

Mission: Reclaiming the village through cultural liberation by holding space for internal transformation, birth justice, and healing arts.



Rootead Enrichment Center

Annual Report FY 2022 - 2023

Board: Dell Darnell, Danielle Flint, Rebecca Hahn, Chelsie Hubbard-Downs, Janet Muller, Alessandra Pye

Staff: Adia Brown, Rianna Clay, Tia Davis, Erica, Dixon, Lilly Henley, Nikki Horner, Tyana Hughley, Carmen James, CoCo Marie, Heather Mitchell, Kama Tai Mitchell, Vanessa Moon, Patrick Mugan, Will Stewart

We 'reclaim the village' through three branches; Youth Enrichment, Community Healing & Birth Justice

Youth Enrichment



We enrich youth through African drumming and dancing, social-emotional learning, strengthening communication and leadership skills, and age-appropriate discussions regarding nervous system regulation and wellness.

- 20+ children at one-week 2022 Summer Camp for ages 5 - 12
- 18+ families (total of 70 registrants) participated in three sessions of Rootead In Youth for children aged 2 - 8 years old
- 24+ pre-teens and teenagers ages 12 - 18 years old participated in our pre-professional dance company, RYDDE (Rootead Youth Drum & Dance Ensemble).
- Notable performances: Juneteenth 2022, Winter Showcase & RADfest.
- Yearly highlights: RYDDE lock-in/slumber party and Chicago trip to Ayodele conference

Four of our youth are seniors and graduating out of our program!

Naylah: 5 years with RYDDE!
Vidamay: 2 years with RYDDE!

Cassie: 2 years with RYDDE!
Harmonie: 2 years with RYDDE!



Community Healing

Offerings for adults and families that focuses on creating safe and brave spaces for connection, wellness, joy, liberation and healing

- First annual Juneteenth Celebration with an attendance of 200 community members(2022)
- 250+ people participated in programs such as; Radicle Nights, dance parties for LGBTQIA+ people, Queer Grief Circle, MOC (Men of Color) Yoga, