



CIRCUIT COURT OF JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI
FAMILY COURT DIVISION
KEMP BUILDING
2729 GILLHAM ROAD
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64108-3112

Kelly Hams-Pearson
Director of Field Services

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April 22, 2021

David J. Sullivan, Executive Director
ArtsTech
1522 Holmes Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64108-1536

Dear Dave,

Jackson County Family Court unequivocally supports ArtsTech's Hip Hop Healthy Lifestyle proposal to Jackson County COMBAT for anti-violence programming through youth employment. I understand that ArtsTech will offer a 200-hour youth paid apprenticeship opportunities program for 60+ youth aged 13-17. Participants will learn job readiness skills, appropriate on-the-job behavior, common pitfalls that cause young people to be fired, money management, substance use and violence prevention, time management, leisure skills, and other behaviors that translate to a healthy lifestyle. Participants will also learn what job placements are available and how to match personal interest with career opportunity.

Jackson County Family Court will identify 5-10 youth that would benefit greatly from this initiative. As a court we support this initiative as it holds the potential to alter the trajectory of many of the youth served by the Family Court system including, but not limited to those youth involved in prevention, diversion and post-adjudicated programming and services. As a community we must strive to create an education to career pipeline that is much more individualized, effective and appealing to justice system youth. ArtsTech is a long tenured organization with the uncanny ability to engage youth and teens through the arts. Utilizing the arts medium and a wide variety of expert artists, ArtsTech has fostered career exploration, skill development, job training and entrepreneurship to the youth served through the Jackson County Family Court.

The Jackson County Family Court and ArtsTech have sustained a very positive and rewarding partnership for almost two decades! This year, as in past years, ArtsTech has served our youth by allowing them to participate in the "Teens in Transition" (TNT) summer life skills and art development project sponsored by the City of Kansas City Missouri. TNT is just one program example of the many collaborative efforts utilized to serve YMOC under our jurisdiction.

In partnership with ArtsTech, the Family Court community based programs focus on holding youth accountable for their behavior and supporting all youths' individual development. Together the organizations emphasize participants' positive potential while recognizing their social skill deficiencies, social developmental delays, and cognitive distortions. The goal of all programming is to equip youth with the necessary skills and resources for helping their peer group members and themselves through the process of developing a pro-social value system.

I want to express our commitment, again, to ArtsTech's Hip-Hop Healthy Lifestyle youth employment program and look forward to having our young people involved. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need further information.

Sincerely,

Kelly R Hams Pearson

Kelly Hams Pearson
Director, Field Services
Circuit Court of Jackson County - Family Court Division