

# WORK-STUDY – INTERNSHIPS (*unpaid*) - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH YOUTH IN UBUNTU ARTS COMMUNITY

FALL 2023/SPRING 2024



**INTERGENERATIONAL MENTORING**

**ARTS**

**SOCIAL JUSTICE**

**COMMUNITY BUILDING**

Ubuntu Arts Community integrates inter-generational mentoring, the arts, leadership development, social justice and community building. We do this through building caring relationships, creativity and having fun. The children also receive academic support from high school and college mentors.

Meeting three days a week after school, Ubuntu brings together children, ages 7 -12 years old at Rebecca M. Johnson School in Springfield, with high school students and college mentors. We begin with snacks and free time, and then gather in our Opening Community Circle. Then the group participates in a variety of activities. Ubuntu *gems* take workshops in art, music, dance, yoga, martial arts, drumming, storytelling, and poetry, play board games, talk, and receive homework support.

Ubuntu *gems*, First Generation members, and families come together for Family and Community Celebrations three to four times a year. Family and Community Celebrations invite families and the community-at-large to enjoy live music, food, and experience the dance, theater, writing and visual art that Ubuntu *gems* and community artists have created.

The caring relationships that First Generation and college mentors build with our Ubuntu *gems* is the foundation of Ubuntu. To lay the building blocks for a successful mentoring network, First Generation members receive ongoing training in empathic listening and communication, conflict de-escalation, gender equity, understanding the socialization of boys and hyper-masculinity, leadership styles and group facilitation.

## **MAJORS, INTERESTS**

Arts, cultural activism, youth empowerment, youth development, arts education, art therapy, mentoring, youth programming, education, academic tutoring, social justice, community building, culture.

## **SKILLS, REQUIREMENTS**

- Be passionate about children and young adults, their well-being, and creating spaces for youth voices.
- Be Interested in community building
- Be playful, patient, reliable, flexible, good communication skills
- Have reliable access to transportation
- Multilingual a plus
- References
- CORI check (*required for working with children*).

## **RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE**

- Participate in an orientation/training
- Build caring relationships with Ubuntu children and high school mentors
- Participate in supervision and team meetings as needed.
- If interested, lead creative workshops while interning at Ubuntu (dance, singing, art, theater, social justice, etc...)

**WEBSITE:** [performanceproject.org](http://performanceproject.org)

**SCHEDULE:** Ubuntu meets Mondays 3:30 - 6:00 PM

**SPRINGFIELD LOCATION:** Rebecca M. Johnson School, 55 Catharine Street Springfield, MA

**CONTACT:** Julie Lichtenberg - Call/text: 413-374-4938 or Email: [info@performanceproject.org](mailto:info@performanceproject.org)

*We strongly encourage BIPOC students to apply and/or reach out for more information about this opportunity.*

## **WHAT IS “UBUNTU?”**

Ubuntu is a classical African philosophy. It is the essence of being human. Ubuntu speaks about the fact that we cannot exist as human beings in isolation. Ubuntu is about our interconnectedness. Ubuntu says that you can't be fully human all by yourself, and when you have this quality - Ubuntu - you are known for your generosity.

*“We think of ourselves far too frequently as just individuals, separated from one another, whereas you are connected and what you do affects the whole world. When you do well, it spreads out; it is for the whole of humanity.” - Desmond Tutu*