

FREE ARTS EVALUATION REPORT

October 2021 to September 2022

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Report presented to:



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FREE ARTS PROGRAM ANALYSIS FOR THE 2022 FISCAL YEAR

Please note that this evaluation was created for the Program Research project connected to Free Arts Strategic Initiatives and does not directly correlate to the yearly Program outcome goals set each year.

Free Arts Program Analysis for the 2022 Fiscal Year

Demographics

Participant Racial Identity	% of children and teens
Asian American	0%
Black/African American	13%
Hispanic/Latinx	31%
Native American	8%
White/European	9%
Multi-racial	11%
No Response	28%

In addition, children and teens reported their gender identity. Children and teens were asked to select any of the following: Female, Male, Non-binary, or other. Children and teen's gender identity is in the table below. In addition, children and teens indicated if they identified as Transgender or Cis-gender (not transgender). Two children and teens identified as transgender.

Participant Gender Identity	% of Children and teens
Female	46%
Male	22%
Non-binary	4%
No response	28%

Percent of Positive Agreement

Children responded to a 23-item questionnaire with a 5-point scale indicating agreement with a set of statements (Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Unsure, Agree, and Strongly Agree).

The percent of positive agreement (Agree/Strongly Agree) was calculated for each question and averaged across sets of questions that represent relevant outputs of interest. Thus, the numbers below indicate the percent of children and teens who reported that the program positively affected them in each of the below domains.

92% of children and teens indicated that the Free Arts program was overall good or excellent.

	% of children and teens positively affected
Free Arts Outputs	
Meaningful relationships/interactions with adults	72%
Opportunities to do something they thought they couldn't do, to overcome obstacles, and celebrate accomplishments	69%
Opportunities to feel a sense of belonging	79%
Opportunities to lead their peers	78%
Opportunities to use inspiring materials and supplies and to learn a new skill	75%

	% of children and teens positively affected
Free Arts Pyramid Levels	
Safety	74%
Self-Expression	76%
Skill Building	76%
Self-Efficacy	64%

Additionally, children and teens were asked to report specifically on IMPROVEMENTS they noticed as a function of participating in the Free Arts programs. Data below demonstrate children and teens-reported improvements in each of the following domains:

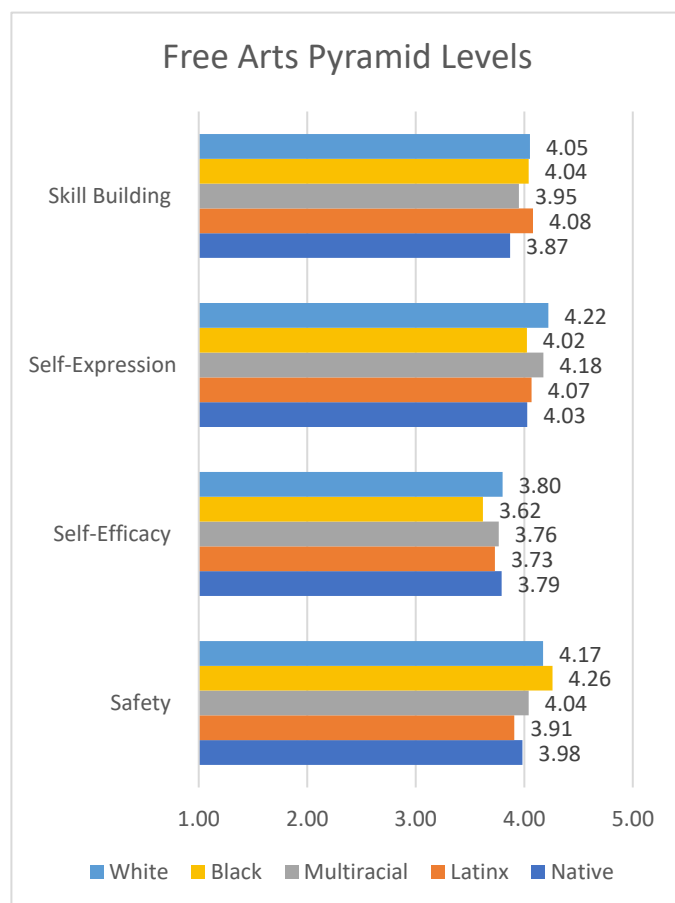
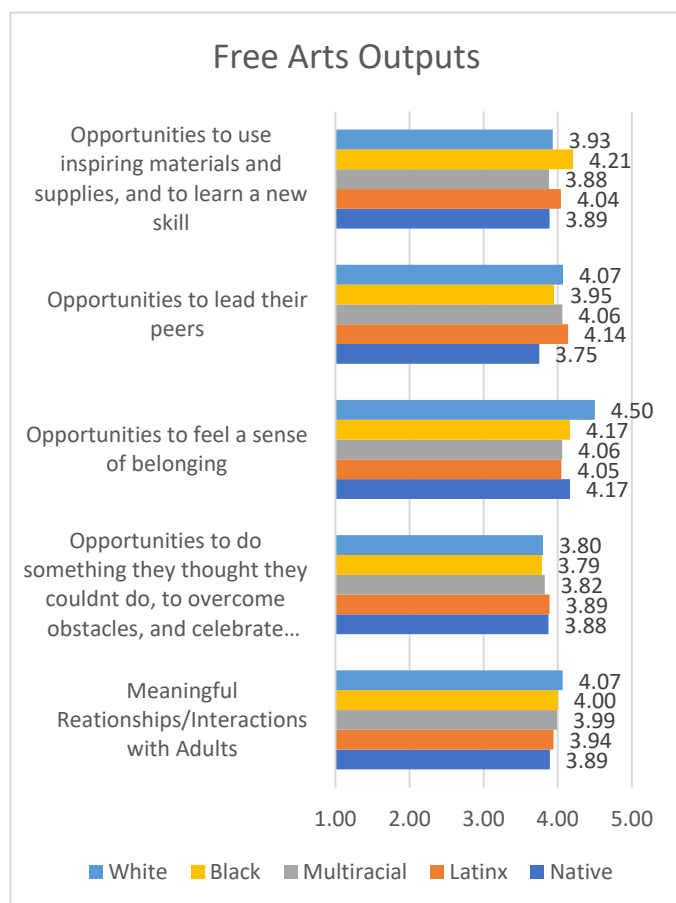
Improvements (All Programs)	% of children and teens positively affected
Increased well-being	72%
More coping skills	69%
Have more trusted adults who care about them	71%

