



2017 FINAL REPORT | CAMP OVERVIEW

4th Annual LEAF Arts & Parks Summer Camp is a joint partnership between [LEAF Schools & Streets](#) and [Asheville Parks & Recreation](#). The camp is a natural product of each organization's mission: LEAF Community Arts is a non-profit organization, building community, connecting cultures and enriching lives through the arts – locally and globally – with festivals, community events, and arts education programs; Asheville Parks and Recreation Department is dedicated to enhancing your quality of life by providing diverse recreational and educational experiences.

LEAF Arts & Parks Summer Camp is open to all rising 1st through 5th graders and will take place at the Dr. Wesley Grant Sr. Southside Center. At the conclusion of each week of Camp, youth will have the opportunity to showcase what they've learned in a finale performance for families and community members.

During LEAF Arts & Parks Camp, kids learned about global cultures, friendship and performing arts! Kids stepped into the magical world of LEAF in a week of fun activities. LEAF Arts & Parks Summer Camp hosted some of LEAF's favorite festival experiences for kids as they participate in dance workshops, healing arts, face painting, drumming workshops, circus/theater arts and much, more!



THE CAMP STORY - WHAT HAPPENED?

LEAF Arts & Parks Camp was well organized and scheduled. We had a long wait-list and many returning campers as well as first timers who had been eager to meet the age requirement. At the beginning and end of each day, campers were signed in/out at the information table with their parent or parent-approved adult co-signer. All campers were sorted into three color groups based on age, 6-7 year olds, 8-9 year olds and 10-11 year olds, which they stayed in for most activity rotations. For an hour each morning, the campers grouped into a LEAF Cultural Arts Residency based on interest, rather than age. They chose their residency



preference at sign-up time and had an hour each day to focus in their group, learning about the selected artform and preparing for their final performance. Week 1 campers worked with Otto Vasquez in Hip-Hop Dance, LEAF International Culture Keeper Chief Shaka Zulu and his family in New Orleans Mardis Gras Indian Culture, or Nina Ruffini in Circus Arts. Week 2 campers worked with Lisa Zahiya in Hip-Hop Dance, Adama Dembele in African Drumming or Darrell Rose in Percussion Ensemble.

Throughout the week there were special guest workshops from local artists like Trey Crispin, Tai-Chi teacher who led the whole group in the practice of this “meditation in motion”. Cleaster Cotton, master visual artist and empowering educator taught children art classes while developing their life and artistic skills, knowledge and sense of personal power through each medium. Slack-Librium set up a slackline workshop outside the center helping to develop balance, focus and comradery among campers. Each Thursday, the campers took a trip to the Recreation Park Pool forming memorable summer break memories with their new friends. In the afternoons, Asheville Parks and Recreation led team building activities, nature-based art projects and sports such as gaga ball and kickball.

At the culmination of each week, the children showcased their hard work and commitment to their Cultural Arts Residency on stage for parents and the public. Week 1 performance took place in the Dr. Wesley Grant Center Auditorium. DJ Nex Millen celebrated with the children hosting their pizza and dance party. The Week 2 performance took place at LEAF Downtown Asheville. This was the most dynamic camp performance we have ever seen, and drew the largest crowd all weekend to the U-LEAF Community Stage. Camp was a great success from the perspective of both staff and participants, many of whom are looking forward to returning next summer.



SURVEY SAYS! A DEEP DIVE INTO THE NUMBERS

LEAF Arts & Parks Staff got rave reviews!

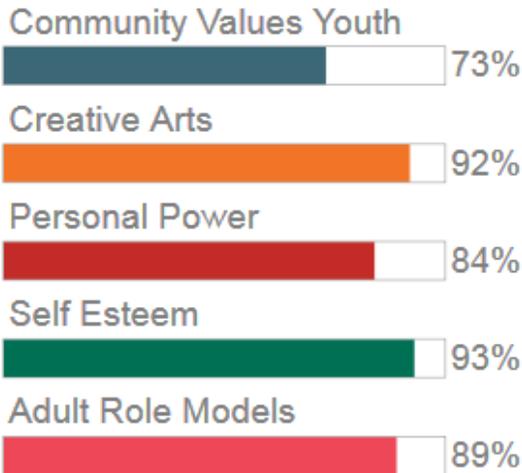
98% of parents reported that their child felt valued by LEAF Arts & Parks Camp Staff.

100% of parents felt that Asheville Parks & Recreation Staff were interactive and engaged with my child and my family.

Out of 60 registered camp slots each week, we were able to successfully survey 64 campers and 59 parents after the final performances. The surveys were designed to capture the success of camp in relation to the relatability and quality of the activities and staff as well as The Search Institute’s Developmental Assets, a set of skills, experiences, relationships, and behaviors that enable young people to develop into successful and contributing adults. See below how camp participants felt they developed as a result of their experience.



Developmental Assets in relation to the creative arts activities at summer camp:



Community Values Youth: 73% of campers reported feeling MORE valued by the community after their performance.

Creative Arts: 92% of campers felt that they were able to express their creativity because of LEAF Arts & Parks Camp.

Personal Power: 84% of campers felt awesome or good about themselves while performing on stage with their residency group.

Self Esteem: 93% of parents reported an increase in their child's sense of personal power and self-esteem by participating in LEAF Camp.

Adult Role Models: 89% of campers felt that LEAF Arts & Parks staff were friendly and that they could talk with staff.

Furthermore, the majority of campers felt that their Residency Group Teaching Artist made them feel *special, creative, proud of themselves and excited to try new things.*

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Asheville Parks & Recreation Department - Staff, Counselors & Transport Teams

Dr. Wesley Grant Sr. Center

Southside Neighborhood for welcoming us in - Livingston, Erskine, Walton, etc.

Cristal Rose Fox for her extraordinary leadership and camp directing!

LEAF Resident Teaching Artists & Darrell Rose

LEAF International New Orleans, Bill Taylor/Trombone Shorty Foundation & Chief Juan Pardo

Camp parents, families and youth...you all make this magical by being a part of it!

See you next year!

