

# BEFORE- & AFTER-SCHOOL

## 2023-24 ANNUAL REPORT



# MKE REC

A department of MPS

# ★ To Our Before- & After-School Supporters

Dear Community Members, Partners, and Supporters,

On behalf of Milwaukee Recreation’s Before and After-School Programs, I am delighted to share highlights from the 2023-24 school year and summer. Our programs have continued to provide safe, enriching, and engaging opportunities for youth in the city of Milwaukee and we are proud of the collective impact achieved.

This year, we served 22,821 students across the city of Milwaukee through our network of before- and after-school programs and arts initiatives. Each offering, as outlined in this annual report, plays a vital role in promoting academic success, fostering social development, and enhancing the overall well-being of our youth.

Among our achievements, we are thrilled to highlight our new partnership with the Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design (MIAD) through the Creative Allies program. This collaboration pairs MIAD students and alumni with after-school programs to design and lead impactful arts projects. The program culminated in a student art exhibit at MIAD, showcasing the incredible talent and creativity of our participants.

We also remain committed to investing in our dedicated staff. Over 753 after-school team members participated in professional development opportunities this year, ranging from school-age childcare training to guiding children’s behavior workshops. These efforts not only support professional growth but also enhance program quality and improve YoungStar ratings.

Our summer programming was equally vibrant. The Milwaukee Recreation Olympics-themed Summer Showcase brought together 387 students across participating sites for exciting activities, including rock wall climbing, yoga, and relay races. Additionally, our Partnership for the Arts and Humanities Showcase hosted 448 students at Turner Hall Ballroom, where they performed, screened films, and exhibited artwork. This event fosters connections among schools, arts organizations, and the wider community, emphasizing the value of creativity in youth development.

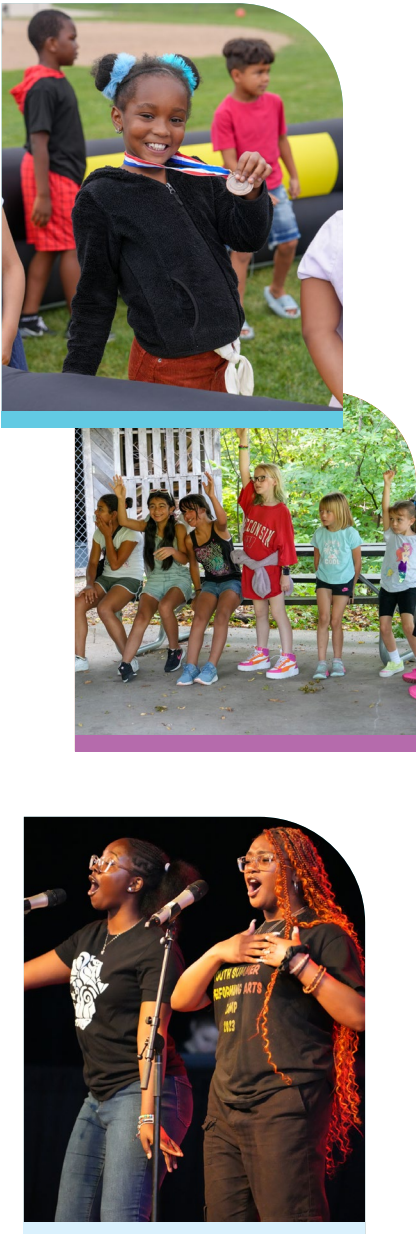
As we reflect on this year’s accomplishments, we also look to the future. Sustaining and expanding these programs requires ongoing support from our community and partners. We invite you to consider sponsorship opportunities to help us continue empowering MPS students through innovative, high-quality programs. If you are interested in supporting MPS Before/After-School Programs, please contact me at leighton@mkerec.net.

Thank you for your commitment to our mission. Together, we are building brighter futures for Milwaukee’s youth.



*Leighton Cooper*

**Leighton Cooper**  
Recreation Coordinator,  
Milwaukee Recreation



## Keeping the lights on

Milwaukee has a long history of extending the school day with quality Before- & After-School Programs.

In fact, our city gained national recognition as the “City of the Lighted Schoolhouse” for using public school facilities for evening recreation programming. While other recreation departments in a majority of U.S. cities conduct their activities in stand-alone recreation centers, our programs keep the lights on in MPS. Using our school buildings for this dual purpose allows us to maximize resources and invest the majority of our funds in programming. We are proud to continue this tradition by serving thousands of children every year.



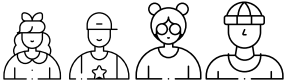
Scan the QR Code to learn more about Milwaukee Recreation’s Before- & After-School Programs.



### BEFORE- & AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS BY THE NUMBERS

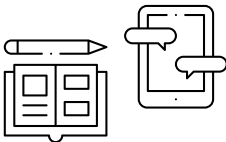
22,821

Youth served in Before- & After-School Programs throughout the city of Milwaukee



K3-12th

Grades served in programs



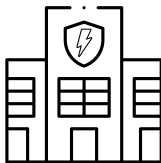
114,194

Program hours



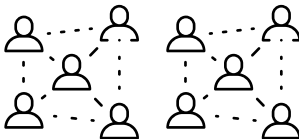
427,163

Meals & snacks served



86

School sites



133

Partners that provided programming or goods



STAFF FEATURE:

# Homegrown Success

Two decades ago, Eunice Perez began her ALBA journey.

When Academia de Lenguaje y Bellas Artes (ALBA) was conceptualized and opened in the early 2000s, Perez was among the school’s first K5 classes, back when it was still carving out a small sliver of space within South Division High School.

ALBA later moved to its current home in the Burnham Park neighborhood where it shares building space with Carmen South. Perez attended ALBA from K5 through second grade, and if you visit the school today, a photo of Perez from a 2005 ALBA art showcase still hangs on the walls in the school office.