Mean Differences by Race and Gender

We examined if children and teen’s feedback and experiences at Free Arts varied based on their racial or gender identity. Overall, findings suggest that outcomes did not vary by ethnic-racial children and teens in fiscal year 2022. However, findings did indicate that male-identifying children and teens may have a different experience than female-identifying children and teens. For all analyses, we provide call-out tables presenting the mean scores for each group.

Mean Differences by Racial Identities

First, we tested for mean differences among racial groups. We conducted an analysis of variance (ANOVA) for the Free Arts Outputs, Free Arts Pyramid levels, VSUW outcomes, and VOCA outcomes. **We found no significant differences!** This indicates that children and teens from all ethnic-racial groups experience statistically similar outcomes! We provide the mean scores for all outcomes by race in the charts below.

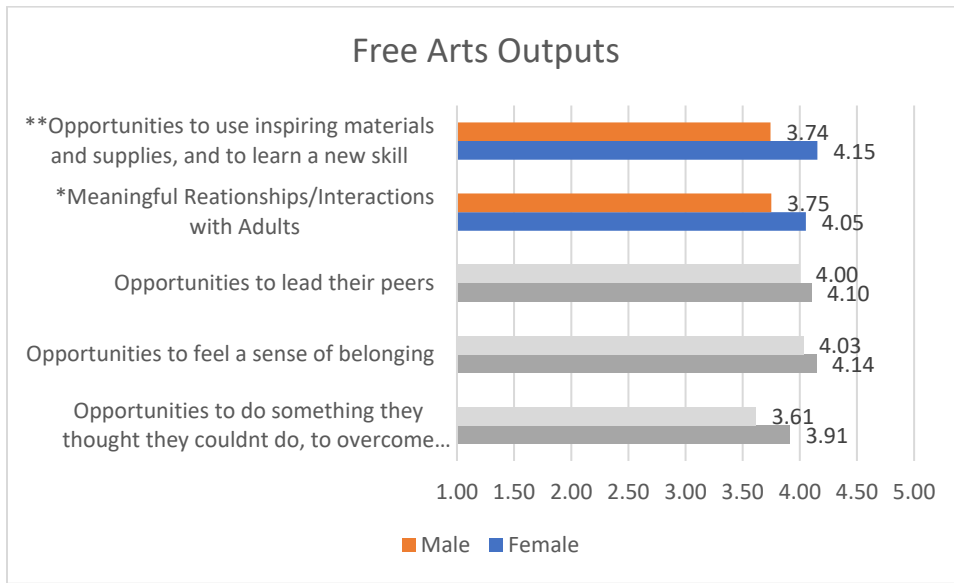


Mean Differences by Gender Identities

Next, we tested for mean differences among gender groups. Given the small sample size for children and teens identifying as non-binary, we exclude them from analyses. We conducted t-tests given we were exploring mean differences among only two groups (female vs male). We examined differences for the Free Arts Outputs, Free Arts Pyramid levels, VSUW outcomes, and VOCA outcomes.

