



**CONNECT
CREATE
CHANGE**

breaking walls
artists & ambassadors | writing & performance

Our Mission: Breaking Walls exists to bring arts education and leadership skill-building to diverse communities of young people across the globe. Through its innovative programming and skilled artistic mentors, young participants utilize creative activism and peacemaking models to produce original pieces of literary, visual, and vocal art, instrumental music, dance, and ensemble performances. Breaking Walls ultimately seeks to create a diverse, equitable, inclusive, and justice-oriented global community by bringing together young people through its art and activism programming.

Our Demographic: Breaking Wall's demographic represents diverse cultural, religious, and socio-economic backgrounds. Additionally, differences in sexual orientation and identity, educational levels, special needs, immigration, and refugee status increase the risk of their being affected by what scholars call "voice poverty" - the denial of access to opportunities, agency, and advocacy due to a lack of attention given to a certain group, even when they speak out. Using a multi-disciplinary arts approach, Breaking Walls pushes back against the voice poverty plaguing the lives of so many young people. Their artistry stands as testimony to individual self-expression and their collective energies as a creative community.

For the young participants, we offer a three-tier path to leadership and ongoing involvement, to create a sustainable creative collaboration model. By offering a three-tier approach, we are better able to serve the students and the skills they need in their specific age category. We breakdown the participants into these three categories:

- **Artists**, ages 11 to 19, write and perform their original work for a live audience during workshops, initiatives, virtual artist cooperatives, and international Summits.
- **Artists/Leadership Apprentices**, ages 19 to 21, continue to write and perform while developing their leadership skills.
- **Ambassadors**, ages 19 to 25, are former artists who guide the writing and performance processes while being mentored by the Director Team.



... using the arts to connect young people across the globe as ambassadors for peace...

Breaking Walls 2024 Summit Sarajevo

Who: 30 Breaking Walls artists and ambassadors, ages 12 to 24, from Berlin, Barcelona, Bethlehem, Brooklyn, Cape Town, Jerusalem, Palermo, Santiago, Tangier, and Yerevan joining with 9 of their peers (representing the Bosnian, Croatian, Jewish, Roma, and Serbian populations in Sarajevo) to write and perform around issues of self-awareness, freedom of expression, and nurturing a peaceful, just, and sustainable planet.



What:

The overall schedule of the Breaking Walls International Summit is designed to support its goals of creativity, youth empowerment, and global understanding. The schedule unfolds, as follows, over a period of 17 days.

1. **Literary Art:** The first five days of the Summit focus on developing the literary art (stories, poems, dialogues, etc.) of each participant. During this phase, the creative process is supported by responding to writing prompts, peer-to-peer editing, and rewrite coaching.
2. **Community Service:** On the sixth day, participants contribute a Day of Community Service, while the Director of Theater Performance and their team of Artistic Mentors craft a script from the individual writings.
3. **Rehearsals, Creative Activism, Health & Wellness:** Days seven through fifteen are spent in a rehearsal process that brings together spoken word, vocal and visual art, instrumental music, and dance elements, resulting in a polished, culminating performance. Throughout the rehearsal phase, participants rotate through the Creative Activist and Health & Wellness Lab sessions, and our cultural explorations of the host city.
4. **Performance:** A culminating performance takes place on day sixteen. The unified, ensemble performance integrates individual writing pieces and gives voice to the common themes uncovered through the course of the Summit.
5. **Friendship Day:** On the final day of the Summit we savor our success and new bonds; gather for our final community meeting; and express emotional goodbyes.

Breaking Walls is blessed by the professional level of our 2024 Team who receive anti-bullying, mindfulness, and diversity training to ensure our goals are successful. The Director of Ensemble-Building is Neil Tyrone Pritchard (NY). Literary Art is Fran Tarr (NY), and Theater Performance is Angela Constantinidou (CY). Rounding out the Team will be the Director of Creative Activism, Adina Taubman (NY); , and Assessment and Leadership is Dannie Kagan (SA).

When: A 17-day program from July 11 to July 28, 2024. All in-country expenses are covered by Breaking Walls with the exception of individual pocket money.

Why: As Breaking Walls steps into its second decade, we truly embrace “A Whole Child Is a Healthy Child” manta. Pledging our commitment to promote cross-cultural, borderless human connections to create a nonjudgmental and intentional healing space where young people can

unpack harm, build trust and speak their truth using their art while creating solutions to address prejudice, misinformation, and the myriad of social issues challenging them all.

***“I’m a magician, but I still don’t understand the Magic of Breaking Walls. To meet people from all over the world and see that we are not different, see that we all want to fight for a better world; that’s the most beautiful Magic I’ve ever seen.”
Barcelona artist Sergi.***



***“Breaking Walls opened me up. I discovered new ideas, learned about the cultures and ways of thinking of my global brothers and sisters. I surpassed my fears. Encouraged myself to understand I am not alone in the world. I cannot express the amazing sense we had on stage together.”
Breaking Walls Yerevan artist Erik***

“Breaking Walls introduces us to ourselves.. Kamva, Cape Town artist.

