tina Walha (IP) |