



YOUTH ARTS PROGRAMMING

Every Thursday June through October WBBA has partnered with local health and wellness practitioners, culture bearers, teaching artists, and area musicians to provide free and engaging arts programming that caters to youth and welcomes all residents and visitors. Edna's Park will host the first part of the series each week from 3:30pm to 6:30pm. Youth and community are invited to enjoy activities such as yoga, meditation, art workshops, open mics, and live performances. Free food and refreshments will be available for everyone in a safe space intended to empower our young people and inspire creativity and a sense of belonging.

We will partner with Streetworks to also serve as a homelessness hub during this program and to bring our interns along with their weekly street outreach activities.



THANK YOU!

THANK YOU
WE THANK OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS STREETWORKS, THE YOUTH COORDINATING BOARD, AND THE CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS GREAT STREETS PROGRAM AND OFFICE OF VIOLENCE PREVENTION FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT.

CONTACT US

info@thewestbank.org
<https://www.thewestbank.org/>



SAFETY AND YOUTH OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT



West Bank
BUSINESS ASSOC.
MPLS

WE LISTENED TO OUR COMMUNITY

In 2021 the WBBA hosted several community conversations and focus groups, as well as talked with countless business owners and residents and restarted in-person monthly community safety meetings. We heard loud and clear that safety is a number one priority for all of us. We heard that people are concerned about our youth and that livability issues like trash and neglect of property are major concerns along with fears about crime in general. We also led a youth ambassador program in 2020 and 2021 and ran a youth arts programming pilot in 2022. We learned much from that work about the needs of our community and what safety really means to businesses, families and youth who are directly affected by issues of addiction and homelessness. We heard you. Our community shares deep concerns for the health and well being of our young people and believes that opportunities for youth to thrive has a direct impact on the safety of our entire community.



Our programs are rooted in mutual respect and sees young people as assets in our community. We believe that showing care to youth will, in turn, have youth care for our community.

Through our partnerships with StreetWorks Outreach Collaborative and the Youth Coordinating Board, we are able to offer paid internships for young people to gain new, and build upon existing, skills that benefit our whole community. We use best practices of harm reduction that allows youth who may be actively using or suffering from the effects of unsheltered homelessness to have a safe place to belong, to learn, to grow and thrive.

In 2023 we will::

- Hire and pay two youth interns to work with WBBA staff and StreetWorks to support our youth programs for spring, summer, and fall and to become trained street youth outreach workers in the neighborhood, as well as garden and maintain the Edna's park parcel.
- Host 20 weeks of arts workshops and programming for all - including youth, residents, and visitors. Over the course of 20 weeks, we hope to engage 600-800 young people in addition to other community members in fun activities that remind people what is great about our neighborhood.
- Provide this arts programming in 2 to 3 areas in the neighborhood that are seen as vacant and/or underutilized.
- Create a garden club for residents so that the Edna's park garden can continue to be maintained, used, and enjoyed by the whole community.
- Follow up from our successful 2022 West Bank Cultural History mural with another mural in the neighborhood celebrating what we love about the West Bank!

