

# Peace Through the Arts

A No More Red Dots Program Progress Report 2023



It's been an awesome year for our Peace Through the Arts program. We've had more success than ever reaching out to communities locally and abroad and teaching short art classes to youth between the ages of 13-24. This year's focus has been on showing our Junior Mentors new experiences and tasks they had never seen or done before; more meetings and discussions, art instruction classes, as well as using new mediums for creativity.

Thank you to our donors who helped NMRD programming, and our partners who whole heartedly supported the mission and continue to work with us.

Below is a list of events and activities that PTTA participated in during the year so far, followed by a short explanation of goals going forward.

## January – July

- 50 art tutorials posted by Junior Mentors in the program between Jan. and Jul. using social media outlet: TikTok.
- Created and directed Shawnee Branch Library art class (Louisville, KY): *Intro to Bookmaking Class*; Jan. 28<sup>th</sup> for 13–24-year-olds, (with help from program Directors).
- PTTA Junior Mentors attended Mayor's Conversation at Muhammed Ali Center discussing gun violence intervention; Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>.
- 1 PTTA junior mentor attended Everytown for Gun Safety Convening in Baltimore for ROCA CBT (Cognitive Behavioral Training) training along with other NMRD team members, Apr 10<sup>th</sup>
- PTTA was active and handing out NMRD shirts during the organization's canvassing of Thunder Over Louisville, May 1<sup>st</sup>
- Junior Mentors in PTTA recorded a series of interviews discussing gun violence and ways to address the problem with people on the street, May 10<sup>th</sup>
- Created and directed Shawnee Branch Library art class (Louisville, KY): *Lino Printing* – A type of woodblock printing for ages 13-24-year-olds, June 7<sup>th</sup>, (with help from Program Directors).
- "Art Sparks" collaboration with Speed Art Museum, where PTTA provided a Risograph printer and assisted during a workshop allowing local artists to use a new medium they had never used before (Risograph printers are hard to come by and are expensive to purchase, PTTA was able to get one through a grant provided by Everytown for Gun Safety, (with help from program Directors).

- PTTA Junior Mentors assisted with 4 food giveaways supplied by Kentucky Harvest in the Portland Neighborhood, Louisville KY, throughout the year.

## July – November

- 5 workshops “Celebrate You” at Speed Art Museum, July-Nov., discussing mental health with Mental Health Lou, Martin & Muir, Peace Through the Arts and the community. Graphite rubbings and group meditation sessions, (with help from Program Directors).
- Russel Community Peace Watch Meeting, Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>, PTTA Junior Mentors assisted during a conversation with NMRD and community in Russell, discussing trainings on de-escalation methods to reduce violence.
- “Trunk of Treat” Community Event on Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>, hosted by a NMRD Intervention Specialist to hand out candy to youth at YMCA on West Chestnut St. PTTA Junior Mentors helped and recorded the event.
- Everytown Cohort through Zoom on Jul 19<sup>th</sup>, Director of program was able to discuss how PTTA, as a NMRD program, is an important part of gun violence intervention with organizations around the country.
- Office for Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods Portland Block Party on Jun 24<sup>th</sup>, PTTA maintained a booth and talked with community in Portland about the organization and program, also gave out t-shirts and water bottles.

## What’s Next

We’re hoping to continue **cultivating relationships** we’ve built with our partner the Speed Art Museum and continue working with Everytown for Gun Safety on ways to prevent gun violence using the arts. We’re also open to any new collaborations that will benefit our participants.

We want to have **at least 1 ‘big’ event per month**, either an art show or a music show, or possibly both. The event would show PTTA Junior Mentors art and would be open to their peers who might also want to show their work. It would be open to the community for free, or for a very low amount that goes towards NMRD Programs.

**Improve on our online art instruction tutorials** by getting more in depth with the topics of traditional arts, and tying in how they can reduce violence by improving mental health and potentially, adding to a young person’s personal finances. We could do this by adding written or speaking instruction to go along with the tutorials, adding more professionalism and better quality to the videos. We also plan to incorporate these into the NMRD website as a separate function.