



**CONNECT
CREATE
CHANGE**

breaking walls
arts & ambassadorship | equity & empowerment

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 unified, empathetic 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, 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: 32 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, 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: A deep exploration of the Breaking Walls creative community process:

- **Pen-Page-Stage**— explores literary, visual, and vocal art, instrumental music and dance to build self-awareness and empathy through 5-days of literary art and 8-days of rehearsal workshops that culminate in a live performance.
- **Ensemble-Building/Peacemaking**— develops a sense of community and acceptance each day through team-building lessons such as improv techniques.
- **Community Service**— fosters a sense of gratitude through civic and community engagement by volunteering in the community for 1-day benefitting marginalized communities in the host city.
- **Creative Activist Lab**— over 6-one-hour sessions after the daily workshop, the students craft “seed” ideas to be developed that will positively impact their home communities.
- **Health & Wellness** – participants will be involved in facilitated conversations in order to better understand that a healthy child is a whole child.
- **Cultural Explorations**— experiencing Sarajevo’s rich culture, history, and art through sight visits to local venues such as museums, parks, and theaters.

Breaking Walls is blessed by the professional level of our 2024 Team. Performing artist, Dola Rashad (NY) is our Director of Theater Performance and Mindfulness Mentor. Each receives sexual harassment and violence, anti-bullying, diversity, mindfulness, critical thinking, and restorative justice training to ensure our goals are successful. The Director of Ensemble-Building is Neil Tyrone Pritchard (NY). The Director of Literary Art and Visual Art Artistic Mentor is Fran Tarr (NY), Angela Constantinidou (CY) is Dance/Movement Artistic Mentor, and Joshua Brisa (SP) is our Vocal and Instrumental Music Artistic Mentor.

Rounding out the Team will be the Director of Creative Activism, Adina Taubman (NY), Director of Leadership, Dannie Kagan (SA), and Arielle Garron-Caine (NY) will be our Health & Wellness Ambassador.

When: An 18-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.”

Breaking Walls 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



We the 2023 **breaking walls**
artists & ambassadors | today & tomorrow

pledge to open ourselves to
NEW EXPERIENCES, worlds, and
cultures we weren't able before.

To accomplish all our goals along our paths
and let people and ideas touch our
heads and *hearts*.

**Enjoy the simple things and
be proud of ourselves.**

