

Young Cultural Stewards critically and creatively engage art, technology, and media to become advocates and caretakers of their parks, neighborhoods, and communities.

CULTURAL STEWARDSHIP

- Reframing public parks as sites for cultural organizing and creative capacity building
- Preserving and contributing to indigenous, local, and global cultural practices
- Building 21st century skills of creativity, communication, collaboration, and critical thinking

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

- Cultivating the development of positive self-identity, community, and solidarity
- Nurturing the capacity to imagine change and the willingness to work for it
- Practicing culture making as a tool for social change

COMMUNITY SAFETY

- Fostering trust, vulnerability, and the development of interdependent relationships
- Utilizing restorative and transformative justice to address harm and create accountability
- Providing job training, career readiness, and building the capacity of youth as leaders and lifelong changemakers

CONTACT US

Meida McNeal, Arts & Cultural Manager
Meida.McNeal@ChicagoParkDistrict.com

Marcus Davis, TRACE
Marcus.Davis@ChicagoParkDistrict.com

Sean Heaney, Inferno
Sean.Heaney@ChicagoParkDistrict.com

Irina Zadov, YCS & ArtSeed
Irina.Zadov@ChicagoParkDistrict.com

Mallory Muya, YCS & ArtSeed
Mallory.Muya@ChicagoParkDistrict.com

City of Chicago, Rahm Emanuel, Mayor
Chicago Park District Board of Commissioners
Michael P. Kelly, General Superintendent & CEO
For more information about your Chicago Park District, visit www.chicagoparkdistrict.com

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PARK
DISTRICT

ARTSEED

MOBILE CREATIVE PLAY

ArtSeed engages 1,500 youth (ages 3-12) across 18 parks through storytelling, music, movement, and nature play rooted in neighborhood stories. Children explore the histories and legacies of Chicago's community-based artists and imagine creative solutions to challenges in their own neighborhoods.

INFERNO

MOBILE RECORDING STUDIO

Inferno engages over 1,000 young people (ages 6-18) across 80 parks to make participatory music, produce documentaries, and practice therapeutic sound recreation. Led by experimental musicians, media artists, and youth interns, Inferno facilitates opportunities for young people to tell their own stories and document their cultural landscapes. Check us out at: www.infernocpd.com



100+

PARKS

2,500+

YOUTH

45+

NEIGHBORHOODS

TRACE

TRACE (Teens Re-imagine Arts Community and Environment) is a job readiness and civic leadership program that cultivates creative activism in youth (ages 14-22). Based in the Englewood community, TRACE annually employs over 80 young people tasked with collectively re-imagining their roles as cultural producers and community builders.

YCS FELLOWSHIP

Young Cultural Stewards (YCS) engage youth (ages 12-14) as caretakers of culture and agents of change within their parks and neighborhoods. With regional hubs in Rogers Park, Little Village, and Chatham, youth explore what culture and community mean to them while developing skills in cultural preservation, organizing, and building creative platforms for social change.

