

THE CREATIVE PROCESS

Protecting the Arts for Youth

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

5:00 - 7:00 PM

All Stars Project, 543 42nd Street, New York, NY 10036



Thank you for being here tonight. As arts education faces growing threats, your presence affirms the transformative power of the arts. It is through the process of creating art that young people can express themselves creatively, discover their passions, build strengths, and find their voices. By joining us, you stand with a community that refuses to let the arts be diminished and declares that every child deserves the chance to thrive through creativity.

Tonight, our panelists will share stories and insights that illustrate why arts access matters and how, together, we can protect it. Their voices, along with yours, fuel the movement to preserve arts education for generations of New York City students.

Together, we are defending a child's right to arts education. Thank you for adding your voice and energy to this effort.

TONIGHT'S PROGRAM

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| 5:00 PM | Refreshments and networking |
| 5:20 PM | Group visual arts and theater activities <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Engage in a collective visual art activity• Express yourself through theater |
| 6:00 PM | Welcome and panel discussion |
| 6:55 PM | Closing remarks |

Panelists



Tyrik Iman-Washington, Jr.

LEAP Alumnus
Teaching Artist

Tyrik Iman-Washington Jr. is a Brooklyn-born performer, writer, director, and educator, raised in a musical and artistic family where his passion for the performing arts was nurtured from an early age. He began his journey singing in church, which soon led him to both stage and screen, with appearances on PBS Theatre Talk and CUNY TV's Let It Rip. In addition to a wide range of stage and screen roles, including Freeman Bentley Jr. in the Off-Broadway a cappella musical The Movement, Tyrik has also performed in numerous cabarets across NYC and is a principal dancer with the acclaimed SKIN Dance Company. As a writer, educator, and director, Tyrik is deeply committed to using art as a vehicle for education, empowerment, and social change. He firmly believes that the arts are not just a means of self-expression, but a tool to challenge systems, inspire dialogue, and amplify underrepresented voices. His work centers on creating spaces where creativity and consciousness intersect. Tyrik is currently developing his debut cabaret show, A Night of Soul: My Love Letter to Hip Hop and R&B—a personal and musical tribute to the genres that shaped his voice, artistry, and identity.



Kimberly Olsen

Executive Director, NYC Arts in Education
Roundtable

Kimberly Olsen is an arts educator and advocate based in Long Island City, Queens. As Executive Director of the NYC Arts in Education Roundtable, Kim works with a large network of cultural organizations and arts educators to provide strategic field-wide leadership, create community-led learning spaces, and advocate for arts education in New York City and New York State. Kim serves on NYC Public Schools' Arts Committee to the Panel on Educational Policy, and was a Committee Member on Mayor Eric Adams' Transition Committee on Arts, Parks, and Culture. She received special recognition at the Bronx Arts Ensemble's 50th Anniversary Gala for her service and enduring contributions to the arts education community. Kim oversaw the creation and administration of the largest COVID-19 teaching artist emergency relief fund in the country, bridging public and private support to regrant over \$1M to NYC teaching artists. She was recently acknowledged as part of City & State's inaugural Arts & Culture Power 100 list.



S. Brian Jones

Assistant Dean of Operations and
Community Engagement, Dyson College
of Arts and Sciences, Pace University

S. Brian Jones is an award-winning and well-respected artist, writer, producer, director, and arts educator. He provides oversight for the B.A. in Writing for Diversity and Equity in Theater and Media Arts program at Pace University (NYC), an interdisciplinary major launched in spring 2021 with support from the Edmond de Rothschild Family Philanthropy. He is the Assistant Dean of Operations and Community Engagement and has extensive expertise and leadership in arts education for historically underrepresented populations and a passion for social justice advocacy.

S. Brian was instrumental in starting the Playwriting in Prison program at Ferris School for Boys and New Castle County Detention Center for Youth, which received Bravo's Excellence in Arts Education Award. Most recently, he received the 2024 Jefferson Award for service, bronze medal. www.sbrianjones.com.



Audrey St. Clair

Assistant Commissioner for Program
Services at the New York City Department
of Cultural Affairs

Audrey St. Clair serves as Assistant Commissioner for Program Services at the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. Currently, Audrey manages the Program Services Unit which administers approximately \$60 million annually to arts and cultural organizations in New York City through the Cultural Development Fund and City Council Initiatives.

Previously, Audrey served as Director of Arts Partnerships at the ARTS Office of New York City Public Schools. In this capacity, she developed robust partnerships between hundreds of arts and cultural organizations and the 1,600 public schools in New York City. She oversaw all aspects of Arts Partnerships Grants and co-facilitated the Support for Arts Instruction Initiative in collaboration with the New York City Arts in Education Roundtable and New York City Council.

Prior to her work in New York City Public Schools, Audrey was hired as the Teachers College Community School (TCCS) Liaison at Teachers College, Columbia University. As TCCS Liaison, she collaborated with community-based organizations, cultural institutions and higher education to direct STEAM programs for children and families in grades Pre-K thru 6th grade.

A graduate of Spelman College and an alumni of Sphinx LEAD, Audrey is an arts advocate and administrator that has created sustainable arts programs for children, families and communities.



Shadae McDaniel

SVP Programs and Strategic Initiatives
All Stars Project

Shadae McDaniel is Senior Vice President/Programs and Strategic Initiatives for the All Stars Project. She is responsible for the design and implementation of programs across all markets and the management of the All Stars Project (ASP) regional directors. Additionally, Shadae leads the ASP's Strategic Initiatives, a training and development branch, and provides strategic direction to partnerships nationally. She directs the virtual Development School for Youth (DSY) and Development Coaching programs and, as co-chair of the Program Fidelity Council, assures program quality across the organization. This includes overseeing the ongoing evolution and advancement of assessment policies and procedures and the use of outcomes in the design and implementation of staff training across the organization. She is also a member of the Executive Leadership Team and serves as a regional and national spokesperson for the organization. As Director of the ASP of New Jersey (ASP of NJ), Shadae continues to function as the market leader responsible for the growth of the business.

Shadae is listed as one of ROI-NJ's "2023 Influencers: People of Color" and was named by Newark Venture Partners as one of the "10 Bad Ass [Girl] Bosses of Brick City". She was featured in InnovationsoftheWorld.com and interviewed by Steve Aduato as part of his UNCUT "Confronting Racism" series. Passionate about performance and a dancer for much of her life, Shadae spent 15 years prior to joining the ASP working in the local, state and federal nonprofit sector, where she provided innovative community-based education to thousands of young people and their families in underserved communities. One of her fondest accomplishments is founding and being the artistic director of MarquisElite Group, Inc. a grassroots non-profit aimed to empower at-risk girls through performing arts. Shadae is a graduate of the Kellogg Executive Development Program, and she earned a bachelor's degree in health sciences at Howard University and a master's degree in social work from Rutgers University. She lives in West Orange with her husband and daughter.



About LEAP

We believe in the Power of Art.

LEAP partners with school communities to offer creative arts programs that encourage New York City youth to pursue their passions, develop their strengths, and amplify their voices.

We envision a city where education is equitable, and the arts are accessible for youth in communities that are rich in culture and capability and have been under-resourced. Youth in our communities will be the next generation of lifelong learners, creative problem solvers, and collaborative leaders.

About All Stars Project

Through the developmental power of performance, we transform the lives of youth from poor and underserved communities in partnership with caring adults, giving everyone the opportunity to grow.

All Stars Project is at the forefront of building community by bridging racial, economic, and social divisions to develop a caring 21st Century America.



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