

VISIONQUILT

2024

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

Vision Quilt's mission is to prevent gun violence by empowering communities to create solutions through the power of art, education, and systemic change efforts by fostering visionary thinking and offering trauma-informed resources.

VISIONQUILT



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What we can imagine, we can create.



LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2024 Impact Report

Dear Friends,

As I look back on 2024, I'm struck by how much beauty, strength, and vision can grow from even the most painful realities. This was a year of both deep listening and bold action—a year in which our Vision Quilt community showed up with open hearts and creative courage.

In Oakland and Portland, youth transformed their experiences into poetry, music, and visual art. Through partnerships with the Seattle Alliance for Gun Responsibility, Youth Alive, HipHopForChange, Lewis & Clark College, and the Fiber Arts Collective, we created spaces where pain became purpose and where visions of safety and healing took shape in fabric and story.

We also reached a key milestone: aligning our curriculum with 8th-grade standards. This brings us closer to sharing our trauma-informed tools with more schools and communities, expanding our impact in 2025 and beyond.

Thank you for believing in this work. Your support helps us nurture healing, inspire action, and uplift youth voices. At Vision Quilt, we hold fast to the belief:

What we can imagine, we can create.

With deep appreciation,
Cathy DeForest
Executive Director, Vision Quilt



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2024, Vision Quilt deepened its mission to prevent gun violence by amplifying youth voices, strengthening community dialogue, and using art as a vehicle for healing and change. This year, we aligned our Addressing Gun Violence: Creating Visionaries, Storytellers and Changemakers curriculum with 8th-grade standards—an essential milestone as we prepare for expanded implementation in 2025.

Our work spanned Oakland to Portland and Seattle, where youth and community members turned pain into purpose through art, music, and civic engagement. In Oakland, students partnered with organizations like Youth Alive and HipHopForChange to raise awareness and advocate for policy change. In Portland, collaborations with Lewis & Clark College and the Fiber Arts Collective nurtured safe spaces for storytelling and creativity.

Beyond the classroom, Vision Quilt panels traveled to national conversations, reminding communities and decision-makers alike of the urgent need to center youth, especially marginalized youth, in gun violence prevention efforts.

This report honors the resilience of our students, the strength of our partners, and the unwavering belief that what we can imagine, we can create.





OAKLAND ENGAGEMENTS

ADVOCACY DAY AT THE CALIFORNIA CAPITOL



In partnership with **Lighthouse Community Charter School**, we brought five middle school students from Lodestar Middle School to Sacramento, California for **the Moms Demand Action's Advocacy Day**.

These brave young people stepped into the halls of power to meet with lawmakers, share their lived experiences, and speak truth to one of the most pressing issues of our time. Their presence was not only courageous but also transformative. By telling their stories and advocating for change, they made it clear: young people are not just the future, they are leading now. They showed up as visionary leaders, embodying the hope, wisdom, and urgency that our movement needs.



SCAN TO WATCH

AGV CURRICULUM ALIGNMENT

We collaborated closely with Lighthouse and Lodestar educators to align our *Addressing Gun Violence curriculum with 8th-grade academic standards*. This critical step ensures our trauma-informed, arts-based approach is not only impactful, but seamlessly integrated into rigorous academic learning.

By laying this foundation, we prepared for a full school-wide rollout in 2025—bringing creative tools for healing, dialogue, and social change into the hands of even more students.



ADDRESSING GUN VIOLENCE
Creating Visionaries, Storytellers, and Community Activists





PARTNERED WITH YOUTH ALIVE & HIP HOP FOR CHANGE

Through an exciting collaboration with Youth Alive's Teens on Target program and HipHopForChange, Oakland teens at Castlemont, Fremont, and Skyline High Schools created original music, poetry, and digital media rooted in their lived experiences with gun violence, community strength, and personal resilience.

These projects gave students the tools to transform trauma into art, offering new pathways for healing, leadership, and self-expression. Youth honed their skills in storytelling, beat-making, and public speaking, while building confidence and community with their peers.

