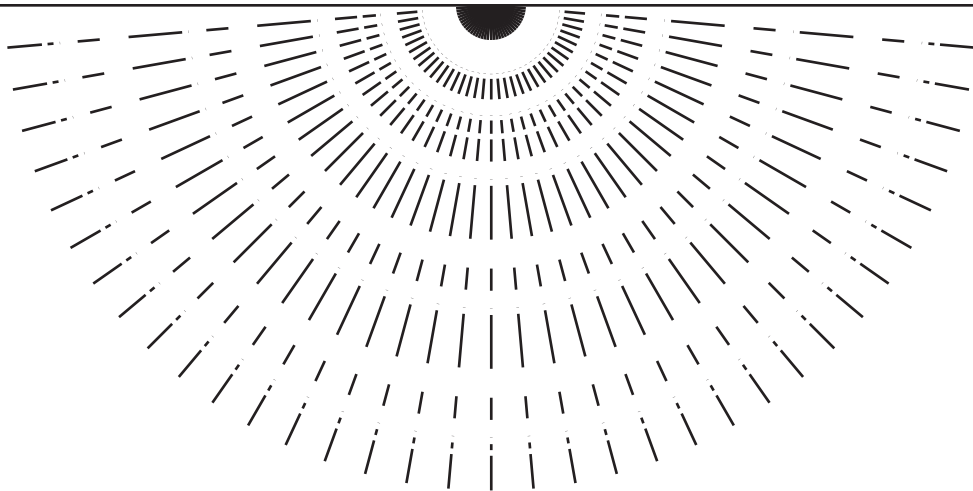


ICA ALUMNI CONVENING



FRI JAN 27– SUN JAN 29

3-day virtual convening to connect with past friends,
build communities and networks, make art & more!

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LETTER

My name is Layor Guevara. I am a songwriter, fashion designer and creator of The Pink Sphinxes, my fashion collection. I am an alum of the Teen Arts Council and currently an Alumni Relations Assistant at the ICA.

In the fall of 2021, a group of ICA Teen Programs alumni came together to dream and plan for this Convening. We were all in different places of our lives, living across different states, and were all connected to the ICA through Teen Programs at some point in our lives. Over the next few months, we came up with a framework as a group, divided into committees to plan each session, and identified roles we would each hold for the Convening.

This Alumni Convening Publication is a brief recap of the three-day Virtual Alumni Convening that occurred on Jan 27–29, 2023.

Over the course of the three days, the Alumni Convening Planning Committee facilitated icebreakers, games, discussions, and workshops to build community and deepen connections. We collaborated with artists, speakers, and performers to deepen our inner experiences as creatives. We reflected on our experiences in teen arts education programs, explored what's happening now in the field, and dreamed about its future.

We would love for you to read and learn more about what occurred at the Convening. Step into this community by reflecting on the highlights, quotes, memorable moments, and overall takeaways from each day. Listen to the collaborative playlist we created and try out the creative experiences offered by artists. We invite you to respond and hold internal dialogue with yourself as you process what we are sharing. Finally, we invite you to share takeaways with your communities and hold conversations around what resonates for you.

Layor Guevara
Alumni Relations Assistant
TAC Alum

OVERVIEW AND SCHEDULE

Overview

We greeted guests with a special playlist of tunes. We started the evening with introductions, creative ice breaker activities, and an overview of the weekend. We broke into small groups and formed personal connections with one another, discussed teen arts education, and joined the Teen Exhibitions Program at the ICA's Seaport Studio for an exhibition opening in the Teen Gallery.

Schedule

5–6 PM

Introductions and Interactive Games

6–6:30 PM

Discussion on impact of teen arts education

6:30–7 PM

Exhibition Opening in Teen Gallery

OPENING THE SPACE

Values and Intentions*

We created the Alumni Convening to make space for alumni of teen arts education programs to connect, get creative, reflect, and imagine the future together. In order to cultivate such a space, we set the intention to do our best to do the following, and asked everyone sharing this space to do the same:

