

SOMETHING TO SAY:

SUCCESS PRINCIPLES *for* AFTERSCHOOL ARTS PROGRAMS *from* URBAN YOUTH *and* OTHER EXPERTS

High-quality arts programs can offer young people skills, confidence, and delight. Still, youth in low-income, urban areas can be elusive. What attracts “tweens”—ages 10 to 13—to exemplary programs and keeps them coming back? We asked them directly—and parents and professionals, too—in this national research study. Download it for free at www.wallacefoundation.org/somethingtosay.

TWEENS CAN BE ELUSIVE—SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMS UNDERSTAND WHAT THEY WANT

Tweens drive decisions about their free time.

Tweens need their interest sparked quickly.

Tweens demand—and can define—high-quality.

“I have 75% of the power. I make more of the decision. I say there’s a thing I think I want to do.”



“I don’t want to talk about it a lot; I want to just get straight to it.”



“(I want) a teacher that knows what they’re talking about.”



EXEMPLARY YOUTH ARTS PROGRAMS SHARE 10 COMMON PRINCIPLES, SUCH AS:

Instructors are *professional, practicing artists*, and are valued with compensation for their expertise and investment in their professional development.



“They’ve gotta be famous...or a professional. If not, then at least top notch, the best in New Jersey...”

Programs culminate in *high-quality public events* with real audiences.

“It makes you feel good, it makes you feel special, other people can see my work.”



Programs focus on *hands-on skill building* using current equipment and technology.

“The fact that our equipment is quality and relatively new is a huge draw, it is typically not something the youth can access at home.”

Kasandra VerBruggen
Executive Director of
Spy Hop Productions



LEARN MORE FROM THIS NATIONAL STUDY

- * 250+ low-income teen, tween, and parent interviews
- * In-depth expert interviews
- * Lessons from exemplary programs

It’s the kind of market research seldom made public. Download the full report. Watch the videos. All free at www.wallacefoundation.org/somethingtosay.



Adapted from *Something to Say: Success Principles for Afterschool Arts Programs from Urban Youth and Other Experts*