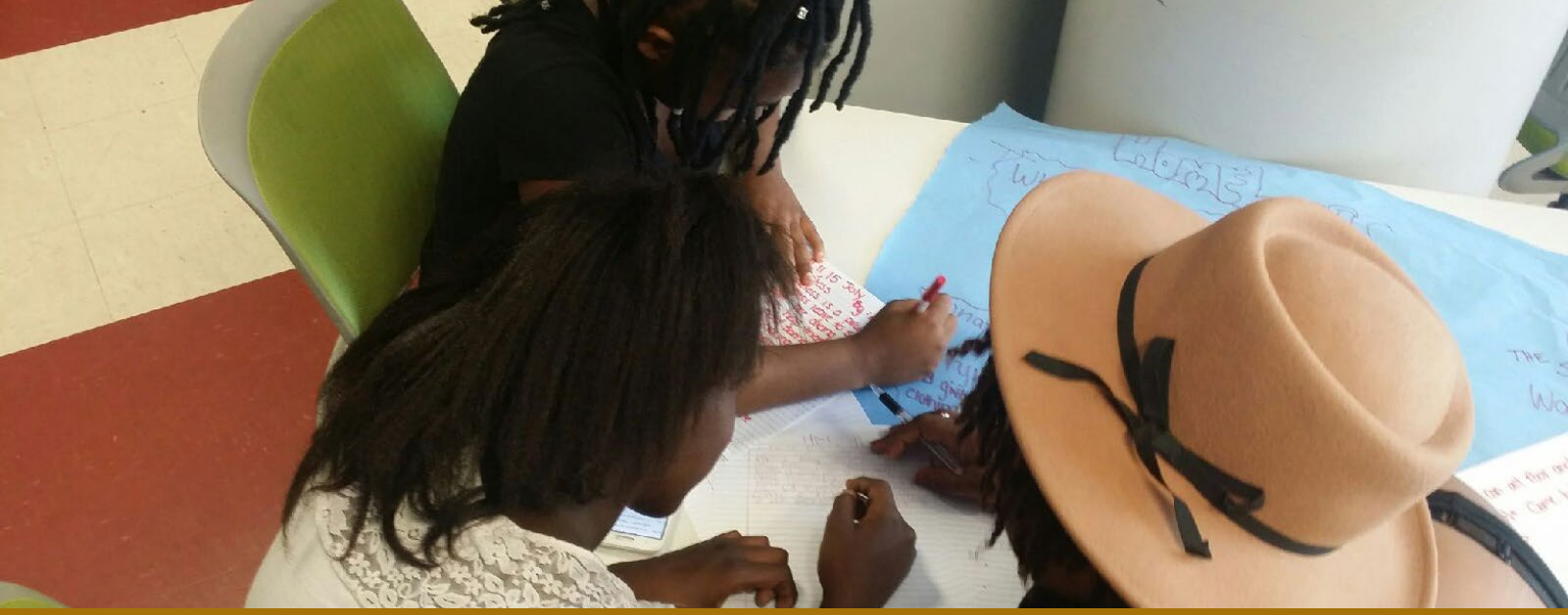


ANNUAL REPORT



The Black Swan Academy
Making the Exception...the Rule

PRIDE. PURPOSE. POWER.



OUR TEAM

Samantha P. Davis (**Founder & Executive Director**)
 Emile Washington (**Board Member, Chair**)
 Charis Goff (**Board Member, Vice Chair**)
 Keren O. Johnson (**Board Member, Treasurer**)
 Chanon Bell (**Board Member, Secretary**)
 Jessica Fulton (**Board Member**)
 Keith Raphael Towery (**Board Member**)
 Felecia Wright (**Board Member**)

THANK YOU TO OUR DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

1,264

Volunteer Hours

13

Long-term Volunteers

83

Occasional Volunteers

Community Partners:



