



REIMAGINE EQUITY

BLACK ARTS CENTER

OUR MISSION

30,000 Feet’s mission is to advance the academic success of African American youth and families through culturally responsive arts and tech education, social emotional learning, and African American history and culture.

Since our founding in 2013, we have served over 2,500 students in Saint Paul.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Join 30,000 Feet as we reimagine equity by creating the first space where Black youth in Saint Paul can be their authentic selves.

Our Black Arts Center will provide a space for both creative experiences and overcoming barriers to employment through paid apprenticeships.

The 4,000-square-foot Center will be located on the Eastside of Saint Paul and will include space for a multidisciplinary art studio, computer science lab, maker space, common area/art gallery, and two small offices.

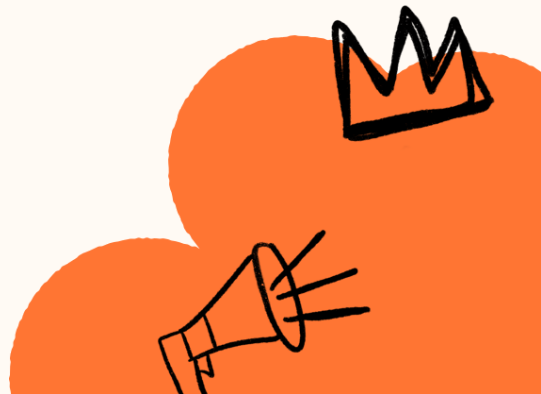
THE OPPORTUNITY

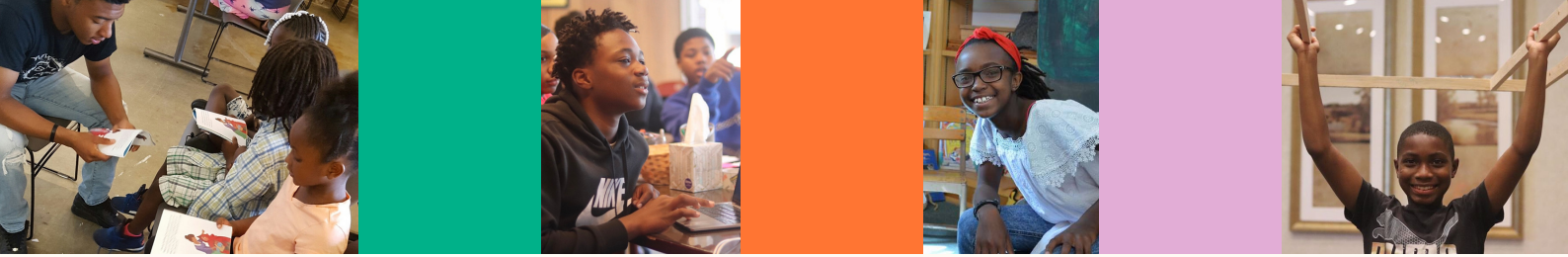
The disparities between Black and white students in Saint Paul are stark:

- **55% of Black students did not meet proficiency standards** in reading (Minnesota Department of Education, 2017)
- Black students represent 31% of students and **73% of school suspensions** (Saint Paul Public Schools, 2019)
- Black youth are **four times more likely than white youth to be detained** by the criminal justice system (Minnesota Department of Public Safety)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Carelton Crutchfield**- Executive Director, Comfort Center For Autism
- Raj Sethuraju**- Criminal Justice Professor, Metropolitan State University
- Chauntyll Allen**- St. Paul School Board
- Ta-coumba Aiken**- Artist





For Black kids in Minnesota, it's easy to feel invisible. School curriculums omit the history of African American communities, and community programs overlook Black families. We know that recognizing students' cultural background is key to overcoming the achievement gap. Founded by African American leaders from the Saint Paul community, 30,000 Feet's staff and Board are 100% people of color. Our programs are tailored to the specific needs of Black youth and led by staff with shared life experiences.

Since our founding in 2013, 30,000 Feet has held our programs throughout the community, borrowing space from churches, schools, and park buildings. While nimble, we've lacked a space to unleash the creative expression of the youth we serve. Now, we will establish a home where Black history and culture is centered and celebrated, empowering Black youth to thrive.

30,000 FEET CORE PROGRAMS

- **After-School Programming:** Culturally appropriate educational support for Black students from 21 Saint Paul schools. Programming has been moved to a virtual format to support students with the transition to distance learning.
- **Black Tech Geeks:** An innovative youth employment program in partnership with Ramsey County Juvenile Detention that reduces recidivism and connects Black youth to computer science careers.
- **Artist Residency:** In partnership with Saint Paul Public Schools and Hennepin County Public Library, we empower Black students by teaching history through culturally relevant arts curriculum presented by Black teaching artists.

BLACK ARTS CENTER IMPACT

The Black Arts Center set to **open in April 2022** will:

- Allow 30,000 Feet to **double the number of youth we serve** annually, from 125 to 250
- Provide a **safe space and daytime academic support** for youth who are suspended from school
- Increase the number of Black youth (age 16-24) who **gain meaningful employment** (\$15 per hour) through art, tech, and social justice apprenticeships
- **Decrease teen violence and recidivism** on the Eastside by providing a space for restorative justice and paid, year-round apprenticeships
- **Decrease summer learning loss** by providing summer art learning for K-8 students

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF BLACK YOUTH!

**30,000 Feet requests a \$1.5 million General Fund
appropriation in the State Bonding Bill.**

"We're on the front lines and know what our community needs.
This will be the first space dedicated to Black kids in St. Paul."

-Kevin Robinson, 30,000 Feet Executive Director