

# LEAD A CREATIVE ARTS SERVICE PROJECT

## OFFER FREE MUSIC LESSONS FOR UNDERPRIVILEGED YOUTH



PASSION

### PLAYING AN INSTRUMENT



ISSUE

### INEQUALITY



STRATEGY

### SERVICE

DID YOU KNOW?

When school budgets are cut, music programs are often the first to be eliminated. Private music lessons may not be affordable for underprivileged youth. You can make sure they have an opportunity to play an instrument.

1

#### DETERMINE THE WHEN, WHERE, AND HOW

- ★ Think about where you will offer your lessons. Try to pick a place that is convenient for your audience and offers quiet spaces to play, like a library or a local YMCA.
- ★ Decide when you will offer the lessons (date/time). Consider coming up with a few different options in case your first choice is not available.
- ★ Get permission from an adult in charge to use the space.



3

#### PROMOTE YOUR FREE LESSONS

- ★ Decide who you will invite to receive the free lessons. Where can you reach those kids?
- ★ Decide how you will advertise your music lessons (by posting flyers, reaching out to a summer program, talking with your neighbors). What other ideas do you have?
- ★ Ask participants to sign up so that you know how many kids will participate.



2

#### RECRUIT PEOPLE TO HELP YOU

- ★ Find some friends that also enjoy playing musical instruments and ask them to help you teach.
- ★ Ask a local business (like a music store) to help with financial support or discounts on musical instruments.
- ★ Consider partnering with a school or youth organization to offer lessons as part of their programming.



4

#### LET THE MUSIC BEGIN

- ★ Hold your lessons.
- ★ At some point during the lessons, share why music is important to you and have other teachers do the same.
- ★ Consider making videos of your students to share with them so that they can remember how much fun they had!



5

#### REFLECT ON YOUR WORK AND SAY THANK YOU

- ★ Talk with your friends about how it felt to teach music to kids that might not otherwise have the opportunity to take music lessons.
- ★ Consider how you might continue your project in the future.
- ★ Don't forget to thank all the people who helped you.



BONUS TIP

A spoken thank you is good, but a written thank you is even better!



## EXAMPLES OF DISNEY SUMMER OF SERVICE GRANTEEES USING CREATIVE ARTS TO IMPROVE THEIR COMMUNITIES

### ADRIANA, AGE 5

Adriana led **Glitter and Silver Hair**, a project to do arts and crafts with the elderly at a nursing home. She wanted to help senior citizens do things they enjoyed as a child, like drawing, cutting, gluing, and glittering, to make them happy.

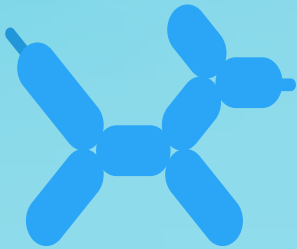


### LILLIAN, AGE 7

Lillian organized **Cancer Recovery Glam Photo Shoot** – complete with make-up and lighting – for teens recovering from cancer. She was inspired by her cousin, who struggled with hair loss from chemotherapy. A photo shoot helped her cousin regain her self-esteem; together, Lillian and her cousin helped other teens with similar struggles.



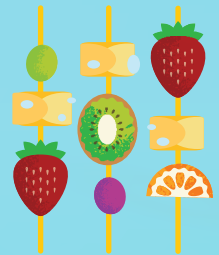
### MAGGIE, AGE 13



Maggie and her friends hosted **Balloon Art Nights** to benefit their local Boys & Girls Club. Once a month, she brought people together to create balloon art, which they auctioned off to raise funds. While they created art, they discussed how to communicate across race and class lines to form community bonds.

### MIKEY, AGE 15

Mikey hosted **Cooking for a Cause** to promote nutritious eating for underserved communities. He partnered with a registered dietitian to lead an interactive nutrition and cooking class for homeless children. He provided hand-outs with tips and nutritious recipes to be shared with their parents.



### MEREDITH, AGE 14

Meredith organized **Pillow Case Palooza**, a project to make colorful pillow cases for children who are fighting cancer. Studies show that exposure to bright colors can aid the healing process.



### Need more ideas and inspiration?

Visit [YSA.org/BeInspired](https://YSA.org/BeInspired) for planning tools and resources.



Mikey at one of his cooking classes