



Summer in the City

LYRIK'S INSTITUTION 2023

SUMMER VIBES HERE

JUNE 2023

Looking at Summer in the City 2023 from a lens,
not many get a chance to look through.



LYRIKSINSTITUTE.COM



IN THIS ISSUE

Taking the Journey

It was asked a question when I was incarcerated at Leavenworth USP. I was taking a program for Cognitive behavior modification (CBM). The facilitator asked me did I have any one that i could have went to to get positive information. I told her no, there wasn't anyone. She looked at me surprised and said are you sure.

After giving it thought, there has always been someone to offer insight to a positive direction. I never saw their direction as a possible rout to take. At Lyrik's we also want to eliminate the excuse of there wasn't anyone there to help. You know a community that cares about their youth but the opportunities they have for them. We care and we are HERE!!



Kyle H.

Thinking about your thinking

Letters from our Culture Coaches

Janese Williams

Kortlin Hughes

Raymond Lucas

Kansas City Art Institute

Picture This

The Year Book

Special Thanks



Lyrrik's Love

“Hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die, life is a broken winged
bird that cannot fly.”

—Langston Hughes



The Hwy1
Coastline
(pictured
left)

McWay Falls
(pictured
below)



THINKING ABOUT YOUR THINKING

By Kyle Hollins

Every year we get a chance to meet a new group of young adults. With that comes new personalities and a bunch of youth telling us what they will and what they won't do. The first two days we take it at face value because we know there is a point when we are going to start pushing against their norms.

That's one of the heartbeats at Lyrik's, we are all about doing what's uncomfortable. to often youth bodies are pressed into athletic conditions. We have no problem pushing a student in their academic work, but when it comes to their social and emotional state, we are very passive.

We often believe that when youth arrive in our classrooms, they have developed their social and emotional norms, and we don't want to infringe on them. Too often, parents aren't always able to teach health social and emotional norms because they haven't been taught themselves or they are working to put food on the table.

At Lyrik's, we understand both aspects, and we are here to assist parents in shaping those norms. That's the work we did this summer. We focused on vulnerability, Accountability, and Social Networks. This year was amazing, and I'm so proud of our youth.



GROWTH STATE *of* MIND

KYLE HOLLINS

“Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed.”

—Booker T. Washington



Janese Williams: Culture Coach

This was my first year as a Culture Coach at Lyrik's for Summer in the City, and it was one of the most impactful summers of my life. Being able to pour into those young adults made me feel like I had made a difference in my community. The curriculum that our founder, Kyle Hollins, produced allowed for a structured environment while also giving us the freedom to teach applicable life lessons in a manner that was easily grasped. One of the highlights of the summer was breaking down some of the hard exteriors of our young adults.

One in particular was Daniel Zalzala. He came in being very reserved and even dismissive of authority figures. Our team quickly identified the issue was Daniel's need to feel safe and know that the adults around him not only love him but also know more about life than he does. Children need to know that adults have their best interests at heart and can lead them to success; we at Lyrik's are those adults. Once he understood we held the authority in the room, we could pour into him and see a drastic change in his openness and respect level. This process took a few days, but what's a few days when we're discussing the quality of this young man's life? I'm confident his loved ones have observed a noticeable positive change in his life.



Overall, the Summer in the City program taught its participants the ability to appropriately take accountability for their actions (even if they disagree), what makes up and reinforces their reality, how to move through their traumas to see the world more clearly and a host of other tools and lessons that will stick with them for the rest of their lives.



My name is Kortlin Hughes, and I have an amazing experience to share with you.

written by Kortlin Hughes

I'm relatively new to Lyrik's, but let me tell you what I see in Lyrik's summer program from my own eyes. From the day I walked into the HQs of operations at Lyrik's, I felt the need and purpose for this program. On my first day, I met the most amazing kids I have ever met. And I say that without exaggeration. For whatever reason, I think I was more nervous to meet the kids than they were to meet me. But I walked in, chest out, chin up, ready to engage.

As I sat in the front on my first day, I could sense these young adults were sizing me up to see if I was a nice guy, a mean old man, or somebody they could trust. Maybe all of the above. As I sat in the front and watched the CEO and founder of Lyrik's Institute speak to this group of kids about the summer program, it was electrically motivating. The audience was engaged and listened to every word. This was astonishing to me because teenagers don't like to listen to us, adults. So, to say the least, I was astonished with the group of kids before me.

I had the privilege of getting to know these kids for thirty days. I got to know their strengths and weaknesses or what areas to challenge. Who ate what foods? Who was funny, and who was quiet. But the thing about it is that I loved every part of that learning chronicle. The work itself never felt like work because I loved it so much. From my very first day, I loved being here as one of the culture coaches for Lyrik's Institute. Which is what we refer to ourselves as. But it's just another word for a mentor for those trying to connect.

The staff has been the most amazing people to work with and get to know. It's a close-knit work atmosphere, and we work together effortlessly.