- Respect everyone.
- Be brave.
- Stay engaged and contribute energy.
- Listen to understand, not to respond.
- Be open to receiving from others and to what resonates with you.
- Speak from your own experience, not for an entire group of people.
- It's okay to disagree. The goal is to have a dialogue and not to change someone's mind.
- Notice how much space you are taking up with your voice or with listening. Make space for listening if you often speak more in groups and for speaking if you often listen.
- We learn from one another and through interactions. No one knows everything; together we know a lot. This means we all get to practice being humble because we have something to learn from everyone in the room. It also means we all have a responsibility to share what we know, as well as our questions, so that others may learn from us.
- Share lessons learned. Keep confidential, names, identifiers, and stories. It is a privilege to receive and share personal stories about our lives. Honor the stories shared by practicing confidentiality.
- Allow people to self-identify their gender, pronouns, and personal identities to describe who they are. Do not assume anyone's gender identity, sexual preference, survivor status, economic status, background, ability, or health, etc.

- As we share this space, we will work against oppressing one another. Assume positive intent. Not everyone comes in with the same set of experiences and knowledge. Assume that people have good intent. Please have positive intent yourself. Recognize and be accountable for the ways in which your actions and words have an impact on others regardless of your intentions.
- Avoid freezing people in time. When people make mistakes, grant them the opportunity to learn and grow.
- Care for yourself however you need to, whether that means taking breaks, passing on responsibilities, saying yes and no when you mean it, and/or asserting healthy boundaries.

*These values and intentions drew on the following sources: The Anti-Oppression Network (theantioppressionnetwork.com), Seattle Art Museum Equity Team Resource on Micro-Aggressions (seattleartmuseum.org), and most especially the New Museum's Convening for Contemporary Art, Education, and Social Justice Values and Intentions (newmuseum.org). That document was adapted from the brilliance of the following: Aorta Collective (aortacollective.org), Harriet's Apothecary (harrietsapothecary.com), and Sylvia Rivers Law Project (srlp.org).

Introduce Yourself

Name:

Pronouns:

Teen Program you participated in:

Communities you are a part of:

DISCUSSION ON TEEN ARTS EDUCATION

We created a space for folks to share their personal journeys in teen programs. We started in small groups, then came back as a large group to reflect and respond together.

Creative Experience

We invite you to write and reflect with us. While reflecting, write down experiences that are coming up for you.

— How has your teen arts program impacted you?

Example from Alumni Relations Assistant Max

Teen programs at the ICA have helped me evolve in so many ways, from public speaking to the ability to step outside my comfort zone and show my creative side to the exploration of so many different techniques that have made me better as an artist and made me the person that I am today.

— What have you spent the last year doing?

Example from Max

I am trying new things like cooking and exploring new languages through foreign films and tv that have given me a better insight on storytelling and the way that other cultures live on an everyday basis. It has helped me to exemplify that through my own personal work when I go out on location or just when I start writing a new script.

DISCUSSION ON TEEN ARTS EDUCATION

— **What do you see yourself doing in the future and how will what you're doing now determine that?**

Example from Max

I hope to continue to work at the ICA and become a mentor and give back to this amazing community that gave me opportunities.

I want to do the same for the next generations.

I think I'll never stop doing what I love by telling stories through my camera lens. I just know that each day that goes by can only give me a new perspective and insight of the stories that I want to share that will make an impact.

Alumni Convening Planning Committee Highlights

- People connected with others.
- The alumni and educators shared stories and reflected.
- Shared the importance for continuation of these programs.

EXHIBITION OPENING IN TEEN GALLERY

We wrapped up the first day of the Convening with an exhibition opening in the ICA's Teen Gallery at Seaport Studio, which first opened on November 1, 2021. A few blocks from the ICA, Seaport Studio encompasses the Teen Gallery and two dedicated spaces just for youth programs; the Paul and Phyllis Fireman Family Digital Studio, part of the Charles and Fran Rodgers Education Center; and a meeting space for a range of ICA Teen Programs.

The ICA's Teen Exhibitions Program (TEP) plans, organizes, and installs artwork in the Teen Gallery, while learning about the process of making exhibitions from dedicated museum professionals. AJ, an alum of this program who was also on the Alumni Convening Planning Committee, welcomed convening participants to the opening, turned it over to current TEP member, Angelica, to speak briefly about the exhibition. AJ then shared a slideshow of the individual works of art. Convening participants then joined the event virtually for the opening remarks. Some participants physically in Boston joined us for the opening in person. The intention was to give participants a window into what is currently happening in teen arts education at the ICA. TEP is our most recently created teen program.

