



REIMAGINE EQUITY

BLACK ARTS + TECH CENTER

OUR MISSION

30,000 Feet's mission is to provide creative learning experiences and tech apprenticeships for marginalized youth.

Since our founding in 2013, we have served over 2,500 students in Saint Paul.

PROJECT DETAILS

OWNER: 30,000 Feet in partnership with Land Bank Twin Cities

LOCATION: 1351 Arcade St., St. Paul, MN 55106

ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION COST: \$2,800,000

ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION PERIOD: March 2022 through May 2023

PROJECT FUNDERS TO DATE: Gannett Foundation, St. Paul Foundation, East Side Funders Group, Success Computer Consulting, Transformative Black-Led Movement Fund, Comcast Foundation, LISC

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Join 30,000 Feet as we reimagine equity by creating the first space where Black youth in Saint Paul can be their authentic selves.

Our Black Arts & Tech Center will provide a space for both creative experiences and overcoming barriers to employment through paid apprenticeships.

The center will include space for a multidisciplinary art studio, computer science lab, maker space, common area/art gallery, and two small offices.



We're on the front lines and know what our community needs. This will be the first space dedicated to Black kids in St. Paul.

Executive Director, Kevin Robinson

THE OPPORTUNITY

The disparities between Black and white students in Saint Paul are stark:

- **55% of Black students did not meet proficiency standards** in reading (Minnesota Department of Education, 2017)
- Black students represent 31% of students and **73% of school suspensions** (Saint Paul Public Schools, 2019)
- Black youth are **four times more likely than white youth to be detained** by the criminal justice system (Minnesota Department of Public Safety)

For Black kids in Minnesota, it's easy to feel invisible. Founded by African American leaders from the Saint Paul community, 30,000 Feet's staff and Board are 100% people of color. Our programs are tailored to the specific needs of Black youth and led by staff with shared life experiences.



30,000 FEET CORE PROGRAMS

- **After-School Programming:** Culturally appropriate educational support for Black students from 21 Saint Paul schools. Programming has been moved to a virtual format to support students with the transition to distance learning.
- **Black Tech Geeks:** An innovative youth employment program in partnership with Ramsey County Juvenile Detention that reduces recidivism and connects Black youth to computer science careers.
- **Artist Residency:** In partnership with Saint Paul Public Schools and Hennepin County Public Library, we empower Black students by teaching history through culturally relevant arts curriculum presented by Black teaching artists.



"I want to build my own app one day. I have visions of good ideas and I want to make a platform for everyone to have access to information they need."

Amarie, Black Tech Geeks participant

YOUTH PROGRAM IMPACT

Divyne was connected to 30,000 Feet's Black Tech Geek program at age 15 by his probation officer. The Black Tech Geek (BTG) program provides paid apprenticeships for youth (ages 14-24) to learn computer science skills; 50% of the youth engaged are involved in the juvenile delinquency system. It turned out that Divyne was a natural at coding and through his work with BTG was able to get off probation early due to consistently improved behavior. Divyne, now 17, expresses deep interest in pursuing tech as a career in his future. The new Black Arts Center will provide a tech hub for BTG, ensuring more youth in St. Paul have access to this high-quality program.

BLACK ARTS + TECH CENTER IMPACT

Since our founding in 2013, 30K served youth by facilitating programs throughout the community, borrowing or renting space from churches, schools, and park buildings. While nimble, we've lacked a space to unleash the creative expression of the youth we serve. Now, we are establishing a home where Black history and culture is centered and celebrated, empowering Black youth to thrive. The Black Arts + Tech Center set to **open in April 2022** will:

- Allow 30,000 Feet to **double the number of youth we serve** annually, from 125 to 250
- Provide a **safe space and daytime academic support** for youth who are suspended from school
- Increase the number of Black youth (age 16-24) who **gain meaningful employment** (\$15 per hour) through art, tech, and social justice apprenticeships
- **Decrease teen violence and recidivism** on the Eastside by providing a space for restorative justice and paid, year-round apprenticeships
- **Decrease summer learning loss** by providing summer art learning for K-8 students



We need your help to raise \$750,000 by Summer 2022 and bring this vision to reality!

30,000 Feet is looking for partners to invest in our work. We have acquired 1351 Arcade Street, a former Sunrise Bank building strategically located across from Johnson Senior High. Currently, 10% of 30K students attend Johnson and we are well positioned to serve more students from the community, where 90% are people of color and 74% are eligible for free and reduced lunch. The building was acquired in partnership with Land Bank Twin Cities, which will hold the building in trust while 30K raises funds.

Settling in with big plans to renovate!



Johnson High just across the parking lot!

FUNDRAISING GOAL

\$2,800,000

- Acquisition: \$450,000
- Construction: \$2,200,000
- Construction-Related Professional Fees: \$100,000
- Project Management: \$50,000

Year 1 Operating Costs: \$900,000

\$2,800,000

Pending

Goal to raise by summer 2022: \$750,000

10% raised to date!

