

YOUNG ARTISTS EXPLORE POWER OF CREATIVITY AS TOOL FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

BY MABEL PAIS

“CAREER DAY: ART AS ACTIVISM” introduces young artists to the power of creativity as a tool for social change. Through hands-on master classes led by industry professionals, students will explore how art can challenge injustice, amplify community voices and inspire action. These sessions empower the next generation to use their talents not just to perform — but to make an impact.

On January 10, 2026, NJPAC young artists can register for up to two master classes. With 25 spots available in each session, students have the option to sign up for one or two sessions in both the morning and the afternoon.

During the 12 to 1PM break, resource tables will be available with information on colleges specializing in the arts, and career pathways within these fields.

In addition, a photographer will be available in the afternoon for professional headshots; advance registration is required.



Youth Career Day

-Credit : njpac.org

REGISTRATION

Register, required, at docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScwyOB32yOr_3vH1aAhGmQYYIkBshJSQu0TOekSwf-is8sMtQ/viewform

SCHEDULE

10 – 10:30AM

Opening Remarks with Newark Councilman Dupré “Doitall” Kelly

Councilman Kelly, former member of the hip hop group Lords of the Underground, will share his inspiring journey from rapper to public servant.

10:30AM – 12PM

The Spoken Word

Facilitated by Mia X

(Recommended for Theater and Hip Hop students)

Mia X, the City of Newark’s inaugural Poet Laureate, will show young artists how to amplify their voices through the spoken word.

OR

10:30AM – 12PM

Music with a Message

Facilitated by Dr. Melanie Hill

(Recommended for ‘Band Together’ and ‘TD Jazz for Teens’ students)

Dr. Melanie Hill, a writer, violinist and assistant professor at Rutgers University,

will explore the intersection of music and storytelling.

12 – 1PM

Lunch Break (Pizza)

Resource Tables: Information on schools and careers in film and TV

Professional headshots by photographer Norman DeShong

1 – 3PM

Your Platform: Social Media

Facilitated by Tehsuan Glover

(Recommended for all disciplines)

Tehsuan Glover, spoken word artist and editor-in-chief of ‘The Newark Times,’ will demonstrate how to use social media for art and to effect change.

OR

1 – 3PM | Telling Your Story Through The Lens (Documentary Filmmaking)

Facilitated by Nicole Costa

(Recommended for all disciplines)

Nicole Costa, an award-winning cinematographer, will demonstrate how to use a camera to tell a story that sparks change.

12 – 4PM | Professional Headshots

Photographer Norman DeShong

EXPERIENCE THE HEALING POWER OF POETRY



(left) Reginald Dwayne Betts and Carl Phillips. -Credit : njpac.org

BY MABEL PAIS

Words carry weight and meaning ... they can also be a salve for trauma and pain. Experience the Healing Power of Poetry, an unforgettable virtual reading and conversation. Literary giants Reginald Dwayne Betts and Carl Phillips will explore poetry as a radical tool for wellness and collective care. These thoughtful poets will share their perspectives on how writing can foster solace and restoration. Some themes that will be explored include poetry’s role in accelerating emotional healing. How does the transcendence of language impact a reader and writer’s well-being?

WHAT: HEALING POWER OF POETRY

WHEN: January 13, 2026 @ 6:30PM

WHERE: Zoom

COST: Free

This is a NJPAC-DODGE POETRY collaboration.

NJYC TO HOLD AUDITIONS FOR GRADES 3-12 IN JANUARY 2026 FOR SELECT ENSEMBLES



Youth auditioning.

Credit: whartonarts.org

BY MABEL PAIS

The New Jersey Youth Chorus (NJYC), a program of Wharton Arts, will hold mid-year auditions for select ensembles in January 2026 for singers in grades 3–12. Auditions provide young vocalists with the opportunity to join a vibrant choral community rooted in musical excellence, collaboration, and belonging.

“At NJYC, singing is just the beginning,” said Trish Joyce, Founder and Director. “Through music, we cultivate connection, teamwork, and a deep sense of belonging, and our directors are excited to welcome new singers into our choral family.”

Throughout the season, NJYC choristers participate in exceptional performance and educational opportunities at the local, regional, and national levels. Highlights this season include:

Life of Song Festival in Washington, DC, for Sola Voce and Cor Amici

“The Vocal Edge” Middle School Boys Festival

“Together We Sing” Festival for

Primo Coro

Collaboration with the Maplewood Glee Club for Camerata

Performance of the National Anthem for the New York Mets, featuring all NJYC choirs

Choral Festival at Carnegie Hall for Camerata

Sing a Mile High Festival in Denver, Colorado, for Sola Voce and Cor Amici

REGISTRATION

To register for an audition for NJYC’s Primo Coro, Cor Amici, Sola Voce, and Camerata, visit [NJYC.org](https://www.njyc.org).

For more information, call (973) 998-5670 or email info@njyc.org.

Mabel Pais writes on The Arts and Entertainment, Spirituality, Social Issues, Education, Business, Health and Wellness, and Cuisine.