The opening celebrated *The Stories that Make Us*, an exhibition of artwork by high school students that explores personal stories about migration, belonging, and overcoming adversity. This exhibit embodies how different stories intersect and finds the commonalities we all have with one another. To create this exhibition, TEP worked with many collaborators, including I Learn America, Horace Mann School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Everett High School, Boston International Newcomers Academy, and ENLACE Academy at Lawrence High School.

I Learn America (ILA) is a youth-led education program with a mission to use the power of storytelling to foster empathy, urgency, and action around issues affecting migrant youth, as they forge

their own path in a new land. In 2021, youth facilitators from ILA worked with artists from the Horace Mann School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing to create panels that focused on their own journeys. In the fall of 2022, ILA facilitators worked with student leaders at Everett High School, Boston International Newcomers Academy, and ENLACE Academy at Lawrence High School to lead workshops around the panels—taking inspiration from the panels, students used black vinyl and permanent marker on mirrors and windows to create pieces that reflected their own personal experiences and points of connection. To Learn more about I Learn America, visit ilearnamerica.com. For a full list of collaborators visit <http://icateens.org/events/stories-make-us>.



EXHIBITION OPENING IN TEEN GALLERY



Day 1 — Fri, Jan 27, 2023

EXHIBITION OPENING IN TEEN GALLERY



OVERVIEW AND SCHEDULE

Overview

We came together to build community and get creative with each other and with Kimberly Drew, Marlene Boyette, Mithsuca Berry, Sarah Rose Smiley, and Lightfoot. We ended the day with building networks to sustain our connections.

Schedule

12–12:30 PM

Reconnecting through Icebreakers

12:30–1:30 PM

Keynote from Kimberly Drew

1:30–2 PM

Dynamic Break: Sound Meditation with Marlene Boyette

2–3 PM

Develop Your Craft with Local Boston Artists: Drawing with Mithsuca Berry, Painting with Sarah Rose Smiley, and Music Production with Lightfoot

3–4 PM

Deepening Connections and Building Networks

RECONNECTING THROUGH ICEBREAKERS

Overview

To kick off the second day of the Convening, we invited folks to get to know one another better by doing contour drawings in pairs. We asked participants to look only at their partner and not at their paper while doing a drawing of the contour or outline of their face. We then prompted them to add to their drawings of each other, now that they were able to look at the paper, while discussing the questions, “What will you leave in the past?” and “What will you take with you moving forward?” The objective was to form one-on-one connections while making art and responding to reflective prompts.

Creative Experience

We invite you to try this exercise by yourself or with a partner. If going solo, sit in front of a mirror and grab something to write with and something to write on. We also invite you to skip the contour drawing and respond to the prompts.

Steps

Look in the mirror and speak out your name and pronouns.

Set a timer for one minute.

While maintaining eye contact with yourself, draw a self-portrait until the timer goes off.

Set the timer for one minute.

Flip your paper and respond to the following: What will you leave in the past?

Set the timer for one minute.

On your portrait respond to the following: What will you take with you moving forward?

(optional) Share with us on Instagram @icateens.

KEYNOTE FROM KIMBERLY DREW



Artist Bio

Kimberly Drew (she/they) is a curator and cultural critic. Drew received her BA from Smith College in Art History and African-American Studies. She first experienced the art world as an intern in the Director's Office of The Studio Museum in Harlem. Her time there inspired her to start the Tumblr blog, Black Contemporary Art, sparking her interest in social media. Drew's writing has appeared in Vogue, Vanity Fair, and them. Drew recently joined the Curatorial Team at Pace Gallery. Her book's, Black Futures, co-edited with J. Wortham, and This is What I Know About Art, are both available wherever books are sold. You can follow her at @museummammy on Instagram and Twitter.

