

Art is My Weapon, Healing HeART Program



Project Narrative

Healing He**ART** Program addresses youth, young adults, adults and families affected by gun violence, peer and community violence, acts of violence and traumatic events that have occurred in their lives.

Often, families who have experienced a traumatic event involving trauma and gun violence have little or no time to process and or heal. The inability to cope can lead to barriers in education, family and social and emotional learning. The Healing He**ART** Program will allow city and state violence prevention programs, educational institutions public or private and or groups to refer youth and families to the program to participate in healing art spaces to learn to cope and begin to heal the He**ART**.

Referred youth and families will be paired with an artist in one of many mediums, painting, drawing, sculpture, wood works, metal works, abstract, photography, videography, music production and more to attend healing and coping sessions in or out of school time while creating meaningful art that will later be presented in local and possibly national Art is My Weapon exhibitions if the participants choose to do so. Referred youth and families will also have access to an onsite trauma counselor / therapist and community mentors in academics and other areas of need.

Since 2016 we have executed 10 exhibitions featuring artwork addressing gun violence created by artists ages 10-80 years old and delivered programming to over 600 students in Minneapolis Public Schools, youth serving organizations and the greater Twin Cities communities. In doing this work, we have been able to engage people of all ages and backgrounds, community leaders, organizations, elected officials, and the media in respectful nonpartisan conversations around gun violence and trauma that ultimately lead to greater public awareness, conscientious community action, and responsible policy solutions to reducing gun violence and aiding youth in excelling to be upstanding , thriving members of the community.



Extension of Services

Referred or participating youth and families will have access to emergency funding needs that may not be covered by other youth and violence prevention programs and or groups that they are working with.

Referred and participating youth and families will have the ability to be matched to a mentor if so desired.

Referred and participating youth and families will have priority in the resource and referral process to other basic needs and needs that will assist in allowing coping and healing to continue even after participating in the Healing HeART's Program

Qualifications

Art Is My Weapon is qualified to do this project with a proven track record of providing healing spaces to victims and survivors of trauma, primarily gun violence. The founder, who has 27+ years' experience in youth achievement and science based whole family approach services with expertise and knowledge providing services to help prevent and address trauma using art as the catalyst to change.

Recent Media

[After A Year Of Loss And Struggle, North Side Teens Find Healing Through Art - CBS Minnesota \(cbsnews.com\)](#)

[Gun Violence PSA v5 - YouTube](#)

[Art is My Weapon, Vol. 10 - YouTube](#)

[Twin Cities anti-violence art group turns guns into shovels to plant trees \(fox9.com\)](#)

For more information:

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[HOME \(artismyweapon.org\)](http://artismyweapon.org)