



“The future of our communities are held in the hands of our children, it is incumbent upon us to lead and educate them with respect, kindness, and grace” — *Walter H. Harper, Sr. esq. 1885- 1985*

To Whom It May Concern

Regarding the Combat Arts program, over the past six years’ members of The African American Artists Collective have worked with the Arts Tech administrative leadership and educators. We believe that every aspect of the arts is an important part of our cultural wardrobe, it strengthens our reserve and teaches all of us the importance of our humanity that is the reason why we have partnered with Kansas City’s Arts Tech.

Arts Tech is a respected organization, that has worked toward connecting and assisting our area, **At Risk Youth** with artists and STEM educators to develop and expand their interaction with community using art and education as an overseer to create positive growth and outcomes, their arts program for youth helps to share and simulate their unique overall identity as a part of the arts educational programming which is second to none.

We believe that art has the power to transform daily experiences by encouraging active engagement with a sense of place helping youth through art programs is one of the most important steps we can take as individuals and as a society. Art is a valuable tool for discovering, exploring and interpreting reality. Investing in youth art programs not only exposes the students to the benefits of the arts, it helps them succeed in educational subjects such as math, history, writing, digital design, all things technology, early entrepreneurship opportunities and in everyday life. Times are changing, art is at the forefront more today than ever before with the use of technology our youth must be prepared to face life’s challenges.

We are grateful to be a part of the positive interaction that Arts Tech brings to the Kansas City community and the work we are able to do with their organization. Please note that your continued support is important for a brighter future for our youth.

Thank you for your time in reading our letter.

Best Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Sara Sonié Joi Thompson-Ruffin". The signature is fluid and cursive.

*Sara Sonié Joi Thompson-Ruffin / Founder*

*African American Artists Collective*

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