The Summer in the City program was a transformative experience, helping teenagers break past their social fears and anxiety. The program provided a safe and supportive environment where teenagers were encouraged to confront their social fears and anxieties head-on. Through carefully designed activities, scholars were challenged to step outside their comfort zones and engage with others in meaningful ways.

A lot of the success of the program was its emphasis on vulnerability. With multiple guided discussions, high-volume interactive games, and group exercises, the teenagers learned to embrace “vulnerability” as a source of strength and connectedness. The teen scholars created a judgment-free space where vulnerability was celebrated, allowing the teenagers to grow personally and overcome social barriers. They discovered that by sharing their fears, insecurities, and experiences with one another, they could build deep and meaningful relationships based on trust and empathy.



Raymond Lucas: Culture Coach



Witnessing the reframing and evolution of the teenagers throughout the program, I personally learned it all to be a source of inspiration, that gives optimism to the Culture coaches who are motivating them to embrace personal growth and positive change. The program serves as a powerful reminder that personal growth is an ongoing journey, regardless of age or past experiences.

Summer in the City program addresses the specific needs of teens in a rapidly changing world, fostering social skills and emotional intelligence. Learning to navigate social dynamics and building meaningful connections with peers, acquiring of strategies for self-care, emotional regulation, and problem-solving, and equipping them with essential tools to navigate the complexities of life.



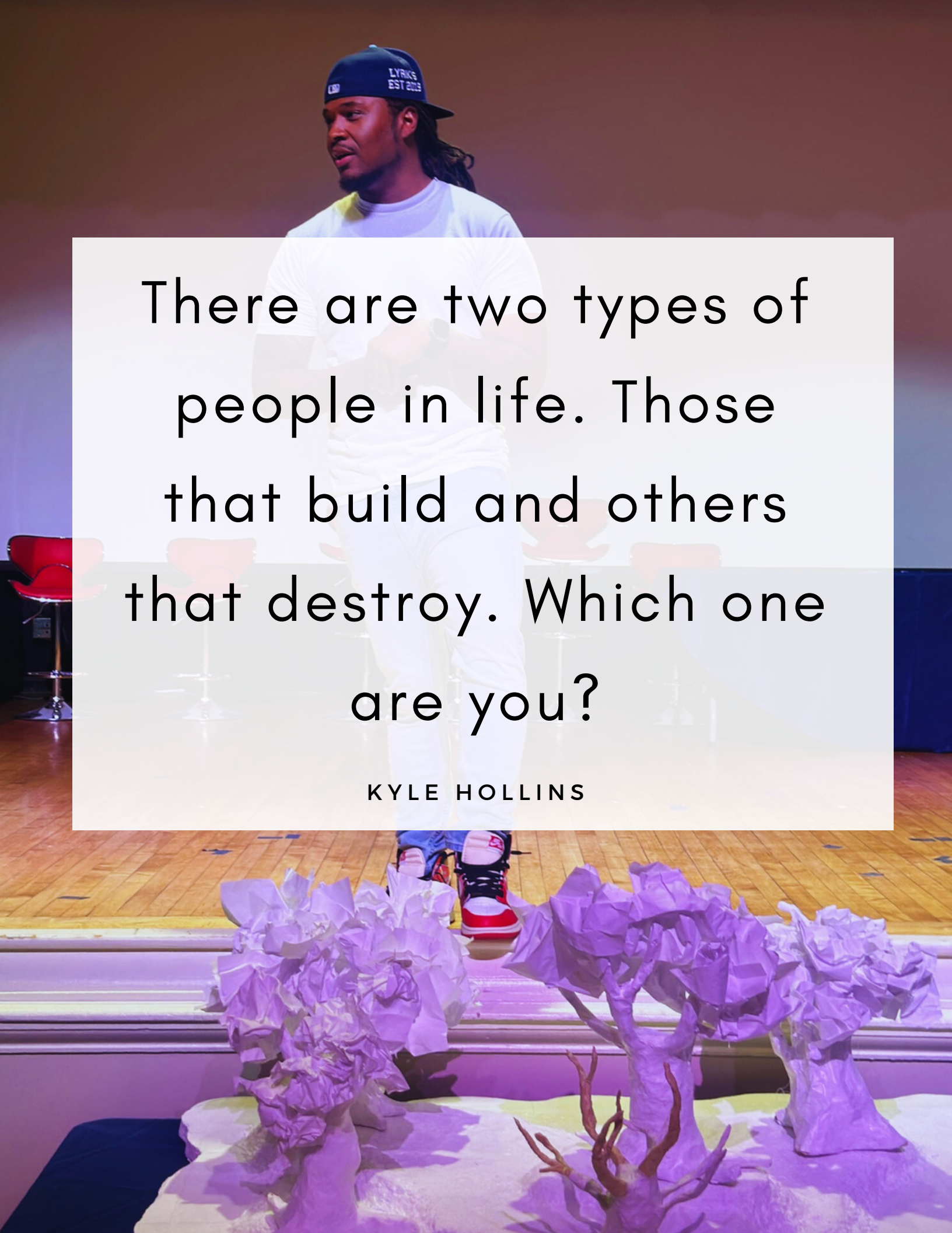
SUMMER IN THE CITY PROGRAM ADDRESSES THE SPECIFIC NEEDS OF TEENS IN A RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD, FOSTERING SOCIAL SKILLS AND EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

The scholars on a daily basis had the pleasure and enjoyment of venturing to The Art Tech which provided extra space for creative outlets. Lyrik's believe that Arts and cognitive training for teens complement each other and go hand in hand, offering a comprehensive approach to their development. Through artistic expression, teens enhance their creativity and imagination, fostering directed thinking and problem-solving skills.