This creative journey culminated in a powerful public exhibition where students performed their work live. Surrounded by families, educators, and community leaders, they stood in their power, amplifying messages of justice, hope, and healing. It was more than a showcase—it was a declaration that their voices matter and their visions can shape the future.

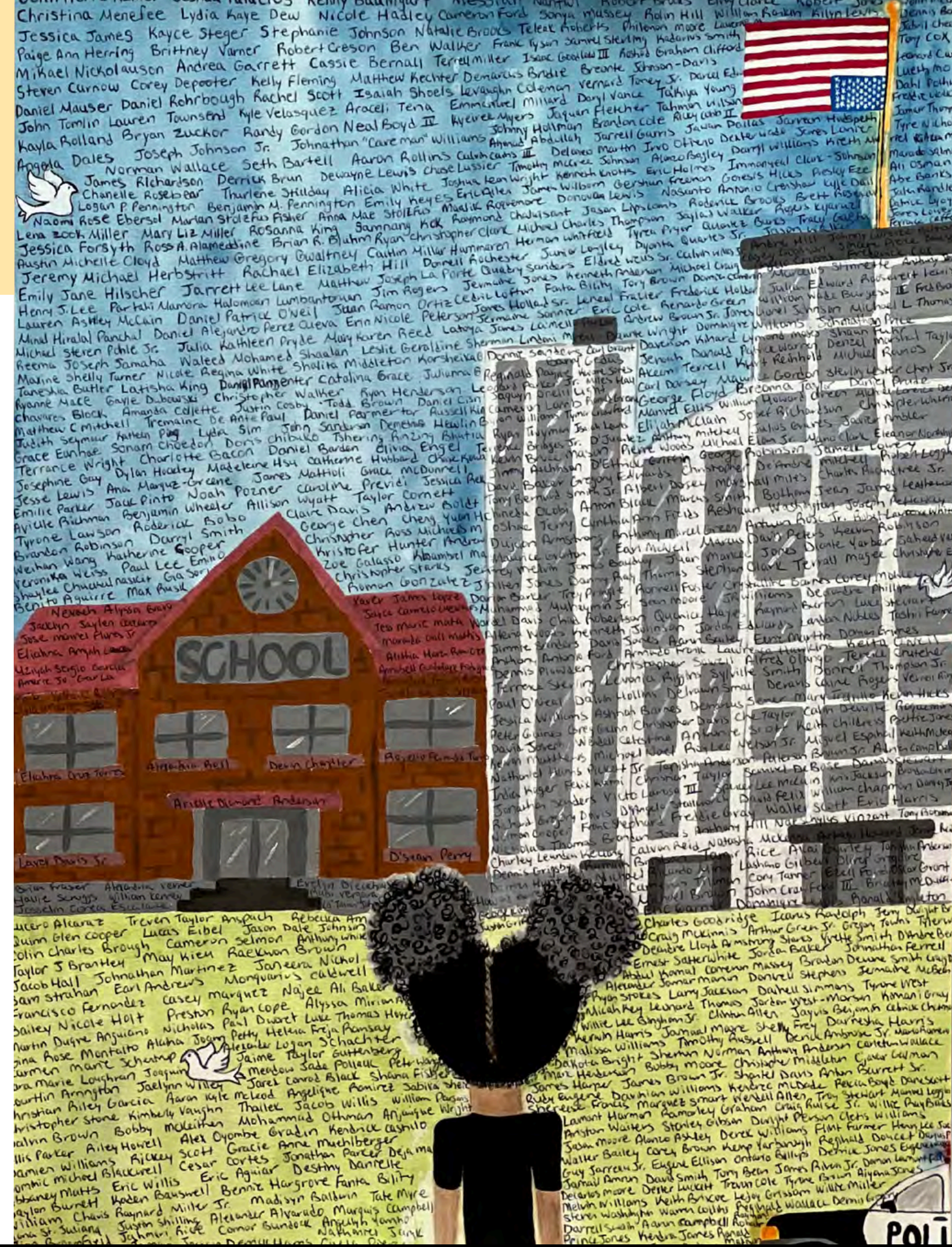
PORTLAND ENGAGEMENTS



LEWIS & CLARK COLLEGE: ART FOR SOCIAL CHANGE COMMITTEE

Vision Quilt collaborated with the Art for Social Change Committee at Lewis & Clark College to train art therapy faculty and graduate students in facilitating our **Visioning Beyond Violence** curriculum. These facilitators then made plans to offer trauma-informed workshops to members of the college and the broader community, offering participants a creative outlet to explore their experiences and articulate their visions for a safer future.