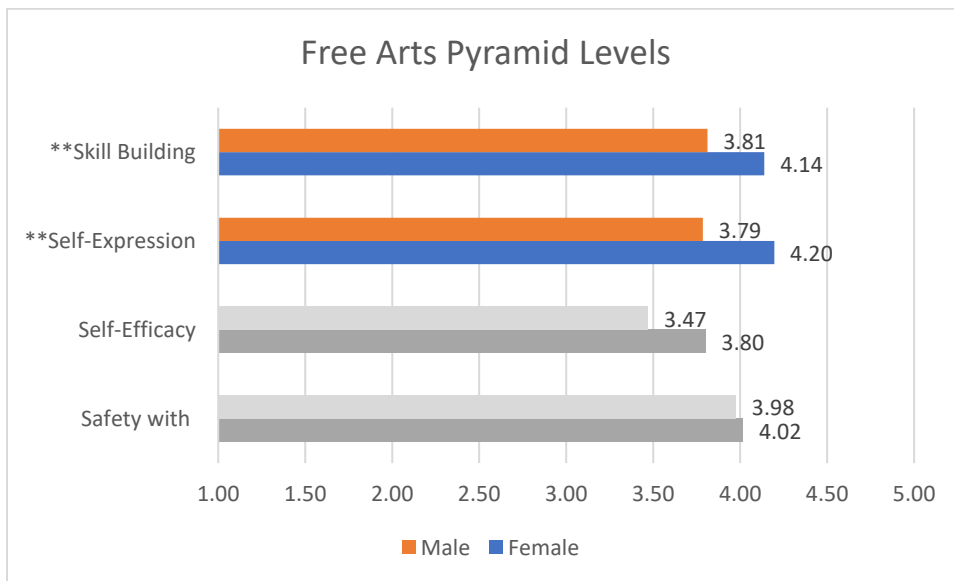
Free Arts Outputs

We found significant differences between male- versus female-identifying children and teens for two Free Arts outputs. Female-identifying children and teens reported more strongly agreeing that they had *opportunities to use inspiring materials and supplies/to learn a new skill* [$t(106)=2.46, p=.02$]. In addition, female-identifying children and teens reported more strongly agreeing that they developed *meaningful relationships with adults* [$t(106)=2.18, p=.03$]. Mean scores for all Free Arts outputs can be viewed in the chart below.



Free Arts Pyramid Levels

We found significant differences between male- versus female-identifying children and teens for two Free Arts Pyramid Levels. Female-identifying children and teens reported more strongly agreeing that they built skills [$t(106)=2.38, p=.02$]. In addition, female-identifying children and teens reported more strongly agreeing that they were able to express themselves [$t(106)=2.56, p=.01$]. Mean scores for all Free Arts Pyramid Levels can be viewed in the chart below.



Item Analysis

We also explored an item analysis in which t-tests were run to examine gender differences for each question asked on the Free Arts program survey. The results are presented in the table on the following page. Rows that are in blue text indicate there were significant gender differences. For example, for the question, *I was able to express ideas, emotions, and stories*, female-identifying children and teens scored significantly higher than their male-identifying counterparts. For this question, the mean for females was 4.10 and was 3.69 for males. The t-test statistic is 2.22 with 106 degrees of freedom (a proxy indicating sample size for the analysis) and had a significant p-value of less than .05.