Eventually, Perez moved down the block to Greenfield School for her middle school years. She graduated from Riverside University High School and earned her bachelor’s degree in communications with a minor in political science and a certificate in peace studies from Milwaukee Area Technical College and UW-Milwaukee. Despite the varied studies in college, Perez always knew she wanted to give back to the community, particularly children. That is what led her back to ALBA.

“Since I was 18, I knew I wanted to do something for kids. [I said], you know what, I am just going to study the stuff that I like, and then eventually whatever I end up doing, I will use my education and my knowledge to help the community that I want to serve.”

In 2022, the site director position for the Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Center (21st CCLC) opened at ALBA, which was a natural fit for someone

of Perez’s skill set and history. Of course, at first glance, there would appear to be one glaring question—her age. The site director position not only requires effective programming for youth, but also supervision of staff members who may have significantly more experience within the walls of ALBA. The site director is also a colleague of the day school teachers, several of whom were even on staff when Perez attended the school two decades ago. But for Perez, who was 23 years old when she was first hired and is now 25 years old, those age concerns never became an issue.

“It is interesting, but I do feel like my staff respects me. Some of the staff had me here as a student. They support me. We are all working together and it is for the greater good and the CLC kids.”

And that respect is well earned, as Perez continues to find growth opportunities for her site and herself. When Perez took the job as site director, ALBA’s 21st CCLC, a partnership led by America SCORES and Milwaukee Recreation, was a new initiative for the school. In that first year, much of her focus was dedicated to promoting the program, hitting daily attendance goals, and building trust with families. Perez has also furthered her professional development at statewide conferences for before- and after-

school professionals, pairing that in-school experience with knowledge from industry experts to create a welcoming and nurturing atmosphere for students.

Today, ALBA possesses a strong after-school culture and is a safe space for young people each afternoon. Every day brings a consistent schedule that is reliable for families and rewarding for youth. Unsurprisingly, robust enrollment numbers have followed; the average daily attendance for the 21st CCLC program has increased by 64 percent since Perez’s first year.

“Eunice’s positive, determined spirit stands out,” Milwaukee Recreation before- and after-school programs manager Bethmarie Kurtz said. “Eunice and her team are committed to keeping youth motivated and engaged by offering a range of high-interest, dynamic, and fun programming like Girls on the Run, soccer, STEM, chess, poetry, and mindfulness. Their after-school program is striving and thriving!”

Early in her ALBA tenure, Perez has already cemented herself as part of the next generation of community leaders in Milwaukee. No matter where her career goes from here, promoting, protecting, and preparing the city’s youth will be her north star.



## NITA M. LOWEY 21ST CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER (21ST CCLC) GRANT PROGRAM BY THE NUMBERS

34,865

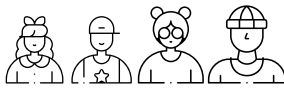


Total program hours



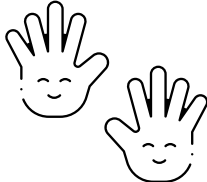
40

Program locations



8,266

Students served



33

Elementary/K-8 school locations



7

Middle and high school locations

“I have always [wanted to] do something that I could envision myself needing at that age. I don’t know the specifics, but I know that the kids will always be my focus.”

- EUNICE PEREZ, CLC SITE COORDINATOR, ALBA SCHOOL



## Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC)

Milwaukee Recreation partners with local youth-serving agencies to provide expanded academic enrichment opportunities during out-of-school time.

Interested in being a partner?  
Contact Leighton Cooper at [Leighton@mkerec.net](mailto:Leighton@mkerec.net)



Scan the QR Code to learn more about Milwaukee Recreation’s Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Center (21st CCLC) Grant Program.



# Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Center (21st CCLC) Grant Program

The Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Center (21st CCLC) Grant Program provide students with daily academic enrichment and recreational activities designed to complement day-school academic programs in a safe and supporting environment. They also offer educational programs to families of participating students.

## Reach

During the 2023-24 school year and summer, a total of 40 Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Center (21st CCLC) Grant Programs (39 of which were open during the summer) served 8,266 unduplicated students at 33 elementary/K-8 schools and 7 middle and high schools. These 21st CCLCs operated in partnership with 5 community-based organizations serving as Lead Agencies. They provided a range of services to support student learning and development, including homework help, academic enrichment activities such as hands-on science, literacy, math and/or technology programs, community service opportunities, and a variety of arts and sports programs.

## Total Staff Professional Development Hours/Topics

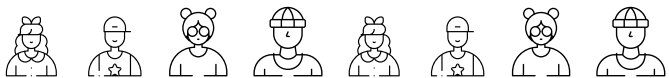
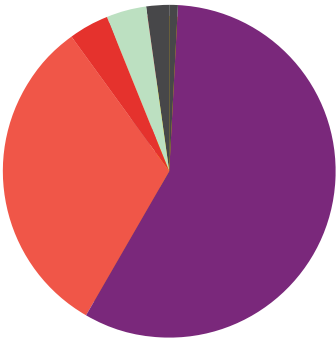
Each 21st CCLC is required by contract to provide a minimum of 10 hours of staff development each school year. The Milwaukee Recreation 21st CCLC team provides trainings in the fall and winter for all program staff. The team also provides more than 15 hours of trainings during the school year at mandatory site coordinator and academic coordinator meetings. Sites reported 2,852 hours of PD/training completed.

Training subjects may include, but are not limited to:

- Arts-based Programming/Integrating Arts
- Classroom Management
- CPR/AED/First Aid Training
- Curriculum Training (literacy, math, physical activity/ wellness, SEL)
- Difficult Conversations
- Guiding Children’s Behavior in School-Age
- School-Age Curricular Framework
- Working with Students with Special Needs
- Workplace Ethics
- Zones of Regulation

## Ethnicities

- 58% African-American
- 32% Hispanic-American
- 4% Non-Hispanic/Latino
- 4% Two or More Races
- 2% Caucasian



## Grade Levels

- 66% K4-5th
- 20% 6th-8th
- 14% 9th-12th

## Gender

- 53% Male
- 47% Female

## Survey Results:



100%

of CLC Elementary/K-8 CLC parents surveyed feel the CLC staff cares about their child.