The partnership with Lewis and Clark College amplifies the reach of Vision Quilt's mission and lays the groundwork for sustainable, art-based healing practices within higher education and community health spaces.



PARKROSE HIGH SCHOOL CREATIVE WORKSHOP



In partnership with Free Arts Northwest, Portland State University, and Lewis & Clark College, Vision Quilt supported a powerful classroom experience at Parkrose High School, facilitated by Nichole Champion, a Wellness Coordinator through PSU's Senior Inquiry Program and a senior at Lewis & Clark College. Orion Rodriguez, an art therapy graduate student from Lewis and Clark College, teamed up with Nichole to lead a class of 15 first-generation, college-bound seniors through a creative exploration of the root causes and impacts of gun violence.

Through dynamic discussions and panel creation, students expressed their personal stories and visions for safer communities. The panels serve as a medium for reflection, healing, and youth-led advocacy. They were honored to be part of a national movement.

**WHAT WE CAN IMAGINE...
WE CAN CREATE.**



NATIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

**IMAGINE
SAFE
NEIGHBORHOODS**

**CREATE
SAFE
STREETS**

COMMUNITY HEALING THROUGH FIBER ARTS

In partnership with Seattle's Alliance for Gun Responsibility, Portland's Better Neighbors, and Ashland, Oregon's Gallery Association, and the Fiber Arts Collective, we hosted art-making sessions where community members created 8 x 8-inch quilt squares.

Each square represented a personal vision of hope, justice, and belonging, ultimately forming a larger tapestry that now travels as part of our public exhibition collection.



TOGETHER WE END GUN VIOLENCE CONFERENCE

In 2024, Vision Quilt brought its mission to the forefront of statewide policy and prevention efforts by participating in the Together We End Gun Violence Conference, hosted at Lumen Field in partnership with the Seattle Seahawks and the King County Office of Gun Violence Prevention. This powerful two-day event convened community leaders, youth advocates, violence interruptors, educators, and public health experts from across Washington to address solutions to the gun violence epidemic.

As a featured community arts partner, Vision Quilt engaged attendees through a hands-on creative activity: the **Uplifting Visions Project**. Participants of all ages were invited to create 8 x 8-inch Vision Squares expressing themes like hope, healing, courage, self-care, and community safety. Using drawing, painting, collage, embroidery, and mixed media, each square became part of a growing tapestry of resilience and vision.

By pairing art making with community dialogue, Vision Quilt helped deepen conversations at the conference, transforming abstract policy discussions into tangible, human-centered stories. The activity not only inspired reflection but also empowered individuals to contribute their voice and vision to a collective call for change.





KOMOGODJE & ARIANA

Two rising seniors, Komogodje and Ariana, created a website, ***Oakland On Top***, highlighting Vision Quilt. This was a part of their summer program with TechLink and Mission Bit.

They showcased their work at a **Google Community Space in San Francisco**, emphasizing Vision Quilt's mission and connecting with a broader audience through digital storytelling.