Reflection from Alumni Relations Assistant Layor

Kimberly Drew graced us with an outstanding presentation. Regardless of our backgrounds and professions, Kimberly's compelling keynote made it possible for each of us to learn and reflect. She spoke on her own journey. She shared about advocating for representation for Black art in museums and other arts spaces, ways to care for oneself, ways to make money as a creative, and more. Kimberly framed her keynote around question generated by the Alumni Convening Planning Committee and also invited folks present to ask her the questions that were genuine to them.

Alumni Convening Planning Committee Highlights

Was driven by the lack of Black art and Black artists in museums, private collections, galleries, in academic settings, and in the system that is primarily White.

Explains @museummammy on Instagram and Twitter and spoke to her intentional reclaiming of the term "mammy" that, among other things, allows her to connect to the work and labor of other Black women.

Says to be audacious, do not be the one telling yourself no, and do not be an enemy to your own archive.

Believes in changing institutions from the inside.

Appreciates the byproducts of neurodivergence.

Speaks to breaking the romance around suffering in positions that are underpaid and overworked.

Says to have more patience and compassion with past trials and tribulations and even more reverence towards personal archives.

Shared a time she suffered from imposter syndrome and that she made of point storytelling about it because she wanted to make other people who might also feel "shocked" they were there to be more comfortable.

KEYNOTE FROM KIMBERLY DREW

Alumni Convening Planning Committee Takeaways

Ways to care for yourself:

Have simple rituals or hobbies.

Figure out a routine that works for you and stick to it.

Apologize to yourself.

Practice your craft and empower yourself to practice it in private, “not everything needs to be posted online,” and “not everyone needs to know about those sacred moments.”

Balance is unattainable, practice sustainability.

Give yourself space to fail.

Respect and honor your inner child.

How do you work for yourself and not just money

It is ok to make money and to work for money.

Not all pay is monetary.

Build your community.

Show up and be present.

Choose interdependency over codependency as a politic.

DYNAMIC BREAK: SOUND MEDITATION WITH MARLENE BOYETTE

Artist Bio

Marlene Boyette (she/her) is a trauma-informed somatic and sound meditation practitioner, educator, and community activist/disruptor. Marlene aims to use movement, stillness, and sound to encourage restoration, joy, and healing within communities of all backgrounds, ages, and abilities, especially those inhabited by Black and Brown people.

Marlene has cultivated and held space for various organizations and institutions within Boston, such as The Massachusetts Black Lawmakers Roundtable, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Company One, Northeastern University, MIT, the ICA, and the Greenway. Marlene's most recent collaboration, with Masary Studio and Mount Auburn Cemetery, was a sound meditation recorded and licensed as part of the Winter 2022 outdoor installation, SOLSTICE.

As a practitioner, Marlene believes the modalities that she offers can be used as tools to activate social change. She aims to create welcoming spaces for all to be soft, and experience more ease, and has been recognized locally and nationally by the Boston Globe, Getaway House, and Lululemon for her contributions and dedication to community, equity, social justice, and wellness. To learn more about Marlene, visit www.leelayogawellness.com.

Overview

Through a guided mediation and sound bath, Marlene created an environment in which we could soften, release, and step into a space of creativity. She began with a breathing exercise urging us to be aware of breath and the energy that is our life force. Centering the sacral chakra, she



instructed us to envision releasing thoughts, feelings, and other energy that did not assist us. She urged us to examine our inner selves and determine if our feelings were our own or projected from others.

Creative Experience

We invite you to experience this meditation on your own:*

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Bpoj3pO2LKfgINhMmirU4nk8oYDnPX6l/view?usp=share_link

Reflect on the experience

What thoughts or feelings came up for you during the mediation?

What thoughts or feelings are you taking with you after the mediation?

*Please note that this mediation was recorded in a yoga studio that sits on a busy street. You will hear sounds such as the trains, cars, and sirens in the background.

