

Moving Lives of Kids, Interview on Afterschool, & CACFP Corner

1 message

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Wed, Feb 13, 2019 at 9:36 AM

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Moving Lives of Kids, Interview on Afterschool, & CACFP Corner February 2019



Spotlight

Kyle Holbrook, Executive Artist and Founder of Moving Lives of Kids

Kyle Holbrook, Executive Artist of Moving Lives of Kids, had always wanted to be an artist. Growing up his parents encouraged him to pursue his art education. He was able to attend Saturday and afterschool art classes from the time he was in third grade to his high school graduation. During college, Kyle had an internship with the Boys and Girls Club as an arts teacher and took on freelance art jobs for monetary compensation. Kyle said, "After my first couple mural opportunities, I was hooked and found my calling as an artist."

In 1999 during his junior year of college, Kyle was invited to join a group of selected artists to paint a large scale, highly visible public mural. The mural also happened to be in the same community as his internship. While painting one Saturday afternoon, some of the youth from his art class at the Boys and Girls Club walked up to asked if they could help paint. As the day went on, more youth from his classes joined, as well as some of their siblings and friends. Kyle recalls, "I noticed the lessons that I taught in my classes were being demonstrated on the mural. I saw kids from the class taking leadership roles by relaying the lessons to their peers and family members while painting. I witnessed for the first time the effects of the positive feedback as people in cars and walking by provided constant praise and appreciation for the work of the artists and young people." For Kyle, this was the moment he decided to pursue a career in the field of Educational Public Art. It was the moment he realized the impact a community mural can make.



The work of Moving Lives of Kids

Community Mural Project, takes place during school, after school, and in the the summer months primarily. MLK Mural's work connects to the afterschool, summer, and expanded learning field in more ways than just the schedule. The MLK Mural curriculum utilizes lessons in each of the elements of design, while relating each step of creating a mural to a future and possible career in the arts. The curriculum is typically a four to ten week process with several entry points for each young person to benefit from each lesson. The rigorous curriculum can be modified in each lesson depending on the

student's level of artistic ability or interest. They also have lessons specific to youth with diverse abilities.

The themes of each MLK Mural project are, at times, youth driven and other times the murals may reflect and reinforce lessons taught in a variety of subjects such as math, science, or history. Kyle stated, "Public murals also provide a voice and long lasting reminder of the accomplishments for each student. Many youth driven murals may be about 'Stop the Violence,' 'Equality,' 'Healthy Lifestyles,' and 'Nature Preservation.'" These topics allow for each student's passions and interests to be visualized and observed by the greater community including peers, family members, and faculty.



These projects have been shown to increase students' knowledge of art and the elements of design. The skills obtained through the projects have benefited youth who are planning to pursue an art career as they have now gained material for a portfolio. Kyle told us that those who are going to colleges for art were largely accepted due to the amazing sketch work for the mural projects.

Kyle also discussed the importance these murals have on the community. Kyle stated that "the Broken Window Theory has proven to be 100% in relation to the work of MLK Mural project. In 23 states, over 400 murals have not been graffitied over or vandalized." The Murals not only involve the youth but the overall community in several ways: "the community process allows public input and feedback," "a community paint day/kick off event allows for the everyone to join in and part together," "there is a public nature and relationship that is built during the mural process," "a ceremony to publicly recognize everyone involved in the creation celebrates the accomplishment and new community landmark," and, "the benefits of the MLK Mural

projects are continuous as the community will view the murals for years to come and the youth are reminded of their accomplishments."

When asked what his favorite part of his job is, Kyle responded, "My favorite part of my job is being able to witness the impact years later...The amount of young people that have gone on to pursue a career in their fields, some in art genres, but also many in a variety of different careers, for them to say they were inspired and moved to be the best they can be, and attribute some of that to their MLK Mural experience, that is definitely my favorite part my job."

Interview on the Importance of Afterschool

Channel 13, WNYT

Kelly Sturgis and Alysha Branch discussed the need to fully fund afterschool programs in New York State on Forum 13 with host Asa Stackel. Kelly is the Executive Director of the NYS Network for Youth Success. Alysha is the Regional Childcare Director for the Greenbush and Troy branches of the Capital District YMCA. During the interview they discussed the importance of Advantage After School programs, advocating for funding, and explained the impact of living wage laws on afterschool program budgets. For the full interview [click here](#).



Nominate a School-Age Professional, Program, or Champion!

May 10 - 11, 2019 in Saratoga Springs, NY

School's Out, Make it Count!

2 0 1 9 A n n u a l C o n f e r e n c e

The Network for Youth Success will be hosting our First Annual Awards Ceremony during the closing session of our Annual Conference!

The awards available are:

- The Quality Leadership Award
- The Exemplary Award of Professionalism
- The Program Award of Excellence and Innovation
- The Champion Award

[Submit a nomination and view award descriptions here!](#)

Nomination deadline is March 1, 2019

All award finalists will be selected by an independent panel of judges. Once finalists have been selected, additional information may be requested. Finalists and their nominators will be notified by email. If additional information is needed, the Network will contact the nominator.

The winner and honorees will be announced at the [School's Out, Make It Count! Conference](#) on May 11, 2019. Awards will be presented during the closing ceremony at the Embassy Suites.

By submitting a nomination or supporting document (such as a letter of support), participating individuals grant the Network permission to use the any of the submitted materials, not protected by copyright, in advertisements and/or promotions without compensation or notification. Such advertisements or promotions may include internet/social media announcements of the awards or the conference, as well as print materials distributed at, or in promotion of, the events. Self-nominations are not prohibited for these awards.

