



HOPE FOR YOUTH & FAMILIES



Arts Center

an innovative multidisciplinary arts collaborative





LEVEL 1

AN ARTS HUB FOR SPRINGFIELD YOUTH

In the City of Innovation and Vibrancy, Springfield youth are lacking sufficient opportunities to participate in the arts. In Gateway Cities like Springfield, students without adequate arts involvement find themselves trailing in academic achievement and engaging in risky behavior when left unsupervised after-school.

Imagine a space in the heart of our city, that is:

*Open to **ALL** youth from diverse cultural and economic backgrounds*

*Offers **FREE** programming in all disciplines of art*

*Directly **CONNECTS** youth with existing community arts programs*

Hope for Youth & Families (HYF) is undertaking a massive project to thoroughly transform and reinvent the former CityStage, a 39,500 square foot facility housed in downtown Springfield. The new Arts Center will address the critical need for accessible and equitable arts programs by serving as a creative community hub for youth arts organizations in Springfield and the surrounding region. New programs will complement existing offerings and emphasize Springfield's multi-cultural community, ensuring inclusivity and fostering cultural awareness, sensitivity, and affirmation.

The Arts Center is designed to provide flexible learning, rehearsal, and performance spaces with state of the art equipment. This one-of-a-kind space will advance the missions of HYF and partner organizations who all have a central driving force - **the desire to see youth and families in Springfield THRIVE!**

OVERVIEW OF PROJECT DETAILS

When we first started gathering community feedback on this project, we were humbled to find how many well-established organizations were already doing great work, shared our vision, and wanted to help. Rather than create our own silo, we put on our innovation hats and endeavored instead to create an arts hub - **a shared community space open to all youth where they have access to various arts programs in the city.**

FACILITIES

- 500-seat Mainstage Theater
- 110-seat Blackbox Theater
- 2 Large Rehearsal Rooms
- 2 Medium Rehearsal Rooms
- 6 Individual Practice Rooms
- Catering Kitchen & Service Counter

- Recording Studio & Media Arts
- Digital Arts Classroom
- Visual Arts Studio
- Photography Studio
- Child Care Space
- Teen Cafe/Lounge



MEDIUM PRACTICE ROOMS



Imagine It...

TEEN LOUNGE



UPPER LOBBY

VISUAL ARTS STUDIO



A PLACE TO

Explore & Create

Children and young people from across the city will have access to free and low-cost programs that will introduce them to various disciplines of the arts. This community arts hub will provide an ecosystem of opportunities to further explore their interests and hone their creative skills.



MEDIA CLASSROOM

SOUND-ISOLATED PRACTICE ROOMS



ART MAKES *an Impact*

EXPAND ARTS OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH

Arts programming can be an important contributor to student success in school, and yet arts programs are often the first to fall victim to budget cuts. Young people who may not be interested in sports deserve just as much opportunity and access to programs that enrich their lives and encourage them to express themselves. The Arts Center will allow students to discover new art forms, sparking the curiosity & creativity that is necessary to their personal growth.

CATALYST FOR A VIBRANT ARTS COMMUNITY

Anchored by the Arts Center in the south and New England Public Media in the north, this area will be a cohesive artists' district within Springfield's larger Central Cultural District. With current dining staples nearby, and the great potential for artist lofts and affordable housing in nearby buildings, the opening of the Arts Center will stimulate further economic development. Coffee shops, delis, and other small businesses are also historically successful in districts like this.

COLLABORATION OF ALL ARTS ORGANIZATIONS

The new Arts Center combines innovation and collaboration by offering a one-of-a-kind hub for arts organizations across the city to come together in a shared space. Our current Advisory Board and future partners are a who's who of Springfield's creative community and together, we will inspire and empower youth through different disciplines of the arts. The Arts Center will provide the much needed space our partners need, while expanding their reach to more students.

ART BRINGS *Families Together*

Building a stronger family unit is central to all of our work at Hope for Youth & Families. The new Arts Center is designed with the whole family in mind - for example, parents can hold potlucks in our catering kitchen or drop off younger children in our child care space while attending the performance of an older child.





93% agree that arts are “inspiring a sense of pride in this neighborhood or community.”

86% agree that arts are “important to their community’s quality of life and livability.”

Photo courtesy of New England Drone Enterprises

ART BELONGS *in Springfield*

At HYF, we believe that investing in our youth is investing in our future. By fueling creativity, celebrating diversity, and bringing joy to youth and their families, we are strengthening community pride and identity.

Arts and culture are an integral part of our community’s fabric and ethos, as well as an important part of its economic vitality. **Arts and Economic Prosperity 6 (AEP6)** is a study of the nonprofit arts and culture industry in the U.S., administered by Americans for the Arts (AFTA) and supported locally by the Springfield Cultural Partnership. In 2022, they reported that Springfield’s nonprofit arts and culture organizations generated around **\$82 million** in economic activity.

Visit their website at springfieldculture.org/programs/aep6/ to learn more.

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A PARTNER
ORGANIZATION OR LEARNING MORE ABOUT
HOW TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT?

CONTACT US

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