DEVELOP YOUR CRAFT WITH LOCAL BOSTON ARTISTS

Drawing with Mithsuca Berry

Artist Bio

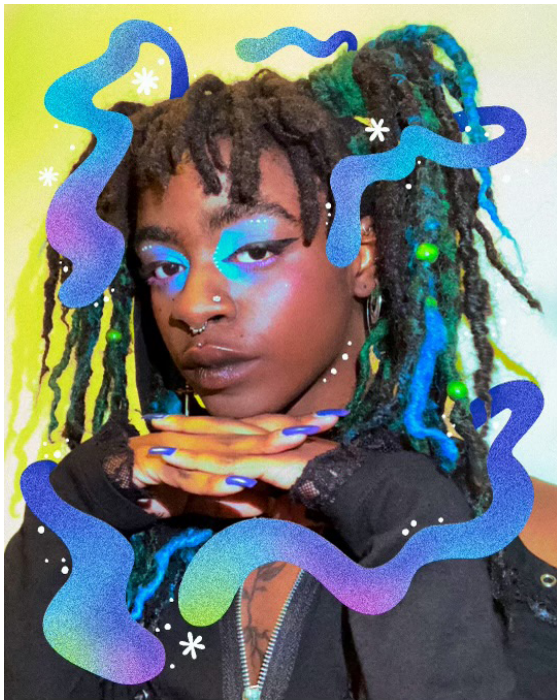
Mithsuca Berry (they/them) is a Haitian artist, educator, and storyteller currently based in Cambridge, MA. Each of their pieces marks an epiphany in their journey of healing trauma as it relates to existing as a black queer/nonbinary person. Art has been the intersection between their broken inner child and intuitive/spiritual self. Their practice asks questions like: How does one create an archive of imagery recording the complex emotions that surface

in their lifetime? They then sketch/write/release those examples into the world for others to connect with.

Overview

In this writing workshop, called "Make Like the Seasons and Change," Mithsuca empowered us to use the seasons as a model for self-reflection. They invited us to change as the earth changes. They asked us to ponder the question: "What if inspiration on how to 'be' exists all around us?" as well as the idea that it's time we bridge the gap between us and the soil we walk on. This workshop comes

from Mithsuca's book *As the Seasons Do: An Interactive Journal*, which is filled with prompts to explore throughout the year and is available at <https://form.jotform.com/212076794586165>.



Reflection from Alumni Convening Planning Committee Member Mintou

The session with Mithsuca was meditative, as always. From past workshops I have been in with them, I knew I would have a lot to take away from the activity we were doing. During the activity, we thought about our favorite and least favorite seasons and why they got such titles. I never have the time to sit down and consider the significance behind my favorite seasons and what that could say about me so it was nice to slow down and think about those things.

Alumni Convening Planning Committee Highlights

Gained self-awareness as to why we resented certain time periods in the year.

Granted forgiveness towards the universe.

Acknowledged the stress that comes with abundance.

Reflected.

Accepted.

Painting with Sarah Rose Smiley

Artist Bio

Sarah Rose Smiley (she/they) is a visual artist based in Boston, MA. Art is her love language. Most significantly, it has been a way to express pain about oppressive expectations of beauty and ways of being, and celebrate what feels more real. Her painting and photography touch on themes of intimacy, queerness, representation of survivorship, and reclamation of the body as home. She interrupts the male gaze through its absence. Balancing her commitment to gender, justice and youth work with her artistic practice has been a lifelong pursuit.



Overview

Sarah Rose created a space to explore the idea of “connection” though using a golden thread as the thread for conversation and art making. To begin building community we introduced ourselves and shared projects that we recently worked on. We jumped into making art together with a set of questions to guide us. We invite you to go ahead and experience it yourself.

Creative Experience

Set the vibe using our collaborative playlist.

Gather some materials

Golden thread or whatever you have access to

Pencil

Paper

Optional: Watercolors, paint, markers, anything with color!

Imagine you look down into your hand, and you see you're holding a glowing, sparkling, glittering, golden thread. It extends farther than you can even see, and it is connected to you somehow. We're going to be tapping into our sense of gratitude and of connection through some visualization before we make some art. It's going to be a little magical, a little weird, whatever you want it to be. Ask yourself:

How is it connected?

Can you find its origin?

Are you holding a spool in your hand, is it coming from your heart, your head, somewhere else?

Visualize how this thread is connected to you. It is yours.

Now start paying attention to how this thread extends from you, into the world.

Is it just one thread?

Does it extend into several?

Hundreds of threads?

Are there other colors?

Does it move in some way?

How does it catch the light?

Follow it, wherever it goes.

As you follow it, you see that this thread connects you to other things in the world around you.

What's the first connection point that you see? Is it a loved one, a place, an object?

