



Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is meant by “young people impacted by a caregiver’s substance use”?

Since children and teens have different caregivers including parents, grandparents, siblings, aunt & uncles and others, the person using a substance would typically be living in the same household. The exception to that might be a child who is living with a relative or in foster care in order to be protected by the substance using caregiver. Some caregivers may be in treatment or recovery and their children still qualify. The substance use does not have to be active.

2. What does “substance use” mean?

A substance can be alcohol, illicit drugs like cocaine, opioid based pain medication, heroin, methamphetamine, marijuana and any combination of them that effects the caregiver’s ability to provide appropriate supervision to the child.

3. What are the goals of this program?

Arts Empowerment is a safe space for young people to creatively express themselves while providing protective factors to improve health and well-being. Examples of protective factors include social and emotional competence to manage difficult situations and form positive social connections. This is important because children of parents with a substance use disorder are more than twice as likely to have an alcohol and/or drug use disorder themselves by young adulthood as compared to their peers.

4. What age groups will the program serve?

We will serve young people in grades K-12. We will form classes for different age groups based on interest.

5. Is there a cost for the program?

No. This program is sponsored by the New York City Council with support from Council Member Joseph Borelli, who initiated this project, Council Speaker Corey Johnson, Council Members Debi Rose, and Steven Matteo, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Department of Cultural Affairs.

6. Where will programs take place?

Workshops will be provided in schools during the day and during out of school time at Historic Richmond Town in the Courthouse at 441 Clarke Avenue.

7. What types of arts programs will be offered?

IlluminArt Productions is best known for theater and play-writing programs which will take place in at least 15 schools this year. Participants learn how to create their own play, incorporating their own characters, setting, plot and dialogue. In addition we will offer the opportunity to explore visual arts, movement/dance, spoken word, and music. These classes will be formed based on specific interests. A showcase will take place at the end of each 12-15 week session.

8. How often will classes be offered?

Participants will attend once a week for a 2 hour session.

9. How do I register my child?

Initial contact will be with our Program Manager, Keith Taylor at keith.illuminart@gmail.com or 347-829-2703. You will then hear from Social Worker Holly Bonner who will help determine the best placement for your child.

10. Can I be assured that my privacy and my child's privacy will be protected?

We understand that our participants and families are entitled to privacy and will make every effort to keep your information confidential. We will only use your name, publish pictures or video with your permission.

11. How can I learn more about IlluminArt Productions?

Our mission is to empower students of all ages to utilize theater and other arts as a tool to write and perform plays that illuminate critical social issues, creating conversation for positive change. Our vision is to provide creative space for participants & audiences to express their thoughts through engaging schools & community groups in workshops which culminate in performances for audiences of peers & younger groups to facilitate ongoing dialogue and learning. We accomplish this through 3 signature programs: residencies at schools & CBOs in play-writing, musical theater, dance, and visual arts; a Touring Company of actors who perform plays about social issues; and arts empowerment programs for young people impacted by a caregiver's substance use.

Visit www.illuminart.org or follow us on Facebook.