

Zumix

Streetwise

Sanah and Craig

What is Zumix?

Zumix is a nonprofit based in East Boston that offers music and technology classes to local youths.

Programming is meant to “equip youth with the tools necessary to reach their full potential, while creating a safe space for youth to explore who they are and who they want to be” (a goal reminiscent of Nussbaum’s capabilities framework).

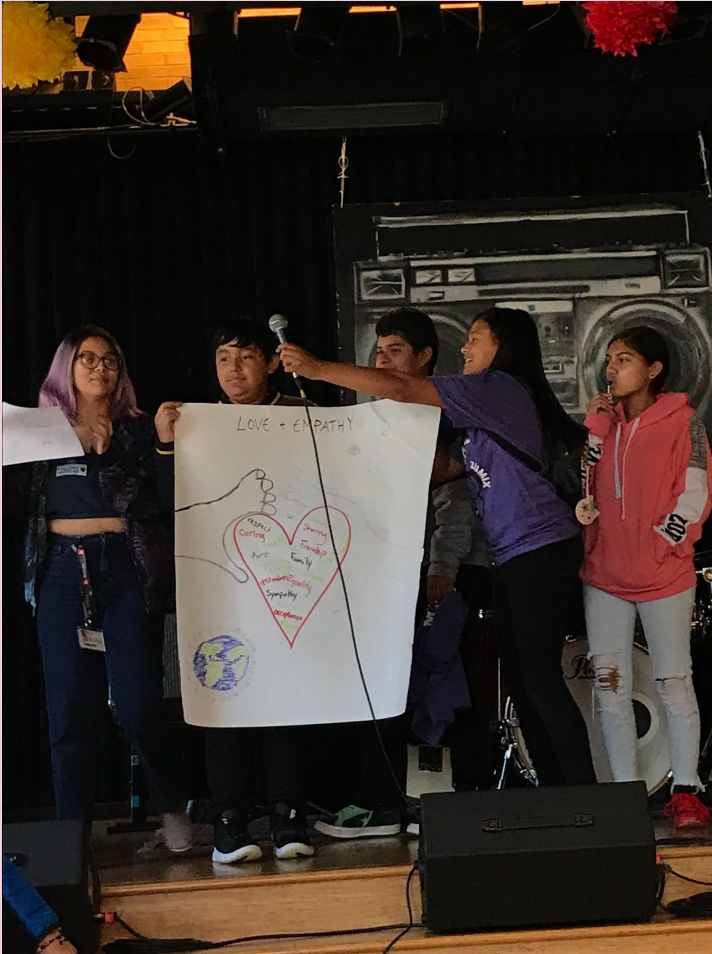


The reconverted firehouse that holds Zumix’s classes and acts as its base of operations.

Streetwise

Craig and Sanah acted as TAs for Streetwise, a songwriting class taught by Corey Depina. The aim of Streetwise is to teach students the basic skills of songwriting and self expression through music, and then help them write and record a song that they can have and use at the end of the class.

- We made piano scores
- Worked on rhyme schemes
- Metaphors, similes, alliteration, allusion, and other literary devices
- Music analyzation



Day to day

Responsibilities included:

- Leading writing/listening exercises and vocal warmups
- Offering feedback and expertise to students for lyrics and music
- Coming up with games and activities to help students become comfortable with one another

5 pm → We show up!

5:30 pm → make our plan for the day

6 pm → class time starts, we'll begin with a warm up like a vocal exercise or a mind game, and a free write!

During the class we'll go through various listening exercises, and/or writing exercises to keep furthering the minds of the students!

Goals for the program

Action Items

- Give students the tools to write songs in whatever capacity fits them best
 - Some want to go into it professionally, some don't
- Create a safe environment for self-expression, vulnerability, and individuality
- Use positive role modeling to encourage self agency and time management

Effects

- Encourage a culture of openness beyond the classroom
 - Similar to Donnelly-Roark's deep participation - using the act of musicking to promote change
- Students have tools to process their experiences (past and future) in a productive, healthy, and creative way
 - Fulfills the spiritual maintenance aspect of Rosenthal's roles of music, but also opens doors for students to use music for other roles

Growth and achievements

The relationship we created surpasses the mutually transactional and approaches the kind of transformational relationship described by Clayton et al.

We came to Zumix not as students providing a service but as participants in a larger cause, looking to help youths reach their full potential (in the spirit of Mitchell's conception of critical service learning).

- Students learned valuable songwriting skills, self agency, and became more comfortable expressing themselves to others
- We learned about leadership, accountability, and how to act as role models
- Zumix got free help, but also gained two future collaborators and friends



What happens now?

- Students leave the program with one song written, and the ability and confidence to write many more
 - Program also helps foster other life skills
- With the connections and experience we gained from Zumix, we can open doors to other opportunities in the nonprofit sphere