Does it wrap around, go through, or tie you to it in some way?

Notice what it connects you to.

Does it keep going?

Does it stop somewhere?

Does it loop back around into an endless circle?

Take a few moments and just follow the thread and see what you can find.

Reflect on these questions

What shape does connection make?

What connects you to yourself?

What connects you to others?

Alumni Convening Planning Committee Highlights

“I feel a connection in my stomach particularly, because when I think of the term connection, I think about confidence and comfortability when I'm socializing with people.” —Linwood

Explored where we feel connection in our body and how we can extend it into a work of art.

Reflected as a group on what connection means, looks like, and feels like to us.

Built a space for group discussions that centered on community connection.

Music Production with Lightfoot

Artist Bio

Lightfoot (he/him) is a Boston-based music producer, beat maker, and educator. Straddling between the hip hop and electronic world, his music is inspired by heavy drums and electronic soundscapes. Catch some waves at <https://lightfootbeats.me/>.

Overview

Lightfoot opened this workshop called “Remix: A Sonic Evolution,” with a discussion of what a remix is. He then transported us back to the future by sharing a remix done in 2014 of Janet Jackson’s “If” from 1993. Lightfoot showed us how a remix is made by breaking down the components of both versions of the song. We ended by coproducing a remix with Lightfoot.

Creative Experience

Reflect with us while you listen to the Kaytranada remix of Janet Jackson’s “If”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WERGtxSU-Ww&list=RDWERGtxSU-Ww&start_radio=1&rv=WERGtxSU-Ww&t=0



What is your art?

Where is the line for you of someone remixing your artwork?

What boundaries do you have around protecting your art?

How would you feel if someone remixed your artwork?

Would it be okay for someone to take your artwork, be inspired by it, and create something else from it?

Where does ego manifest in your artwork?

Alumni Convening Planning Committee Highlights

Explored what a remix is.

Discussed the question: How do you remix while honoring the original version of the artwork?

Debated what the boundaries of a remix are.

Learned about the magic ingredients, or the tools, an artist needs to remix and where you find them,

Practiced reimagining through reinterpretation.

Gained awareness of and appreciation for collaborative endeavors.

Thought about remixes as new ways to introduce new listeners/viewers to the original.

Considered how remixes revitalize careers and begin new ones.

Explored our own willingness to allow others into certain sacred spaces.

DEEPENING CONNECTIONS AND BUILDING NETWORKS

Overview

Ayiti and Clarence from the Alumni Convening Planning Committee welcomed the group and shared with them that the intentions of this session were to get people to talk to each other, to deepen connections, and also to build networks. The Committee felt that a convening for alums should have elements of professional development and identified networking as important aspect of this. Participants hopped into breakout rooms for discussions in smaller groups. They began by sharing names, pronouns, and their response to one of two questions: “What do you do?” or “What are you about?” Then, they shared one thing they discovered through their careers or life journeys that they wish they had known sooner. Finally, we ended the session with shameless plugs. We had people add names, social media handles, drawings, upcoming events, and more to a shared whiteboard we then shared with the whole group.

OVERVIEW AND SCHEDULE

Overview

We closed out the Convening with a delicious intentional cooking and poetry segment with Febo from Adobo-Fish-Sauce. We prepped, cooked, and listened to Febo recite strong heartfelt poetry. We ate together in community and explored themes of intentionality, family, and community. We ended by connecting and reflecting on how we would continue to cultivate communities like the ones we created during the convening.

Schedule

12–1 PM: Live cooking and Spoken Word with Febo from Adobo-Fish-Sauce

1–1:30 PM: Communal Wrap Up and Reflection

LIVE COOKING AND SPOKEN WORD WITH FEBO FROM ADOBO-FISH-SAUCE

Reflection from Alumni Convening Relations Assistant Max

We began the final day of the Convening with Febo from Adobo-Fish-Sauce. We dove into a poetry performance and a delightful deliberate cooking segment. Before we started, we received a formal introduction from Febo, a Latinx artist and father. Febo asked us to slowly and steadily pulse our breathing to each ingredient cut. He pointed out that sometimes when cutting something, the goal is to get to the dish being made. He reminded us to enjoy the journey and not lose intention in every step of the process. From the start to the finish of our journey, Febo wanted us to appreciate it. He recited powerful poems as we cut up our ingredients together. His first poem was about being Boriqua, the prejudice he encountered while speaking his native language, and the distinct tastes and sounds of his upbringing. He shared about his ability, intention, and strength to use his ethnicity as motivation.