97%

of CLC middle/high school students feel safe or very safe in the CLC.



## 2023-24 21st CCLCs

**ALBA (Academia de Lenguaje y Bellas Artes) (K-8)**

1712 S. 32nd St.

**Allen-Field School (K-5)**

730 W. Lapham Blv.

**Audubon Middle and High School (6-12)**

3300 S. 39th St.

**Auer Avenue School (K-8)**

2319 W. Auer Ave.

**Bay View High School (9-12)**

2751 S. Lenox St.

**Bradley Tech High School (9-12)**

700 S. 4th St.

**Carson Academy (K-8)**

4920 W. Capitol Dr.

**Carver Academy (K-8)**

1900 N. 1st St.

**Cass Street School (K-8)**

1647 N. Cass St.

**Clarke School (K-8)**

2816 W. Clarke St.

**Doerfler School (K-8)**

3014 W. Scott St.

**Eighty-first Street School (K-5)**

2964 N. 81st St.

**Engleburg School (K-5)**

5100 N. 91st St.

**Fifty-third Street School (K-8)**

3618 N. 53rd St.

**Escuela Fratney/ Fratney School (K-5)**

3255 N. Fratney St.

**Gaenslen School (K-8)**

1250 E. Burleigh St.

**Grantosa School (K-8)**

4850 N. 82nd St.

**Greenfield Bilingual School (K-8)**

1711 S. 35th St.

**Hayes Bilingual School (K-8)**

971 W. Windlake Ave.

**Holmes School (K-8)**

2463 N. Buffum St.

**Hopkins-Lloyd Community School (K-8)**

1503 W. Hopkins St.

**Kagel School (K-8)**

1210 W. Mineral St.

**Kluge School (K-5)**

5760 N. 67th St.

**LaFollette School (K-8)**

3239 N. 9th St.

**Lincoln Avenue School (K-5)**

1817 W. Lincoln Ave.

**Lincoln Center of the Arts Middle School (6-8)**

820 E. Knapp St.

**Longfellow School (K-8)**

1021 S. 21st St.

**Maple Tree School (K-5)**

6644 N. 107th St.

## Before- & After-School Annual Report

**Marvin Pratt School (K-5)**

5131 N. Green Bay Ave.

**Metcalfe School (K-8)**

3400 W North Ave.

**Mitchell Integrated Arts School (K-8)**

1728 S. 23rd St.

**North Division High School (9-12)**

1011 W. Center St.

**Obama School for Career & Technical Education (SCTE) (K-12)**

5075 N. Sherman Blvd.

**Sherman Multicultural Arts School (K-8)**

5110 W. Locust St.

**Siefert School (K-5)**

1547 N. 14th St.

**Thurston Woods Campus (K-8)**

5966 N. 35th St.

**Escuela Vieau/Vieau School (K-8)**

823 S. 4th St.

**Washington High School (9-12)**

2525 N. Sherman Blvd.

**Westside Academy School (K-5)**

1945 N. 31st St.

**Zablocki School (K-5)**

1016 W. Oklahoma Ave.

## Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Center (21st CCLC) Grant Program Lead Agencies



COMMUNITY PARTNER FEATURE:

# Learn, Grow & Aspire

Creative summer enrichment activities designed to build self-confidence.

During the summer of 2024, Milwaukee Recreation launched a new initiative dubbed ASPIRE (Adventurous Summer Programs Inspiring Real-Life Experiences), with the goal to connect community-based arts & humanities organizations with students at Milwaukee Recreation’s child care camps.

Milwaukee Recreation’s child care camps—which offer recreational, enrichment, and academic support to thousands of young people during the school year and summer each year—are sustained by registration fees, private pay, and Wisconsin Shares subsidies.

Over the course of the summer, the teams from H2O Milwaukee Music, Signature Dance, and FashioNation visited seven Milwaukee Recreation child care camps (German Immersion, Hawthorne, Humboldt, Lowell, Parkside, Spanish Immersion, and Starms) to offer four weeks of enrichment opportunities for ages 3-12. Young people had the opportunity to participate in programming such as sewing, dance, music production, arts and crafts, a fashion show, and more. Milwaukee Recreation hosted 12 total sessions at no cost to the participating child care camps.

“The main goal was to ensure each student in our program has the chance to learn, grow, feel safe, build self-confidence, and ‘ASPIRE’ to achieve in whatever they hope to become or do,” Lisa Mitchell, a Before- and After-School programs supervisor for Milwaukee Recreation, said. “We have a responsibility to help them get there, because they deserve it.”

Milwaukee Recreation’s longstanding relationships with the three 2024 vendors were critical to the launch of ASPIRE. H2O Milwaukee Music, Signature Dance, and FashioNation previously partnered with Milwaukee Recreation to provide programming in several Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLCs), meaning their staff members were well-versed when it came to working with students in a before- and after-school setting.

“The ASPIRE camp program brought so much to our summer camp. By engaging our campers in valuable lessons, using their varied talents, our campers were able to let their creative lights shine,”

Parkside camp director Christina Singer said. “From designing new tennis shoes, walking the runway, and creating their own soundtrack, each ASPIRE experience taught the kids to have confidence and express themselves in various ways.”

Rather than requiring the students to travel to the vendors’ home locations, all three organizations were also able to bring the activities to the participating Child Care Camps, eliminating any transportation costs and issues.

“Children deserve to be happy, have fun, and experience new things they may not otherwise have an opportunity to do,” Mitchell said. “Our partnerships with community-based organizations are essential in building that bridge to help us meet the needs of the children in our before- and after-school programs.”

Milwaukee Recreation anticipates the return of the ASPIRE initiative in the summer of 2025, with additional vendors joining the program.