And don't forget to [register for the Conference here!](#)

CACFP Corner:

Thinking about Summer Meals



Despite it being the winter season, it's never too early to plan for the summer. Did you know that you can help youth ages 18 and under can continue to gain access to nutritious foods even after the school year is over? The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is a federal program where youth can visit a summer meal site for free breakfast, snack, and/or lunch, often providing an enrichment activity. Organizations are chosen to be a sponsor and/or site for SFSP. If your program is interested in learning more about SFSP, please visit SummerMealsNY.org.

Interested in advancing in the school-age field?
Need the qualifications to become a Site Director?

EARN YOUR SCHOOL-AGE CREDENTIAL TODAY



Upcoming Events

2/13: Growing Up WILD, Depew, NY

This program provides early childhood educators with an activity guide featuring 27 field-tested, hands-on, nature-based activities for indoor and outdoor fun. Activities incorporate art, music, reading, math, and more. For educators of students ages 3 to 7. The program will be 4:00pm – 7:00pm EST at Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve. Three CTLE hours provided. Register by calling 716-683-5959.

2/19: GRASA February Summit – Create, Make and Play!, Rochester, NY

This Summit will focus on creativity, making, free play, and sharing ideas and insights that will help everyone bring more of the things that delight and ignite us to the children with whom we work. You don't have to be the world's greatest dancer, a professional singer, or actor – you just need a little confidence and a willingness to try. Sessions include workshops like: Beyond the Book, Nature Club, and Embracing Your Creativity! Contact Carla Stough Huffman at cstough-huffman@racf.org for more details and how to register. Registration closes February 15.

3/1: Science Action Club: Bug Scouts, New York, NY

Join the Network for Youth Success and engage your young people in doing scientific research! Training in the Science Action Club: Bug Scouts curriculum will take place from 9 AM to 1 PM at Expanded Schools in Manhattan. This training is for programs that serve 5th to 8th graders that want to get those students to try on the role of scientist in an authentic and hands-on way. Participants in the training will have access to the Bug Scouts Curriculum online prior to the workshop. Then, at the workshop, participants will learn how to use iNaturalist and the curriculum to explore bug science with youth. Bug Scouts includes field experiences for youth in the neighborhoods that connect their local environment to large scale research efforts. Fifteen programs is the maximum that can participate, so [apply here now!](#)

3/15-3/18: National AfterSchool Association Convention, New York, NY

Join our community for four days of networking, learning, and inspiration. For more information, follow [this link](#). If you are attending, join the Network for Youth Success for a New York State Meet-Up with networking and raffle prizes on Friday, March 15th at 8:30pm. Advance [registration](#) is required.

3/6: Mindfulness + Stress Reduction for AfterSchool Staff, New York, NY

Working with youth can be incredibly rewarding, but also stress inducing. Without the tools to effectively manage challenges, there is high risk of burnout. Research shows that mindfulness practices support youth workers in various ways, such as improving interpersonal relationships, and reducing stress and burnout. [Registration](#) opens on Tuesday, February 19 at 9:00 am.

3/12-3/14: Challenging Behavior in Preschool Children Train-the-Trainer, Hartford, CT

This train-the-trainer session is designed specifically for professionals working with teachers to better support preschool children with challenging behavior. During this professional development experience, trainers will participate in an intensive, interactive session delving more deeply into the understanding of, prevention of and planned responses to challenging behaviors in young children. It highlights the Devereux Center for Resilient Children DVD resource, Facing the Challenge, as well as the best-selling book by Barbara Kaiser and Judy Sklar-Rasminksy, Challenging Behavior in Young Children, 4th Edition. This session is a MUST for trainers who want to enhance their training sessions on the difficult and important topic of working with children with challenging behaviors. Click [here](#) to register. (Registration closes March 1st).

3/16: Terra Science and Engineering Fair, Syracuse, NY

Whether you want to explore Cassini's adventures around Saturn, test water quality in a local creek, or design an app to prep for your next exam, the Terra Northeast Regional Science & Engineering Fair (TNRSEF) enables you to ask questions and find answers! Students in grades 6-12 can come to SUNY Geneseo in March to celebrate all s/he has learned and perhaps even earn an award. More information can be found [here](#).

3/18: Multiplying Good with Students In Action, New York, NY

Currently active in 13 communities across the U.S., Students In Action (SIA) is a unique youth volunteer leadership training and recognition program that supports, trains, and empowers today's youth to be leaders, problem solvers, entrepreneurs, and impactful global citizens. [Registration](#) opens on Monday, March 4 at 9:00 am.

4/4-4/6: NYAEYC Annual Conference, Verona, NY

This conference will host two full days of workshops, exhibitors, and keynote speakers all at the Turning Stone Resort and Conference Center. [Visit their website](#) for more information and how to register.

School's Out, Make it Count!

2 0 1 9 A n n u a l C o n f e r e n c e

5/10-5/11: Network for Youth Success Annual Conference, Saratoga Springs, NY

Back by popular demand for one more year in Saratoga Springs! The New York State Network for Youth Success is holding its Annual Conference May 10 & 11! Come attend New York's only statewide conference for Afterschool, Summer, and Expanded Learning Professionals. This conference brings together over 200 professionals to participate in two full days of workshops on topics ranging from SEL to Leadership. [Follow this link](#) to register today!

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Address postal inquiries to:
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