

12-12-2000

Studio to provide artistic outlet for troubled teens

Karen A. Davis

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.ric.edu/bss>

Recommended Citation

Davis, Karen A., "Studio to provide artistic outlet for troubled teens" (2000). *Broad Street Studio*. 12.
<https://digitalcommons.ric.edu/bss/12>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Youth Program at Digital Commons @ RIC. It has been accepted for inclusion in Broad Street Studio by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ RIC. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@ric.edu.

Studio to provide artistic outlet for troubled teens

By KAREN A. DAVIS
Journal Staff Writer

PROVIDENCE — For years, local agencies have called upon the arts as a way to inspire and motivate youngsters to realize their talents or express their thoughts and feelings.

Starting next month, the city's troubled teens will have a new forum to explore their artistic endeavors.

The Broad Street Community Studio, at 790 Broad St., has been dubbed a

PROVIDENCE

"transitional arts immersion program." The studio has been designed as a place where youths — particularly those who have recently served time in the Rhode Island Training School — can go to develop their unique skills and share their perspectives.

Turn to **STUDIO**, Page C 3

Studio

Continued from Page C 1

The studio will feature lessons in poetry, acting, photography, film and video, music, dance, drawing, comic artistry and mural painting, said Joelle Jensen, the program's director. The program, which is geared toward teens and young adults under the age of 21, will start out with 10 students.

An opening ceremony was held for the new studio on Nov. 10. However, the studio will not officially open until next month, Jensen said.

"For some kids, exploring art is an end in itself," said Umberto Crenca, artistic director of AS220, one of three organizations that joined

forces to create the studio.

The project is the result of a collaboration between AS220, Tides Family Services and the state Training School. Financing for the project and its new Broad Street location was made possible by the federal Corporation for National Service, an organization that promotes volunteerism.

Reaching out to troubled youth is not a new initiative, Jensen points out.

For more than a year, Crenca and other AS220 staff have held mini-workshops at the Training School to help inspire and empower youth to express themselves artistically. In so doing, program coordinators say, former inmates are making the transition into a new way of life.

Jensen said the studio program is

an extension of the Muse Union, AS220's youth program, which hosts monthly open-stage nights to showcase music, spoken word, dance and other forms of performance art.

Students will enroll in three-month sessions, six days a week and will participate in workshops led by professional artists. They will also work with mentors and a team of designers and marketers, Jensen said.

After the initial three months, enrolled students may continue their work in Thursday and Saturday sessions, which will be open to a broader range of young adults.

In October, the studio began running two workshops, which were open to all teens: a hip-hop workshop run by Kareem Gaines on Thursdays and a writers' workshop

run by Demian Yattaw on Saturdays.

"Our main goal was to develop a young artists' haven on Broad Street," Jensen said. Coordinators say that the studio will not only display the talent of youths already interested in art, but unearth the potential of teens who may not have been given the opportunity to explore their talent.