## CHILD CARE CAMPS BY THE NUMBERS

45,578

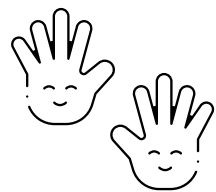


Total program hours



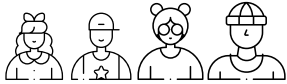
37

School year locations



24

Summer locations



3,066

Students served



**“The ASPIRE camp program brought so much to our summer camp. By engaging our campers in valuable lessons, using their varied talents, our campers were able to let their creative lights shine.”**

**- CHRISTINA SINGER , PARKSIDE CAMP DIRECTOR**



## Child Care Camps

Milwaukee Recreation provides a safe haven for youth in grades K3-6 during non-school hours. Before- and After School Programs provide varying types of academic and recreational support.

**Interested in joining the Camp team?**  
**Contact Lazarus Jackson at laz@mkerec.net**



**Scan the QR Code to learn more about Milwaukee Recreation’s Before- & after-School Camp Program.**



# Child Care Camps

Before- and After-School Child Care Camps provide essential wrap-around care for students enrolled in many MPS K3-6th grade schools. These services are provided to families at a low cost and include academic enrichment and recreational activities. To further support the needs of working families, numerous locations offer a full-day summer program. Camps promote creativity and a positive sense of self-worth and offer a safe place for students to be themselves during non-school hours.

## Reach

Milwaukee Recreation employed 258 school year and 269 summer part-time employees to serve students attending Child Care Camp Programs. During the 2023-24 school year, 37 Child Care Camps were in operation, of which 24 hosted 2023 summer programming. As a result, 45,578 hours of service were provided to 3,066 students.

Camp Programs offered a diverse array of services to support student learning and development, including homework assistance, engaging recreational games, Educational and cultural enrichment programs, community service opportunities, and a variety of professional-based services.

## Total Staff Professional Development Hours/Topics

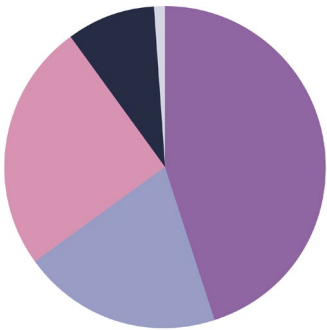
Child Care Camp staff completed approximately 2,854 hours of professional development, averaging over 11 hours per employee. The camp project team organized and facilitated many of these trainings as well.

Training subjects may include, but are not limited to:

- Safety Training
- Suicide Prevention
- PBIS 101
- Keeping Students Engaged
- Impromptu Games & Activities
- Introduction to Childcare
- Equity and Inclusion
- Arts-based Programming/Integrating Arts
- Classroom Management
- CPR/AED/First Aid Training
- Curriculum Training (literacy, math, physical activity/wellness, SEL)
- Difficult Conversations
- Guiding Children’s Behavior in School-Age
- School-Age Curricular Framework
- Working with Students with Special Needs
- Workplace Ethics
- Understand Your Diverse Community

## Ethnicities

- 45% African-American
- 20% Hispanic-American
- 25% Caucasian
- 9% Two or More Races
- 1% Asian-American



## Grade Levels

- 7% K3 Wrap-Around Programs
- 87% K4 – 5th
- 6% 6th – 8th

## Gender

- 51% Female
- 49% Male

“Before- and after-school programs do more than fill time—they inspire learning, foster creativity, and build a sense of community that helps children thrive beyond the classroom.”

- UNKNOWN



## 2023-24 Child Care Camps

<b>Alcott School (K4-6)</b> 3563 S. 97th St.	<b>Franklin School (K4-6)</b> 2060 S. 86th St.
<b>Bay View Montessori – Lower (K-5)</b> 357 E. Howard Ave.	<b>Frances Starms ECC (K-5)</b> 2035 N 25th St.
<b>Bruce School (K3-K5)</b> 6453 N. 89th St.	<b>Fratney (K3)</b> 3255 N Fratney St.
<b>Bryant School (K4-5)</b> 8718 W. Thurston Ave.	<b>Garland School (K4-6)</b> 3120 W. Green Ave.
<b>Burdick School (K4-6)</b> 4348 S. Griffin Ave.	<b>Goodrich School (K4-5)</b> 8251 N. Celina St.
<b>Clemens School (K4-5)</b> 3600 W. Hope Ave.	<b>Hawthorne School (K3-5)</b> 6945 N. 41st St.
<b>Clement Avenue School (K4-6)</b> 3666 S. Clement St.	<b>Hi-Mount Community School (K-5)</b> 4921 W. Garfield Ave.
<b>Congress School (K3-6)</b> 5225 W. Lincoln Creek Dr.	<b>Honey Creek School (K4-5)</b> 6701 W. Eden Pl.
<b>Cooper School (K4-6)</b> 5143 S. 21st St.	<b>Humbolt Park (K4-6)</b> 3230 S. Adams Ave.
<b>Craig Montessori School (K3-6)</b> 7667 W. Congress St.	<b>I.D.E.A.L School (K4-6)</b> 1420 W. Goldcrest Ave.
<b>Elm Creative Arts School (K4-5)</b> 900 W. Walnut St.	<b>Kilbourn School (K4-5)</b> 5354 N. 68th St.
<b>Fairview School (K4-6)</b> 6500 W. Kinnickinnic River Pkwy.	<b>Lancaster School (K-5)</b> 4931 N. 68th St.
<b>Fernwood Montessori (K3-6)</b> 3239 S. Pennsylvania Ave.	<b>Lloyd Barbee Montessori (K-5)</b> 4456 N. Teutonia Ave.

<b>Lowell School (K3-5)</b> 4360 S 20th St.
<b>MacDowell Montessori School (K3-6)</b> 6415 W. Mt. Vernon Ave.
<b>Maryland Montessori (K3-6)</b> 2418 N. Maryland Ave.
<b>Milwaukee French Immersion (K4-5)</b> 2360 N. 52nd St.
<b>Milwaukee Spanish Immersion (K4-5)</b> 2765 S 55th St.
<b>Milwaukee German Immersion (K4-5)</b> 3778 N. 82nd St.
<b>Milwaukee Parkside School (K4-6)</b> 2969 S. Howell Ave.
<b>Ninety-Fifth Street School (K4-5)</b> 3707 N. 94th St.
<b>Parkview School (K4-5)</b> 10825 W. Villard Ave.
<b>Stuart Elementary School (K4-5)</b> 7001 N. 86th St.
<b>Thoreau School (K3-6)</b> 7878 N. 60th St.