Item Analysis for Free Arts Program Feedback Form

Survey Question	Female		Male		t(df)	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD		
I was able to express ideas, emotions, and stories.	4.10	0.85	3.69	0.99	2.22	(106) *
I felt that I had gifts and talents.	3.82	0.99	3.34	1.30	1.90	(53) +
The activities promoted healthy habits.	4.14	0.87	3.69	0.93	2.48	(104) **
Adults listened to what I had to say.	4.38	0.74	3.94	0.97	2.62	(106) **
I felt comfortable going to adults for advice.	4.11	0.99	3.71	1.22	1.82	(105) +
Rules and expectations were clear.	4.51	0.73	4.35	0.73	1.01	(105)
Activities were just right for my age.	4.26	0.79	4.00	0.94	1.53	(105)
I learned to work with others as a team.	4.10	0.90	4.00	1.00	0.51	(104)
The activities taught me to develop a plan to reach my goals.	4.00	0.88	3.54	1.15	2.08	(53) *
I was challenged to think and build skills.	4.10	0.92	3.66	1.26	1.84	(52) +
There were opportunities to learn new things.	4.38	0.86	4.03	1.18	1.72	(105) +
I felt that I could make a difference.	3.78	1.09	3.59	1.31	0.78	(104)
I was encouraged to take responsibility.	4.05	0.93	3.63	1.17	2.05	(106) *
I gained a broader view of Free Arts.	4.00	0.95	3.81	1.03	0.90	(100)
Supporting others and volunteering was important.	4.07	0.96	4.09	0.97	-0.10	(105)
I learned to accept differences in others.	4.23	0.99	4.14	1.00	0.40	(104)
I gained a broader understanding of the world beyond my community.	4.19	0.79	3.66	0.91	3.13	(106) ***
I was embarrassed or put down	2.33	1.45	2.26	1.42	0.21	(105)
Conflicts between people were a problem.	2.42	1.32	2.09	1.35	1.19	(104)
I felt like I didn't belong.	1.93	1.15	2.12	1.37	-0.69	(55)
Participating in the Free Arts program helped me feel better or less stressed or anxious.	3.93	1.12	3.59	1.23	1.43	(105)
Because of the Free Arts program I have more coping skills or ways to make myself feel better.	3.99	1.05	3.82	0.90	0.77	(104)
In the Free Arts program, I feel like I met more adults who I trust and who care about me.	4.10	1.00	3.59	1.23	2.27	(104) *
Free Arts program was overall Good or Excellent	4.51	0.68	4.59	0.56	-0.60	(101)

Facility Staff and Volunteer/Artists

Data were also collected from facility staff and Free Arts volunteers/artists in the form of an online survey. Data from 36 facility staff and 47 artists/volunteers are represented here.

Outcomes	Facility Staff		Artists/Volunteers	
	% Agree	%Disagree	% Agree	%Disagree
I noticed that children in this program felt safe	97%	3%	100%	0%
I noticed that children in this program freely expressed themselves.	100%	0%	96%	4%
I noticed that children in this program learned and built new skills.	100%	0%	94%	6%
I noticed that children in this program did things that, at first, they didn't believe they could do.	91%	9%	96%	4%

Reported examples of each outcome:

Feel Safe:

- “Children are not forced to participate.”
- “They felt comfortable asking questions for clarification.”
- “All 5 were willing to dance and risk ‘looking silly’ in front of each other and ‘on camera’.”
- “They shared their paintings and poems. They were deep!”

Express Themselves:

- “The children would discuss their feelings openly.”
- “Many of them worked with us for close to a year. We are bonded.”
- “Clients have learned social skills, clients learned how to work as a team.”
- “The children were asking questions, using assertive language to correct pronunciation of their names.”
- “We had freestyle dancing and art in graffiti that was "off script" but creative and individual to the camper”

Build Skills

- “I watched boys dancing in scenes, they were resistant but they learned to do lifts.”
- “Practiced and taught other children the new skills they learned.”
- “They learned a new language through drawing calligraphy.”
- “We embossed foil, something none had experienced before”

Develop Self-Efficacy/Resilience

- “Despite getting frustrated, each child created a bead bracelet after a lot of encouragement.”
- “We often hear things like "that is hard." Then they give it a try with a little encouragement. I love to see their excitement.”
- “Not giving up after they felt like they made a mistake.”
- “Jessica showed them the art of breaking new things down into steps so they seem less overwhelming. She also gave them confidence and support to try without the pressure of being perfect.”

85% of facility staff respondents (29 out of 34, two respondents did not provide a rating) indicated that they would rate their overall satisfaction with Free Arts programs and services as **excellent**. Some comments included:

- “The children did visual tricks with the buckets that they did not think they could do at first.”
- “I thought it was a great interactive program for the kids.”

82% of facility staff respondents (29 out of 35, one respondent did not provide a rating) indicated that they ARE AWARE of community resources available to victims of crime.