

Project ABLE Programming

Creative Kids will connect 50 San Elizario participants through non-traditional approaches is the main goal of Project ABLE. Engagement in the year-round arts-based program allows the program participants to ultimately demonstrate and practice healthy behaviors that they may not ever have been exposed to. Creative Kids is able to reach this goal through a strategic partnership with San Elizario Independent School District where we will provide an in-depth, age appropriate, hands-on visual arts education program that will take place at San Elizario High School - focusing on students realizing their creative capability and potential while giving them various **opportunities for skill building**. Project ABLE embodies a strategic set of critical, cognitive, affective and psychomotor abilities that are embedded into the program. Many of our program participants are overcome with educational disruption, cultural and language barriers, social isolation and other factors that inhibit their ability to do well in school settings making this program a crucial part to their day when the school day ends, and they have nowhere else to go. Creative Kids gives program participants **a safe physical space** to thrive in while providing and **promoting supportive relationships** within a peer group that has shared goals and outcomes. We are also able to immerse the participants in a program that engages them in skills and learning focusing on the development and enhancement of participants self-esteem, developing leadership capacity as well as strengthening the "thriving indicators" for persistence when setbacks and adversity often come into play in life.

This program is anchored as an innovative comprehensive positive youth development training program providing in-depth, hands-on education, focused on students realizing their creative capability and potential through various assignments involving painting on canvas, printmaking, photography, digital media production and graphic design. Student participants are guided in the development of important environmental and "life-journey" skills that historically have not played a part with low-income youth who may lack future life visions and therefore are likely to participate in negative, high-risk behaviors. The Creative Kids intervention provides an opportunity for these youth to develop and enhance their developmental assets while deterring risky behaviors, which ultimately makes them more connected to their community.

Exhibits

Showcasing the artwork made from Project ABLE program participants is an important component to this program. Every quarter, artwork completed by the youth in the program will be displayed in various community spaces around the San Elizario and El Paso region as well as hosting an event at the end of the program to display their work. The exhibits provide opportunities that allow the youth to feel a sense of fulfillment and accomplishment through their artistic products on public display while at the same time promoting and celebrating **community involvement** and program partnerships. We have found that highlighting the participants' work in the public allows the viewer to appreciate the youth, their inspiration and creativity. Most importantly, we are able to provide a platform educating the public on disconnected youth and their attainment of important life skills and abilities that is life-changing for them.

Project ABE Schedule

Creative Kids will take place every Wednesday and Thursday from 4:30-6:30 in San Elizario ISD and a special summer intensive camp (Dates, time and locations TBD).

Under Legal Review