## NOW HIRING!

Child Care Camps: Instructors & Directors

**APPLY TODAY!**  
[mkerec.net/camps](https://mkerec.net/camps)



Scan the QR Code to learn more about Milwaukee Recreation's Child Care Camp Programs.

# Safe Places

In partnership with six community-based organizations and neighborhood agencies serving local youth, MPS Safe Places offer educational, recreational, and social activities for students at MPS elementary, K-8, and high school locations. Under the direction of trained staff from these agency partners, Safe Places provide youth with homework help, enrichment activities, and safe environments away from unwanted influences. They also support families by providing opportunities for family involvement in various activities and social events. A nominal program fee is charged. Financial assistance is available for eligible families.

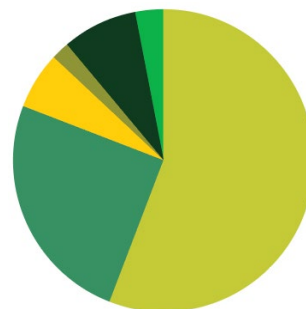
## Reach

During the 2023-24 school year and summer, a total of 9 Safe Places (6 of which were open during the summer) served 1,091 unduplicated students over 8,680 program hours at 9 elementary/K-8 schools. In partnership with 6 local youth serving and neighborhood agencies, Safe Places offer educational, recreational, and social enrichment activities for youth at MPS elementary, K-8, and high school locations.

Under the direction of trained staff from agency partners, Safe Places provide youth with opportunities to engage in educational and social enrichment activities, and play in safe environments. Safe Places also support families by providing opportunities for parent involvement in various activities and social events.

## Ethnicities

- 56% African American
- 25% Hispanic-American
- 8% Asian-American
- 6% Non-Hispanic/Latino
- 2% Caucasian
- 3% Two or More Races



## Grade Levels

- 85% K4-5th
- 15% 6th-8th

## Gender

- 51% Female
- 49% Male

## Survey Results:

100%

Safe Place parents surveyed rated the program as "Excellent" or "Good".



**"Staff is amazing, and always to helpful. I am very grateful for all their hard work."**

- PARTICIPANT PARENT



## 2023-24 Safe Places

**Bethune Academy (K-8)**  
1535 N. 35th St.

**Browning School (K4-5)**  
5440 N. 64th St.

**Brown Street Academy (K4-5)**  
2029 N. 20th St.

**Forest Home Avenue School (K4-5)**  
1516 W. Forest Home Ave.

**Gwen T. Jackson School (K4-5)**  
2121 W. Hadley St.

**Riley Dual Language Montessori School (K4-5)**  
2424 S. 4th St.

**Riverwest School (K-5)**  
2765 N. Fratney St.

**Story School (K4-8)**  
3815 W. Kilbourn Ave.

**Townsend Street School (K4-8)**  
3360 N. Sherman Blvd.

## Safe Place Program Lead Agencies



**Neighborhood House**  
OF MILWAUKEE





PROGRAM FEATURE:

# Creative Collaboration

Connecting Arts & Humanities organizations and next generation artists.

Two of Milwaukee Recreation’s arts-related initiatives – the Arts Internship Program & the Partnership for the Arts & Humanities – intertwined on stage at the Milwaukee Repertory Theater in 2022.

As musicians, comedians, and performers from around the country fill the event calendar at the historic Turner Hall, Milwaukee Recreation has also put its stamp on the schedule at the downtown Milwaukee venue.

Milwaukee Recreation operates the Partnership for the Arts & Humanities to support after-school, weekend, and summer arts and humanities opportunities for youth and families. Funds are released to community-based organizations partnering with schools and youth-serving agencies. Roughly 50 organizations receive funding from Milwaukee Recreation during any given grant period.

In the spring of 2018, Milwaukee Recreation began hosting the organizations for a year-end Partnership for the Arts & Humanities Showcase, bringing together the partners to present on stage and set up informational vendor tables. Milwaukee Recreation first held the event at the Milwaukee Public Schools Central Services auditorium before moving it to the Milwaukee High School of the Arts in 2018-19. The pandemic forced the cancellation of the event in 2019-20, 2020-21, and 2021-22, but that three-year hiatus allowed April Heding, Milwaukee Recreation’s after-school arts & humanities manager, to conduct a complete review of the event. In addition to other tweaks, Turner Hall emerged as the right venue to accentuate the best parts of the showcase and elevate the event’s standing within

the community.

“The move was inspired by the desire to have all the action in one room, as previous iterations had performances in one space and partner booths in another,” Heding said. “Also, we wanted to give students the opportunity to showcase their talents on the same stage that regularly features professional musicians and performers.”

On the eve of the new-look showcase, Heding appeared on the local broadcast station FOX 6 to promote the event to the public. Attendance spiked to just over 400 individuals in 2022-23, with the Turner Hall set-up allowing Milwaukee Recreation to accommodate additional student artists and informational booths for partners. While the 2017-18 and 2018-19 showcases included mostly on-screen presentations, the Turner Hall iteration opened the doors for more active performances, including cultural dances, spoken word readings, film premieres, and songs. The energy on stage permeated throughout the entire venue, as spectators clapped along to the music, young performers prepared in the green room, and partners led hands-on activities at their tables. Attendees included youth from the partner organizations and

other Milwaukee Recreation after-school programs, families and friends of the performers, and community members who were on hand to simply support the next generation of local artists.

The event moved into another stratosphere in 2023-24, with nearly 70 percent of the program grantees participating in the showcase and 840 total attendees joining Milwaukee Recreation at Turner Hall throughout the evening. The success and increasing scale of the event also attracted new sponsors, with ten local organizations supporting the showcase through financial or in-kind sponsorships, defraying the event costs by over 50 percent.

