

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF ARTISTIC EMPOWERMENT



For some 25 years, the Boys, Girls, Adults Community Development Center has exposed various forms of art to the Phillips County communities it serves. It has enabled the communities to experience cultural diversity on many levels. The artistic experiences also have opened up economic opportunities with the help of long-term funders that believe in the same vision.

The art programs that BGACDC began to organize back in the 1990s were not merely for the enjoyment of the children, although that would have been reason enough to do it. There is research demonstrating that the various artistic experiences of the children and the communities that witness them have a broad impact on the educational, social and economic development of the communities. In other words, all our lives are improved.

For example, making and experiencing art improves the chances that children will finish high school, go to college and gain meaningful employment. Art in any of its forms develops cognitive capacities and analytical skills and provides learning experiences that affect a child's educational and social development. Research by a presidential committee on the arts and humanities proved that children, particularly those from lower-income families, who were highly involved in the arts performed better in school, stayed in school longer, scored higher on math assessments and were more likely to graduate from high school, attend college, find stable work and perform greater volunteer work in their communities.



BGACDC thanks everyone who supported its endeavors in exposing various forms of art that have not only inspired the minds of future artists, but imprinted the history of the culture they represent.