Then it was time to eat! We had finished preparing our large breakfast. Before we started eating, Febo reminded us to “savor every moment” and taste each component of our meal separately.

Febo invited us to “chew on one side of our mouth” as he guided us to take our first few nibbles. He welcomed us to “express ourselves loudly and while we’re eating,” and let out our loudest “mmm” sound, and to chew with our mouth open and allow the air and the food in our mouth to mix so that it can give a richer flavor to our food.

As we all enjoyed the food that we cooked with Febo, he prompted us to reflect inward on intention, family, and community. Although we sat behind screens, we ate together as a community, and talked as if we were sitting together at a large round wooden table.

Alumni Convening Planning Committee Takeaways

An invitation to move with intention though cooking and enjoying your food.

Open yourself up, especially when you feel you are trying to protect yourself.

Creative Experience

The next time you eat, start by eating on the one side of your mouth.

What does it feel like?

What in your own life is out of balance?

Eat as loudly as you can.

What does it feel like to take up space?

What does it feel like to be audacious?

As you continue your meal, be intentional about everything you do.

COMMUNAL WRAP UP AND REFLECTION

Overview

Alumni of teen programs from arts organizations from all around the nation, and even the world, came together at the Alumni Convening. We desired to unite as a community and share experiences and ideas. We ended the Convening by asking people to share in small groups about our time together using the questions in the Creative Experience section below. We then made space for people to add shout outs and community announcements to the collaborative whiteboard we started the day.

Creative Experience

Take some time to reflect on the recap of what we did. Feel free to do this alone, or join together with your community. Pause for a moment to reflect and respond to these questions.

What are you taking with you from the Alumni Convening?

What gems did you receive from folks that held space during this convening?

What is something from the convening that you will spread to your own communities?

How can we build community or programs for Alumni in the future?

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Alumni Convening Planning Committee

AJ Green

He/Him

Teen Exhibitions Program, 2021–2022

Alicia Ward

She/Her

Fast Forward, 2021–2022

Ayiti

They/Them

Teen Arts Council, 2018–2021

Clarence Joseph

He/Him

Film, 2017; Photography, 2017

Jordan Daley

He/Him

AMP: Music Production, 2016–2019; Film, 2017

Linwood Giles III aka LG3

He/Him

Fast Forward, 2013–2017

Maxwell Anthony

He/Him

Fast Forward, 2009–2013
Alumni Relations Assistant

Mintou Barry
She/Her
Teen Arts Council, 2020–2021

Rosaylin Bautista
She/Her
Teen Arts Council, 2020–2022

Sara Colorado-Florez
She/They
Artists and Writers Collective, 2019–2022

Scania Garcia
She/They
Teen Arts Council, 2019–2022; Photography, 2019–2020; Artists and Writers Collective, 2019–2020

Sydney Bobb
She/Her
Slam Poetry/Performing Arts Crew, 2015–2018; Fast Forward, 2016–2017; Teen Arts Council, 2017–2018

Zay
Him/Jimmy Neutron
Photography, 2012–2016

Alumni Convening Artists

Febo

He/Him
Adobo-Fish-Sauce

Kimberly Drew
She/They
Curator and Cultural Critic

Lightfoot
He/Him
Music Producer

Marlene Boyette
She/Her
Trauma-Informed, Healing Centered, Yoga and Meditation Practitioner
Community Activist/Disruptor

Mithsuca Berry
They/Them
Multimedia Artist

Sarah Rose Smiley
She/They
Multidisciplinary Artist and Creative Community Organizer

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She/Her
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Alumni Relations Assistant

Layor Guevara
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Teen Arts Council, 2013–2017
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Maxwell Anthony
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Fast Forward, 2009–2013
Alumni Relations Assistant

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Teen Programs Manager

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Converse is committed to supporting movements for positive social change and amplifying youth voices as they build the future they believe in.



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