“The venue switch to Turner Hall greatly impacted the event and how the youth felt about performing,” Danielle Burrell, the arts coordinator at the Running Rebels Community Organization, said. Multiple high school participants from the Running Rebels’ A/V Entertainment program put together on-stage rap and spoken word performances. “Being on the big stage made them feel important and like they were professional performers. The venue added a touch of class and prestige to the event.”



“Being on the big stage made them feel important and like they were professional performers. The venue added a touch of class and prestige to the event”

- DANIELLE BURRELL, RUNNING REBELS COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

The nature of the event – which includes over 30 informational vendor tables lining the walls of the ballroom and winding upstairs to the balcony that looks down onto the main stage – also spawned new program opportunities between the partner organizations. Through the Partnership for the Arts & Humanities, Milwaukee Film and Radio Milwaukee received funding for the Take 1 Teen Filmmaking Lab and Grace Weber’s Music Lab programs, respectively. With their informational tables next to each other, Ian Cessna, the school programs coordinator at Milwaukee Film, and DJ Brüwer, Radio Milwaukee’s director of marketing, struck up a conversation and found commonalities within their own programs.

“For years, our students had been asking how to use copyrighted music in their films, and we always encouraged them to reach out to local musicians who will also want to get their work out into the world,” Cessna said of his Teen Filmmaking Lab participants. “So the fact that we connected with a group of 20 student musicians who are all creating [music] and trying to get exposure was a perfect fit. We also really encouraged our students to help the Grace Weber’s Music Lab students by creating visuals

and music videos for their songs. It was truly a two-way street.”

The two organizations later hosted a “collaboration night” to learn more about the connection between the music and film industries. Cessna and Brüwer also brought in a local alternative electronic music duo, brothers Kevin Bush and William Bush from Immortal Girlfriend, as guest speakers, and held a mixer for the students from both organizations.

According to a report commissioned by The Wallace Foundation, a best practice of youth development is providing real opportunities for youth to showcase their learning and accomplishments. By moving this event to a bigger, bolder venue, Milwaukee Recreation created an experience that served as a centerpiece moment for the year and established lasting memories for the participants.

“[The showcase] gave us a finish line and added a new element to our programming,” Alexa Nutile, the education director at Woodland Pattern Book Center, said. “The students still talk about the experience, which helps keep them focused and motivates new and younger students to want to attend and perform.”



## 2024 PAH Showcase

The stars were out at Milwaukee Recreation’s 2024 Partnership for the Arts & Humanities Showcase at Turner Hall! Check out the highlight video at [bit.ly/2024PAHshowcase](https://bit.ly/2024PAHshowcase)



Scan the QR Code to learn more about Milwaukee PAH Showcase event.



# Partnership for the Arts & Humanities

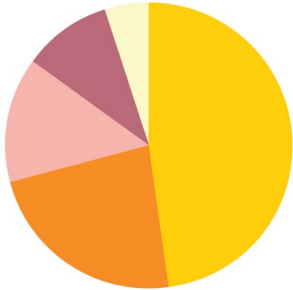
The Partnership for the Arts and Humanities is an allocation of \$1.83 million approved annually by the Milwaukee Board of School Directors to support after-school, weekend, and summer arts- and humanities-related opportunities for youth and families throughout Milwaukee.

### Reach

For the 2023-24 school year and summer, the Partnership for the Arts & Humanities provided a total of \$1,758,411 to 46 different community-based organizations. These organizations delivered over 16,272 hours of programming to 10,342 unduplicated students and family members through after-school, weekend, or summer programming at 70 schools and 45 citywide youth-serving agencies such as Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee, Neighborhood House, Running Rebels, and more.

### Ethnicities

- 48% Black or African American
- 23% Hispanic or Latino
- 14% White
- 10% Two or More Races
- 5% Asian



### Grade Range

- 34% K-5th
- 18% 6th-8th
- 44% 9th-12th
- 4% 12th+ (Adult)

### Gender

- 60% Female
- 35% Male
- 5% Non-Binary

“I get what music is all about now! It’s about art and beauty and dance and all the things you can feel. I get it now!”

- MILWAUKEE YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PARTICIPANT



### PARTNERSHIP FOR THE ARTS & HUMANITIES PROGRAM BY THE NUMBERS

# \$1,758,411

Awarded throughout the program



## 46

Organizations awarded funding



## 82%

Served were economically disadvantaged



## 10,342

Unduplicated students and family members served



Scan the QR Code to learn more about Milwaukee Recreation’s Partnership for the Arts and Humanities.

## 2023-24 Partnership for the Arts & Humanities Partners

ACLU of Wisconsin  
All Hands Boatworks  
America SCORES Milwaukee  
Art Start, Inc.  
Artists Working in Education  
Arts @ Large  
ArtWorks for Milwaukee  
Bembé Drum and Dance  
Black Arts MKE. Inc.  
Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee  
CAPITA Productions  
Casa Romero Renewal Center  
Ex Fabula  
First Stage  
Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast  
Hmong American Friendship Association

Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful  
Kids from Wisconsin  
Lead2Change  
LocoMotion Dance Company  
Marcus Performing Arts Center  
Milwaukee Art Museum  
Milwaukee Ballet  
Milwaukee Film  
Milwaukee Muslim Woman’s Coalition  
Milwaukee Repertory Theater  
Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra  
Neighborhood House of Milwaukee  
Neu-Life Community Development  
Quasimondo Physical Theatre  
Radio Milwaukee  
Rflo

Riveredge Nature Center  
Running Rebels Community Organization  
SHARP Literacy  
Signature Dance Company  
Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers  
Sojourner Family Peace Center  
TBey Arts Center  
Teens Grow Greens  
Unity in Motion (DBA Project Kindred)  
UW-Milwaukee Peck School of the Arts  
Victory Garden Initiative  
Wisconsin Conservatory of Music  
Woodland Pattern Book Center  
Xalaat Africa Drum and Dance for Life



# Arts Internship Program

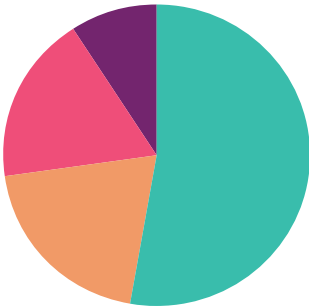
Milwaukee Recreation’s award-winning Arts Internship Program is a paid summer internship program that provides high school students with practical job experience in arts-related positions. Interns explore the arts in an in-depth and applicable way while also gaining 21st-century job skills.