**SCAN TO VISIT
OAKLAND ON TOP!**



2024 MAJOR MILESTONES

- 1. New Vision Quilt Website:** We launched a refreshed and more accessible website, expanding our reach and making our curriculum, Virtual Quilt, and resources more easily available to educators, youth, and community partners nationwide. Visit www.visionquilt.org!
- 2. Social Media Growth:** Through creative storytelling and strategic campaigns, Vision Quilt significantly increased engagement across platforms. We showcased youth artwork, community exhibitions, and behind-the-scenes glimpses into our workshops—amplifying our mission and reaching new audiences ready to take action.
- 3. Curriculum Alignment:** In 2024, we dedicated focused effort to align our Addressing Gun Violence curriculum with 8th-grade academic standards in math, humanities and art. This work ensures our trauma-informed, arts-integrated approach is both educationally rigorous and accessible in diverse classrooms—laying the groundwork for a full school-wide rollout in 2025.
- 4. Partnership Expansion:** We deepened our collaboration with key partners—Youth Alive, Lighthouse Community Public Schools, Lewis & Clark College, Seattle’s Alliance for Gun Responsibility and the Fiber Arts Collective—who bring both lived experience and visionary leadership to our work.
- 5. Training program with art therapy faculty and graduate students at Lewis & Clark College:** These educators are now equipped to lead **Visioning Beyond Violence** workshops and support student and client engagement with our Vision Quilt curriculum. Several have already begun working with youth at Parkrose High School, helping to expand our reach and inspire a new generation of change makers.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Oakland Partners and Funders:

- Funders: Oakland City Council designated by Council Member Treva Reid from District 7 and Lighthouse Community Public Schools funding for impactful programs. Partners: Lighthouse Community Public Schools, Youth Alive!, HipHopForChange.

Portland Partners:

- Margaret Hoffmann, P:ear, Don't Shoot Portland, and Lewis & Clark College, Parkrose High School, Portland State University Senior Inquiry Project, Better Neighbors, Art Inside Out, City Team, Don't Shoot PDX.

Washington State Partners:

- Washington State Alliance for Gun Responsibility, King County Office of Violence Prevention, Brady United.

Donors and Volunteers:

- We could not do our work without the generous financial donations of our supporters and volunteers.





To all our Partners and Donors Thank You!

Thank you for standing with us this year. Your support, creativity, and commitment have been the driving force behind every milestone we reached in 2024. Together, we transformed vision into action, uplifted youth voices, and expanded the reach of healing and hope. Here's to building safer, more empowered communities—together.

Appendix A: Partners and Collaborators

- **Lighthouse Community Public Schools**
www.lighthousecharter.org
- **Hip Hop For Change**
www.hiphopforchange.com
- **Fiber Arts Collective**
<https://www.facebook.com/Fiberartsashland/>
- **King County Office of Violence Prevention**
<https://kingcounty.gov/>
- **Portland State University-Senior Inquiry Program**
https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/studies_sring/
- **Parkrose High School**
<https://www.parkrose.k12.or.us/parkrosehighschool>
- **Lewis & Clark College**
Art for Social Change
Graduate Students and art therapy Faculty
<https://www.lclark.edu/committees/art-for-social-change/>
- **Washington State Alliance for Gun Responsibility**
<https://gunresponsibility.org/>
- **Oakland Councilmember Treva Reid**

- **Dont Shoot Portland**
<https://www.dontshootpdx.org/>
- **Youth Alive!**
www.youthalive.org
- **Free2luv**
free2luv.org
- **Brady United**
<https://www.bradyunited.org/>
- **Seattle Seahawks**
<https://www.seahawks.com/>
- **Mission Bit**
<https://missionbit.org/>
- **P:ear**
<https://www.pearmentor.org/>
- **Free Arts Northwest**
- **Art Inside Out**
- **Better Neighbors**



Appendix B: Reports and Metrics

- [Art for Social Change, Parkrose High School Evaluation](#)
- [Youth Alive Teens on Target Exhibition and Program Summary](#)
- [Together We End Gun Violence Conference Summary and Evaluation of Vision Quilt Exhibition and Uplifting Visions Art Table](#)



Appendix D: Visual Documentation

- Oakland On Top
- Fiber Arts
- Youth Alive Teens on Target
- Parkrose High School Vision Quilt Panels
- Together We End Gun Violence Conference
- Advocacy Day At The California Capitol
- Lewis And Clark College: Art for Social Change
- Addressing Gun Violence: Creating Visionaries, Storytellers and Changemakers (30-min Documentary Film)



VISIONQUILT



Together, We Make a Difference
Stay involved. Stay inspired.

Together, we will create a safer, brighter future.
Thank you for being part of our mission.