WallTalk: Role Call

Discussion Prompts

1. Who gave you your name?
2. What sorts of meanings do your name have to you, to the people who gave you your name, or to others?
3. If you could make up what your name means, what 3 words would your name mean?

In-Class Writing Workshop / Acrostic Poems

What is in a name? Teaching artists asked students this question when they visited their classrooms and invited them to write acrostic poems using their names.

The artists wanted these young people to see that words have power and that power comes in many forms.

In-Class Visual Art Workshop

Body as a Vessel

As the 2023 Reading Jam approached, teaching artists visited students in the classroom to create clay vessels inspired by the work of contemporary sculptor Simone Leigh. The program encouraged students to think about the body as a vessel and to respond creatively to the art and issues of our time.

The vessels created by students were later displayed at the Reading Jam for everyone to see!

Reading Jam

At the end of WallTalk, students expressed their authentic selves during the 2023 Reading Jam in the ICA’s Barbara Lee Family Foundation Theater. Students and teachers from various schools came together to celebrate the year. After viewing an exhibition of their clay vessels, many of the young people chose to bravely perform their written work live on the stage or recorded on video.
Authentically Me

Boston Community Leadership Academy
Charlestown High School
Dearborn STEM Academy
Donald McKay School
Excel High School
McKinley/Melvin H. King South End Academy
Rafael Hernandez School
Young Achievers Science and Math Pilot School

WallTalk 2022 - 2023