### Reach

In 2024, Milwaukee Recreation funded 14 organizations to host 56 interns through the Arts Internship Program. Over the summer, interns collectively worked 8,800 hours and earned \$110,002 in wages. They contributed to a wide range of arts-based programs and projects, including summer art camps for children, large-scale mural creation, theater productions, and more. For many participants, this program serves as their first paid job experience, providing valuable skills and real-world exposure to careers in the arts.

### Ethnicities

- 53% Black or African American
- 20% Hispanic or Latinx
- 18% White
- 9% Two or More Races



### Age Range

- 23% 15 years old
- 32% 16 years old
- 30% 17 years old
- 11% 18 years old
- 4% 19 years old

### Gender

- 68% Female
- 21% Male
- 5% Non-Binary
- 4% Transgender
- 2% Other

### Survey Results:

61%

of interns indicated that their 2024 Arts Internship was their first paid job.



“I learned how to network. I met new people, and they offered me opportunities that I would have never gotten without this internship.”

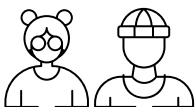
- PARTICIPANT



### ARTS INTERNSHIP PROGRAM BY THE NUMBERS

8,800

Hours worked by interns



56  
Intern  
participants



14  
Host  
organizations



57%  
MPS  
students

43%  
Non-MPS  
students



### 2024 Arts Internship Host Organizations

Art Start, Inc.  
Artists Working in Education  
Arts @ Large Inc.  
Bembé Drum and Dance  
Casa Romero Renewal Center

Lead2Change  
Lynden Sculpture Garden  
Milwaukee Repertory Theater  
TBey Arts Center, Inc.  
TRUE Skool

UW-Milwaukee ArtsECO  
Walker’s Point Center for the Arts  
Walnut Way Conservation Corp.  
Woodland Pattern Book Center



### Arts Internship Program

Milwaukee Recreation’s award-winning Arts Internship Program is a paid summer internship program that provides high school students with practical job experience in arts-related positions. Interns explore the arts in an in-depth and applicable way while also gaining 21st century job skills.

Interested in being a partner? Contact April Heding at [april@mkerec.net](mailto:april@mkerec.net)



Scan the QR Code  
to learn more about  
Milwaukee Recreation’s  
Art Internship Program.



# Our Team

Meet our team of dedicated professionals who oversee our extensive network of Before- & After-School programs. Their commitment and expertise ensure that every child in our programs receives the highest quality care and support for their educational and personal growth.



**Leighton Cooper**  
Coordinator - Before- & After-School Programs



**Beth-marie Kurtz**  
Manager - Community Learning Centers & Safe Places



**Jazmyn Smith**  
Supervisor - Community Learning Centers & Safe Places



**JaTerrance Young**  
Supervisor - Community Learning Centers & Safe Places



**April Hedding**  
Manager - After-School Arts & Humanities



**Christina Dresang**  
Supervisor - Afterschool Arts & Humanities



**Lazarus Jackson**  
Manager - Child Care Camps



**Elizabeth Breitenfeldt**  
Supervisor - Child Care Camps



**La-Wanda Cameron**  
Supervisor - Child Care Camps



**Lisa Mitchell**  
Supervisor - Child Care Camps



**Tony Totoraitis**  
Supervisor - Child Care Camps



**Cynthia Cruz**  
Supervisor - Child Care Camps



**Lisa Manvilla**  
Supervisor - Before- & After-School Programs



**Jenny M. Acevedo**  
Clerical - Before- & After-School Programs



**Wendeline Herndon**  
Clerical - Before- & After-School Programs

# Thank You Community Partners!

4-H  
ACLU of Wisconsin Foundation  
Adventure Rock MKE  
Agape Yogastry  
All Hands Boatworks  
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity-Delta Chii Lambda Chapt  
Alverno College  
America SCORES Milwaukee  
AmeriCorps  
Armani's World  
Art Start  
Artists Working in Education  
Arts@Large  
ArtWorks for Milwaukee  
Bader Philanthropies  
Bembé Drum and Dance  
Betty Brinn Children Museum  
Black Arts MKE  
Body by God  
Botanica Galactica  
Boy Scouts of America  
Boys & Girls Clubs of America  
Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee  
Cantos De Las Americas  
CAPITA Productions, Inc.  
Carmen High School  
Casa Romero Renewal Center  
Character Kids  
Children's Hospital Of Wisconsin  
City Champs Foundation  
City Year  
COA Youth and Family Centers  
Community Smiles Dental  
Concord Education  
Craft Healing Space  
Crazy 8's Math Program  
Danceworks  
Embody Yoga  
Ex Fabula  
FashionNation  
Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin  
FIIT Perspective  
First Stage  
First Tee - Southeast Wisconsin  
General Electric

Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast  
Girls on the Run  
Growing Minds  
Guest House  
H2O Community Development Corporation  
Hands On Science Demos  
Harbor District  
HeartLove Place  
Hmong American Friendship Association  
J.K. Lee Tae Kwon Do  
Journey House  
Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful  
Kids from Wisconsin  
Kim's Amazing Animals  
Lead2Change  
LoCoMotion Dance Company  
Lynden Sculpture Garden  
Mad Science of Milwaukee  
Marcus Performing Arts Center  
Marquette University  
Mentoring through Arts & Sports  
Milwaukee Art Museum  
Milwaukee Ballet  
Milwaukee Bucks  
Milwaukee Christian Center  
Milwaukee Film  
Milwaukee Fire Department  
Milwaukee Hip Hop Museum  
Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design  
Milwaukee Muslim Women's Coalition  
Milwaukee PBS  
Milwaukee Police Department  
Milwaukee Public Library  
Milwaukee Public Schools Nutrition Services  
Milwaukee Repertory Theater  
Milwaukee School of Engineering  
Milwaukee Urban League  
Milwaukee Urban Stables  
Milwaukee Wave Soccer  
Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra  
Mitchell Park Domes  
Mount Mary College  
Music & Movement  
National Alliance of Mental Illness  
Ndongo Diop-African Drum and Dance  
Neighborhood House of Milwaukee


Neu-Life Community Development  
Optimist Club of Milwaukee  
Pearls for Teen Girls  
Playworks  
PNC Bank  
Project Kindred  
Pulaski Park  
Purpose Driven Sisters  
Quasimondo Physical Theatre  
Radio Milwaukee  
Reflo  
Riveredge Nature Center  
Rockwell Automation  
Rocky Rococo  
Running Rebels Community Organization  
Safiya Images  
SalsaBrosa  
Schlitz Audubon Nature Center  
Science Guy  
SHARP Literacy  
Signature Dance Company  
Silver Spring Neighborhood Center  
Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers  
Sojourner Family Peace Center  
St. Rita Square  
Taco Bell  
TBey Arts Center  
Teens Grow Greens  
The Science Guy  
Torrent Soccer  
TRUE Skool  
United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County  
University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee  
Urban Ecology Center  
Victory Garden Initiative, Inc.  
Walker's Point Center for the Arts  
Walnut Way Conservation Corp  
Wild Space Dance Company  
Wisconsin Bicycle Federation  
Wisconsin Conservatory of Music  
Woodland Pattern Book Center  
Xalaat Africa Drum and Dance for Life



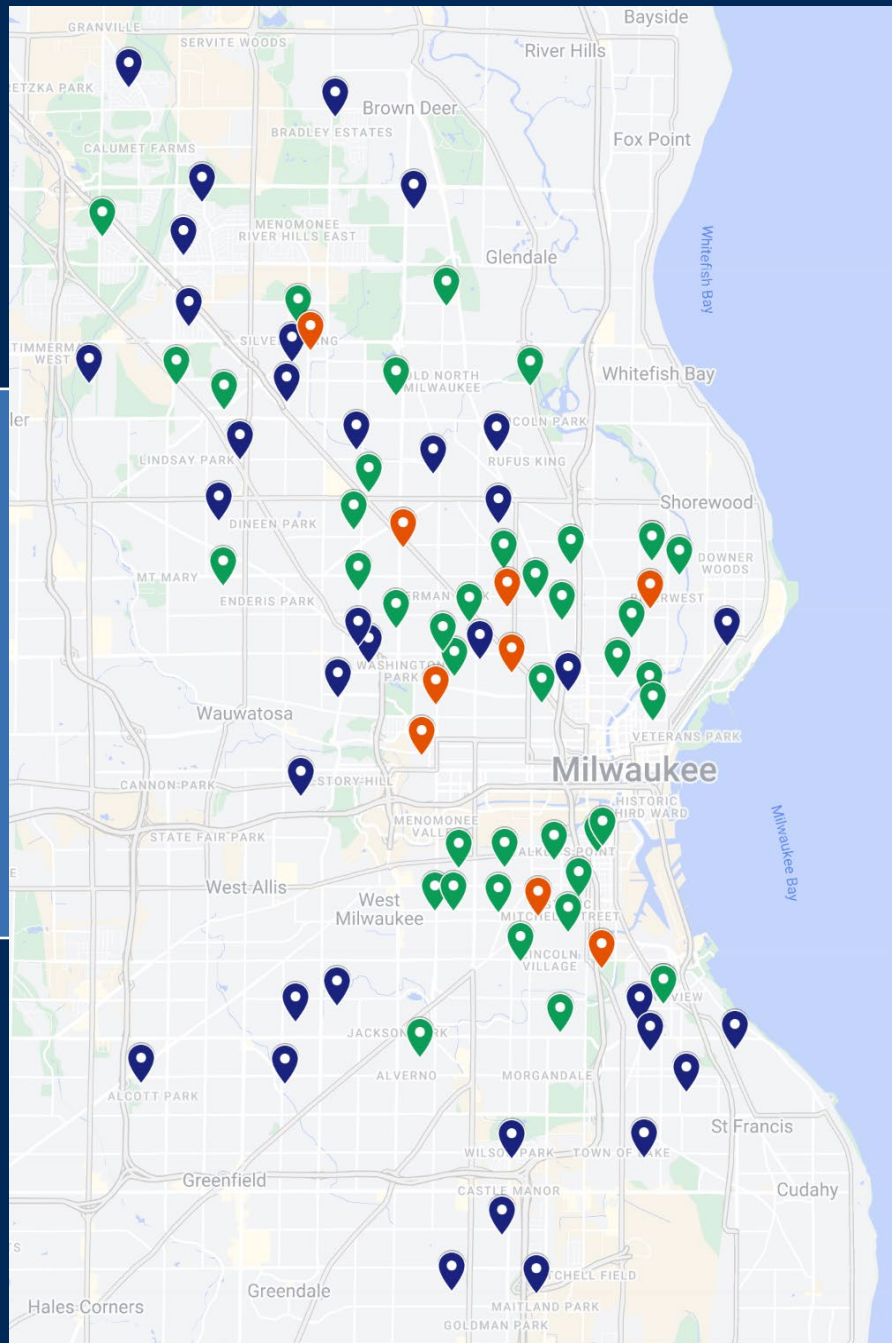
# One Mission. Many Locations.

## LEGEND

 Before- & After-School  
Child Care Camps

 Nita M. Lowey 21<sup>st</sup>  
Century Community  
Learning Centers  
(21<sup>st</sup> CCLC)

 Safe Places



# MKE REC

A department of MPS