The process of creating art requires planning, decision-making, and attention to detail, which in turn strengthens executive functions like planning and organizational skills.

In conclusion, sincerely grateful for the opportunity to participate and experience this journey of personal growth, cognitive development, and artistic exploration. The experience was truly authentic. The program has enriched my life in ways I never imagined, my time in the program has been truly invaluable, and every detail is etched in my memory.





There are two types of
people in life. Those
that build and others
that destroy. Which one
are you?

KYLE HOLLINS

KC ART INSTITUTE

We are thrilled to celebrate the culmination of yet another successful year of collaboration with the Kansas City Art Institute. As we reflect on our three-year partnership, it's truly heartening to witness the positive impact we've collectively made on the lives of young, aspiring artists from our local high schools.

This year marked another significant milestone in our journey together, and we are delighted to share our gratitude for the Kansas City Art Institute's unwavering support in giving high school teens a remarkable opportunity. Through their generous contributions, these students were able to immerse themselves in the inspiring world of art, walking the vibrant campus and learning under the guidance of certified teachers who are experts in their respective fields. The Institute's commitment to fully funding the students' time and supplies underscores their dedication to fostering creativity and nurturing artistic potential in the next generation.



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We extend our heartfelt thanks to the facilitators and administrators who put their time and effort into orchestrating this enriching experience each year. Without their dedication and meticulous planning, none of this would be possible. Their dedication to ensuring a seamless and impactful program is truly commendable, and we are deeply appreciative of their hard work.

A special round of applause goes to the board members at the Kansas City Art Institute. We especially want to thank Darcy Deal and Julia Welles, for their instrumental roles in shaping and executing this successful initiative. Their vision, leadership, and commitment to arts education have undoubtedly contributed to the program's continued success.

CELEBRATING ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR OF PARTNERSHIP WITH KANSAS CITY ART INSTITUTE



Additionally, we extend our sincere gratitude to Richard Raney for his exceptional work in facilitating and leading the teacher aides. His guidance and mentorship have played a pivotal role in creating an atmosphere conducive to learning, growth, and creativity.

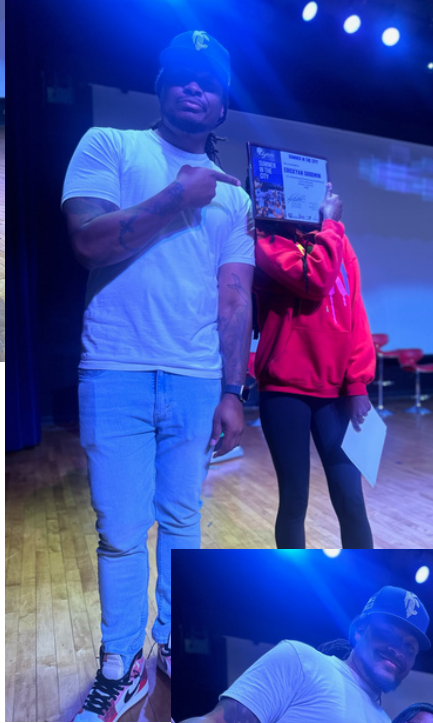
Collectively, the combined efforts of everyone involved have resulted in a fantastic outcome, reaffirming our belief in the power of collaboration and education. We couldn't be more proud of the accomplishments achieved by our students during their time at the Kansas City Art Institute.



As we conclude this year's chapter, we eagerly look forward to the future. The prospect of another year of artistic exploration and growth is both exciting and promising. Together, we can continue to inspire young minds, nurture their talents, and provide them with the tools they need to shape a vibrant and imaginative future.


Thank you once again to the Kansas City Art Institute, its dedicated facilitators and administrators, the esteemed board members, and Richard Raney for your invaluable contributions. Your dedication has truly made a difference, and we eagerly anticipate the opportunities that the coming year will bring.









A man with dark skin and dreadlocks is shown in profile, looking towards the right. He is wearing dark sunglasses and a vibrant blue short-sleeved shirt with a pink floral pattern. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with green foliage and a white car. A semi-transparent blue rectangular box is overlaid on the image, containing white text.

**“Never be limited by other
people’s limited
imagination.”**

–Dr. Mae Jemison





Lyrik's Institution

Summer in the City





None of this would have happened without the support of these organizations. Thank you for supporting and impacting the lives of these young adults. Their stories will forever be changed.

LYRIK'S INSTITUTION

