

CONNECT CREATE CHANGE
breaking walls
artists & ambassadors today & tomorrow

Our Mission: Breaking Walls brings art and leadership skill-building to diverse communities of young people, starting in the United States and reaching across the globe. Through its innovative peace-building through art programming, young participants use artivism and peacemaking models **to create original literary, visual, and vocal art, as well as instrumental music and dance, culminating in ensemble performances**.

Breaking Walls ultimately seeks to build a diverse, equitable, inclusive, and justice-oriented global creative collective by bringing young people together through art, creative activism, and rich cultural exchange programming.

Our Demographics: Breaking Walls' demographic includes a wide range of cultural, religious, and socio-economic backgrounds. Differences in sexual orientation, identity, educational levels, special needs, immigration, and refugee status also increase the risk of being affected by what scholars call "voice poverty"—the denial of access to opportunities, agency, and advocacy, often because attention is not given to certain groups even when they speak out. Using a multidisciplinary arts approach, Breaking Walls fights voice poverty that affects too many young people's lives. Their artistry showcases individual self-expression and collective energy within the creative community.

We offer young participants a three-tier path to leadership and ongoing involvement, creating a sustainable model for creative collaboration. This three-tier approach helps us better serve students and the skills they need for their age group. We break down the participants into these three categories:

- **Artists**, ages 11 to 19, write and perform their original work for a live audience during creative arts explorations, community-based oasis, and international, intercultural summits.
- **Artists/Leadership Apprentices**, ages 19 to 21, continue to write and perform while developing leadership skills.
- **Ambassadors**, ages 21 to 30, act as counselors in the dorms, guide the writing and performance processes while mentored by the Director Team.







Breaking Walls Oasis Program

Who: Breaking Walls artists, ages 12 to 17, from two or more unique cultures, will truly illustrate their "building peace through art" mantra. By creating Art together, these Breaking Walls artists will learn more about themselves and other youth cultures, helping them see they are not alone, leave prejudices behind, and inspire the world with their resilience and hope for the future. Community-Based Oasis programs have a profound impact, empowering artists to create a ripple effect of empathetic leadership within their families, among their peers, their communities, and the broader world.

What: The Breaking Walls Community-Based Oasis' overall schedule supports its goals of creativity, youth empowerment, and global understanding.

1. Literary Art: Focuses on developing each participant's literary art (stories, poems, dialogues, etc.). During this phase, the creative process is supported through writing prompts, peer-to-peer editing, and rewrite coaching.
2. Ensemble-Building and Peacemaking: Team-building lessons, including improv techniques, to foster trust and collaboration.
3. Performance: A culminating performance. The unified ensemble performance integrates individual writing pieces and voices the common themes uncovered throughout the Oasis program.

Breaking Walls is supported by the professional-level guidance of our 2027 Director and Artistic Mentor Team, who receive mindfulness and diversity training to help ensure we meet our goals. They are dedicated to true collaboration with their Community-Based colleagues to guarantee success.

When: Varies from a 1-, 2-, 3-, to 5-day program schedule. This depends on collaboration with the local school, community-based organization, and arts programs.

Why: Breaking Walls genuinely embraces the “Build peace through Art” mantra. We pledge to promote intercultural, borderless human connections and create a nonjudgmental, intentional healing space where young people can unpack harm, build trust, and speak their truth through their art while developing solutions to address prejudgment, misinformation, and the myriad social issues challenging them all.





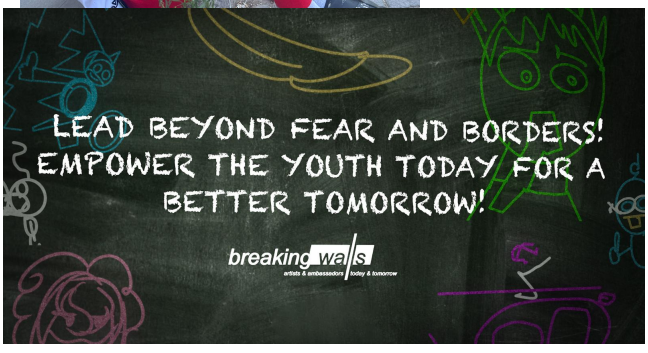
"I'm a magician, but I still don't understand the Magic of Breaking Walls. To meet people from all over the world and see that we are not different and want to fight for a better world is the most beautiful Magic I've ever seen."
Barcelona artist Sergi

"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. I encouraged myself to understand that I am not alone in the world. I cannot express the amazing sense we had on stage together."
Yerevan artist Erik





"Breaking Walls introduces us to ourselves."
Cape Town artist Kamva



The 2026 Breaking Walls theme