

Department of Youth Services (DYS) Arts Initiative

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Arts Residencies

Each year, the DYS Arts Initiative places professional artists in residential settings to work with youth at every stage of their interaction with the Department. Integrated into both the academic day and extracurricular activities, residencies last on average between 6 to 12 weeks and culminate with a celebratory sharing of work for staff and invited guests.

The DYS Arts Initiative engages artists in a myriad of different art forms including music production, Shakespeare, improvisational theater, fashion, entrepreneurship, dance, poetry, wood working and drumming.

Each year Commonwealth Corporation supports up to 30 residencies across the state through the DYS Arts Initiative.

Arts Opportunities in the Community

The DYS Arts Initiative also connects youth with arts opportunities in their home communities, whether it be through connection to an established community based arts organization, specially created arts programming in District Offices, or one-on-one arts mentorship with local professionals. Paid positions allow youth to continue their artistic study and further explore opportunities for self-expression and discovery.

Annual DYS Arts Showcase: *Share Your Art, Share Your Voice*

For the past 8 years, Commonwealth Corporation has supported the DYS Arts Showcase, which publicly presents both visual art and performances by youth committed to the Department and showcases work by DYS youth engaged in programs such as LEAD and Exclusive Tees.

This event is attended by hundreds of people including DYS youth, staff, DYS leadership and state legislators.

