The Power of Words

BCGA Arts Impact Story

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Jeff M. Poulin: BCGA Arts Impact is an audio series telling the stories from members of the Boys and Girls Club of America community about the power of arts, cultural, and creative programs around the world.

Hey there, Jeff here. Kanani has been in her Club for about eight years and discusses the impact of the **positive relationships** she has formed with staff. Over the years, she has had powerful programming experiences that ended with meaningful **culminating experiences**. One experience was when she received the opportunity to perform an original poem she wrote about her own identity at the Boys & Girls Clubs of America's National Conference in front of thousands of people. The arts programming at the Club has allowed her to focus on being positive during hard times, helping her find who she is and process that through writing. Check it out.

Creative Generation: Can you introduce yourself where you're from? And how long have you been in your club?

Kanani E: I'm from St. Louis, Missouri, and I've been in my club for eight to nine years.

CG: Oh, wow. Nice. What kinds of arts do you do at your club?

KE: Creative Arts, stuff like that. Okay.

CG: And can you tell me a story of your favorite memory?

KE: Of mine? Yep. One of my favorite memories is going out of town with them to Kentucky and we went to the like, a minute. Like a fun weekend trip in a hotel will be an experience overwhelmed with

CG: And then last question, what impact do you think participating in the arts at your club has had on your life?

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KE: I think it's actually helped me a lot, like, to become who I am today just like it helps me focus more on the positive side even will not waver when I'm down on Lomo. I like to go there and he's like, helps me remember why I did what I do and why it helps me.

CG: I'm the same way I wouldn't be who I am without music. Yeah. So thanks for being here. Have fun at the rest of the conference.

Jeff M. Poulin: Thanks for listening to BCGA Arts Impact. This episode was produced by the team at Creative Generation: Katie Rainey, Valerie Killebrew, and Emma Lamberti. The series executive producer is me, Jeff M. Poulin. The cover art is by Bridget Woodbury. Music from Scott Waltz. A special thanks to the series contributors and the staff at Boys and Girls Club of America for their support.

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