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

26

Enrolled Youth in Middle School After-school Program

3

Youth Civic Leaders

1,248

Instruction Hours

745

Service-learning Hours

5

Community Service Events

4

Community Forums, reaching

697

Youth and Community Members

New



419

Likes

New



251

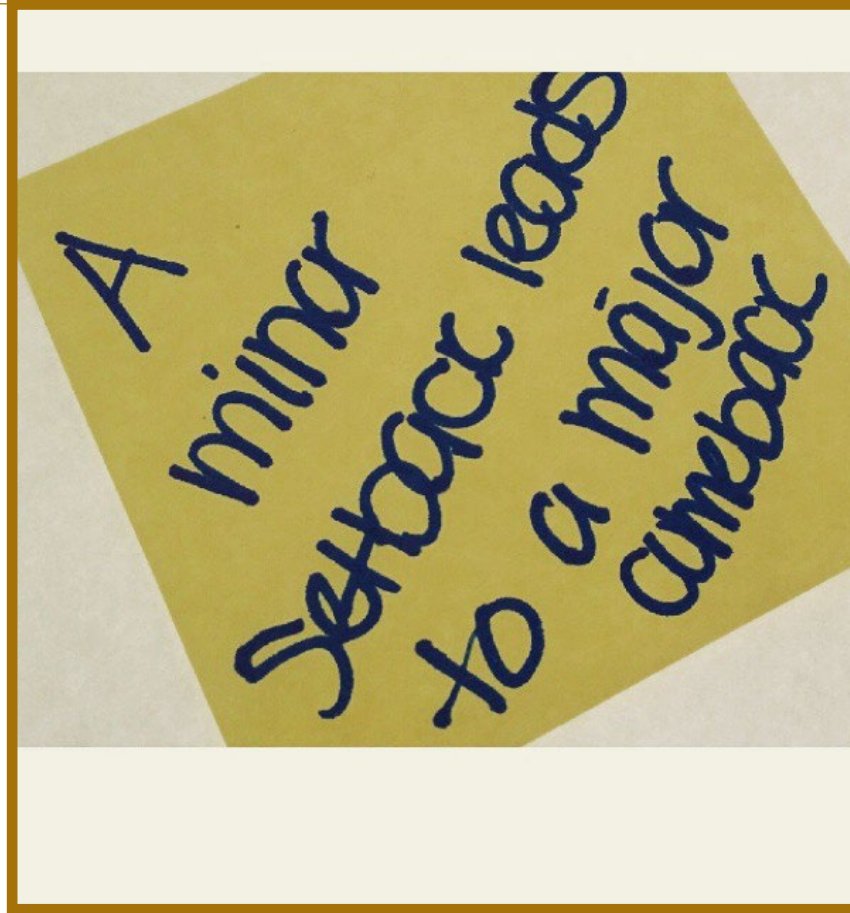
Followers

New



250

Followers



GOAL 1: EMPOWER

BSA PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES FOR BLACK YOUTH TO DEVELOP INTO SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE LEADERS IN THE PUBLIC, POLITICAL AND PRIVATE SECTOR.

BSA operates an innovative Civic Learning and Engagement program (out-of-school-time, year-round) in Southeast, DC schools. As a certified DCPS out-of-school time provider; staff and trained volunteers use applied and service-learning techniques to help participants:

- Restore their **PRIDE** in Self and Ethnicity;
- Identify their **PURPOSE** through Community Service;
- Recognize their Innate **POWER** to Impact Positive Change.

PRIDE

- ▶ Youth participated in youth led poetry writing workshop, conducted by international award winning **DC Youth Poetry Team**, Contraverse:

“ I want to be the person who saves humanity.
A person who saves the world from the shots, up from
the streets,
The sounds of shadows on my feet.
I want to be a child of God...but wait, I am.
I want to be a police, the ones who care.
I want to be the one on the outside looking in.
No...I want to be...
Me. ” - Ceon Palmore, 7th grader

- ▶ Youth in an open ended question reported that BSA helped them talk about their feelings, improve their behavior, to stop bullying, learn anger management techniques, become more respectful and responsible, build self-confidence, love themselves and to try to understand others.
- ▶ Youth in an open ended question reported they had a better understanding of Black history and their culture, racial and social injustices, were motivated to overcome obstacles and understood the importance of community.



PURPOSE

- ▶ As a continued effort for youth to identify their purpose and value in their community through community service; youth were informed about **poverty and homelessness in DC** and took action to address it. Youth conducted research on the topic, participated in a poverty simulation and heard from, T. Sanders, motivational speaker from the National Coalition of Homelessness. T. Sanders discussed the causes of homelessness and shared her story of how reading and education gave her hope and inspiration to press forward even when facing homelessness both as a young 8 year old girl and as an adult.
- ▶ Youth collected over **260lbs of winter clothes**, in addition to over 40 coats and donated them to Bread for the City.
- ▶ Youth advocated for **renovations to the Ft. Dupont Playground**, planned and participated in a park clean up day, created a video and met w/ park rangers to discuss proposed long term solutions. (I play video)



POWER

- ▶ 7th grader Aniya Ward, was awarded 1st place in city-wide **“Housing for all”** writing contest, in support of DC’s Housing for All campaign, advocating for the Mayor to invest in a continuum of affordable housing.
- ▶ In the aftermath of the murder of Mike Brown, we dedicated 16 sessions to discuss incidence of police brutality and the **#blacklivesmatter** movement. This included: hearing from guest speakers that organized demonstrations here in DC, Ferguson, NYC and Ohio; giving youth creative, healthy outlets to express their thoughts and feelings on the issue.
- ▶ In partnership with **#SolidariTrees** (an ongoing collaborative art based protest movement that mobilizes communities by engaging them in monthly art projects that are designed to ignite social consciousness and instigate social change); we held two kite-making workshops. Kites represent the things that black people and black communities need to flourish and blossom. On March 28, we will fly these kites at the Annual Cherry Blossom Kite Festival as a part of larger **#BlackLivesBlossom event**.
- ▶ Youth joined the Fair Budget Coalition at the Mayor’s State of the District for an action, demonstrating the power and beauty of a thriving black community. **#blackcommunitiesmatter**



