



Art2Connect Volunteer Mentor Opportunity

About Art2Connect

Imagine spending two days immersed in nature, jamming, and building a vibe in the cool hills of St. Mary, taking creative risks, and learning how to Amplify Your Voice & Action to Address Citizen Security and Safety. Importantly, you spend the days and night using **Art2Connect**, empowering youth and helping to build their resilience in a safe non-judgemental environment.

Working with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Jamaica, RISE Life Management, Youth-For-Development Network (YFDN) and The Jahmeyka Project team came together to develop a creative arts micro project that will support youth in Kingston to create connections and build skills to express themselves. Focused on the Sustainable development goals of both the UNDP and Vision 2030 Jamaica, the **Art2Connect** project aims to support youth with connections and opportunities to minimise the impacts of violence in their lives.

Together we will target 25 youth ages (14-18) across West Kingston through the YFDN Denham Town U'tz Champion Network. The 3-day program - one day online and two days in person sessions - will be held in August & September of 2021. The in-person workshop days will address extensive device and internet connectivity concerns. Importantly, the in-person workshops will be offered in a youth-safe, play-rich, covid-safe, camp location at the Tapioca Village Retreat Centre, St. Mary. This programming is designed to help young people witness creative connection at Tapioca Village, providing needed opportunity in a neutral, lush environment enabling youth to interact and enjoy time together. The workshops will draw from traditional YFDN #CampHeart2Art learning areas: creative arts, inner-work and self-care, nature education, tree planting activities, learning from difference and leadership/social activism. Customized 'art and connection' themed workshops will engage youth with local and international artists. Each youth participant will also receive an Art Box filled with art supplies and Survival tools. This take-home gift sends a powerful and positive message that creativity helps us survive even the hardest of challenge and provides an ongoing reminder of their community of care and connection.

The Camp is a melting pot of youth from diverse backgrounds and life situations, and 20 other adult staff and youth mentor volunteers who are delighted to be with you—visual artists, musicians, actors, storytellers, dancers, naturalists, self-care specialists, community activists, change makers—all there to build a community in which everyone thrives. Good food, hiking, tree planting, river rafting, good friends, and good fun, in a relaxing, natural setting.

In-Person Location

Camp takes place at the Tapioca Village, Devon Pen, St. Mary

Important Dates:

August 28-29, 2021 (In-Person) & September 4, 2021 (On-line), with a mandatory in-person staff training day on August 27.



Volunteer Mentor Opportunity

The primary job of **Art2Connect** mentors is to create a safe and supportive atmosphere in which the youth can explore their creativity and concerns for the world. Our approach to gain a close 1:1 adult-to-youth ratio ensures that participants are cared for and supervised.

Our typical camp model allows for carefully planned activities, however, it's often the casual conversation over dinner between a youth and adult, or time spent on a special project during free time that makes the most difference in a young person's life. We ask adults to participate fully in all of the group activities, help move along the flow of the day, jump in, and help with logistics when needed.

An amazingly talented, committed, and vital group of adults participate in each of our creative empowerment programs. Mentors represent a wide range of fields—artists, youth workers, activists, teachers, counselors, naturalists, athletes, cooks, gardeners, plus more—and they come from many different cultures and life situations. Regardless of where you fit in, each of us plays a vital role in the program. As adults, we share equal responsibility for bringing our full selves to the community space and helping to make it a supportive and safe place for the youth as well as ourselves.

Role of Volunteer Mentors

- Build and maintain a safe and supportive creative community
- Participate in all aspects of the camp including workshops and whole group activities.
- Mentors share in responsibilities such as night duty, family group leadership, and clean up.
- Mentors are invited to lead or co-lead workshops if they have a particular area of expertise.

Commitment

The camp is a full participation experience for everyone involved. This means that volunteers participate in all of the group activities right along with the youth and other staff. Mentors are expected to be onsite for the full 2-days of camp.

Accommodations and Food

- This camp provides and covers 100% shared accommodation.
- Food at camp is delicious and nutritious. Our camp chef serves traditional authentic homemade, delicious food three meals a day with healthy snacks in between. We provide meat, vegetarian, and vegan options at all of our meals. If you need highly specialized foods, please contact us so we can work it out with you.

Professional Development

Art2Connect is a youth leadership experience unlike any other camp out there. **Art2Connect** is based on the YFDN #CampHeart2Art which combines the Building Blocks of Positive Youth Development (PYD) and the PYE Global Creative Empowerment Model. The Creative Empowerment Model combines EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING, GROUP FACILITATION and ARTS-BASED PRACTICE into a framework for designing and leading transformative programs for youth and adults. Both youth and



adult participants of CEM programs develop self-confidence, motivation, social and emotional competence, and leadership.

CEM camps inspire young people to grow personally, build healthy relationships with peers and adults, and become motivated to engage confidently in their communities. Of particular importance is that the CEM helps create an environment in which these skills and competencies can develop. Through your experience at camp and with the PYD & Creative Empowerment Model, you will have the opportunity to experience a framework that will allow you to better support young people in the programs you are designing and leading.

Apply

1. Complete Application Form at www.yfdn.org. Or send an email to art2connectja@gmail.com requesting the link to complete the Application Form.
2. Submit a copy of your Resume to art2connectja@gmail.com