

## Youth Programs Overview

### **Youth Program Goals:**

- Encourage Self-Exploration and Personal Growth.
- Build Leadership Skills and Enhance Decision-Making Abilities.
- Support Academic and Career Achievement.

### **Inspire Program:**

Inspire Program is designed to equip young people (ages 11-22) with the tools they need to thrive in academics, leadership, and future careers.

### **Program Structure:**

- **Tuesday Weekly Sessions (6:00pm - 7:30pm, during the school year):**
  - Academic Support (Literacy & Math Focus): We provide support to improve math, reading, writing, and critical thinking skills as well as assist with homework. We also provide workshops on creating/improving study habits and time management during this time.
- **Thursday Weekly Sessions (5:00pm - 8:00pm, Feb to May & Sept to Dec):**
  - Leadership Development: Activities and discussions help youth build confidence in decision making, communication skills, and teamwork.
  - Academic Support (Literacy & Math Focus): We provide support to improve math, reading, writing, and critical thinking skills as well as assist with homework.
  - Life Skills Workshops: Workshops covering important topics like critical thinking, conflict resolution, emotional intelligence, and other skills for navigating life's challenges.
  - Dinner: We know how important a good meal is! A healthy and delicious dinner will be served during each Thursday session
  - Typical Schedule:
    - 5:00pm - 5:30pm: Relax + Check In
    - 5:30pm - 6:20pm: Literacy Hour
    - 6:20pm - 6:40pm: Youth Advisory Council Presentation
    - 6:40pm - 7:00pm: Dinner
    - 7:00pm - 7:50pm: Leadership Activity or Guest Speaker
    - 7:50pm - 8:00pm: Shout Outs
- **Summer Sessions (June to August):**
  - **Educational Field Trips:** We take at least one educational and/or trauma-informed field trip each month, providing experiences that complement classroom learning and allow youth to explore environments outside of their usual spaces.

- **College Tours:** Youth gain exposure to different colleges and universities, primarily focusing on HBCUs, to help them explore their options for higher education and prepare for their future pathways.
- **Career Skills Sessions (July):** Throughout July, we meet weekly to equip youth with essential career skills, including interview techniques, exploring various career paths, and understanding entrepreneurship.

### **Workshops + Guest Speakers:**

- **Mental Health Workshops:**
  - Occur on one Saturday every other month from September through May.
  - Equip youth with valuable tools and strategies to support their mental well-being.
- **Guest Speakers:**
  - Join us every other month on one Thursday from September through May.
  - Share their expertise and experiences to inspire and engage participants with insights relevant to their personal and professional development.

### **Pathways Program**

The Pathways Program empowers young people (ages 15-22) to become skilled storytellers, innovative entrepreneurs, and agents of positive change.

### **Program Structure:**

- **Group Sessions (Every Other Saturday, 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM, Feb-Nov):**
  - Photography Skills: Youth learn the fundamentals of photography, including camera operation, composition, lighting, and editing.
  - Entrepreneurship for Creatives: Participants learn the skills needed to launch and manage their own photography venture, from marketing to budgeting.
- **Project-Based Learning:**
  - Youth Photography Exhibition: Our youth people plan and curate a showcase of their photography. Every youth picks their own exhibit theme.
  - Social Impact Documentary Project: Students work with professional creatives to learn documentary filmmaking techniques and collaborate to create a project to spark positive change.
- **Monthly College & Career Workshops (Saturdays, Feb to Nov):**
  - Financial Literacy: These workshops equip youth with the knowledge and tools to manage finances responsibly.
  - Interview Skills: These workshops provide guidance on resume writing, interview techniques, and how to confidently present themselves.
  - College Preparation: These workshops cover essential topics like college applications, financial aid, and navigating the college selection process.
- **Individualized Support:**

- Weekly Meetings (Schedule Varies): Youth receive personalized instruction and feedback on their photography, business planning, and exhibition development throughout the month.