YOUTH CIVIC LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

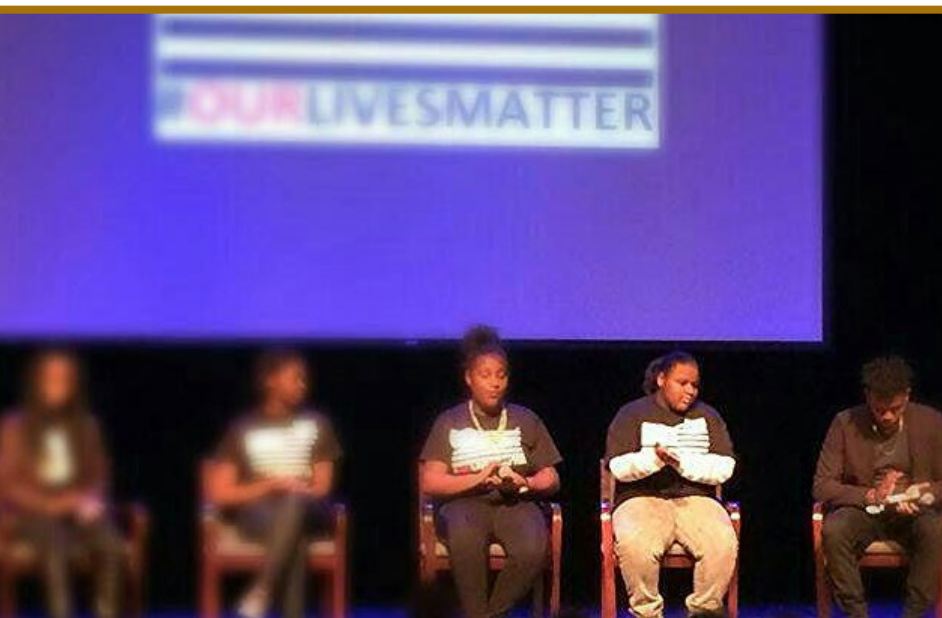
The Youth Civic Leadership Program combined professional development reflection sessions, a guest speaker series and “practical field trips”. Professional development sessions included: personality and career development assessment, resume writing and building, leadership development and financial literacy. Guest speakers from the Partnership for Public Service Fellows created engaging sessions on college essay writing and public speaking specifically for our Youth Civic Leaders. Practical field trips were real world opportunities for the Youth Civic Leaders to practice what had been discussed in sessions. Field trips included a site visit to Industrial Bank where Youth Civic Leaders opened a savings/ checking account. We visited Howard University and met with George Washington University students to not only discuss what college is like but, discuss what the Youth Leaders can be doing in the last two years of high school to enhance their college applications. With the ultimate goal to create pride, purpose and power within the Youth Civic Leaders, this unique program covered a myriad of topics that will certainly have a lasting impact on all the participants.

“ I gained a lot of motivation to want to help more people instead of myself. I have changed to grow and to know that all a child needs is a little push to work harder. The children have taught me that you can be a big sister without being related. We all need to take pride in ourselves, to find our purpose in life and create power within our community and homes. ” - Shay, 11th grader

GOAL 2: EDUCATE

WE RAISE AWARENESS ON SOCIAL ISSUES DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECTING BLACK AMERICANS, AND HIGHLIGHT THE MANY POSITIVE EXAMPLES THAT ARE OFTEN OVERLOOKED.

BSA partnered with several youth-serving organizations to hold a series of youth-led **#ourlivesmatter community forums**. These forums (4 in total) were held in response to the ongoing acts of police violence that have occurred across the country in order to provide a safe space for middle and high schools students to address this and other issues facing our community. The overarching objective of this series is to develop the necessary cultural awareness that equips them for the ongoing civic and community engagement movement taking place here and around the country. With support from senior leaders from the community, forums were family centered and youth led with the following outcomes:



- **IMPART** the spirit of our cultural heritages as people of color;
- **EQUIP** youth and adults with a knowledge base to stand against inequalities that exist in our communities;
- **DEVELOP** plans of action around specific issues that will further the movement.

GOAL 3: ADVOCATE

CLOSE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL GAPS BY ADVOCATING FOR THE ELIMINATION OF STRUCTURAL BARRIERS DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTING THE BLACK AMERICAN COMMUNITY.

Organization leaders spoke at events highlighting various issues in the community including voter turn-out, police brutality, civic leadership, and youth engagement.



DONORS AND FUNDRAISERS

THANK YOU TO GENEROUS DONORS AND SUPPORTERS:

236

Individual Donors

Supporters:



H.M Strong Foundation



TOTAL RAISED:

\$19,591

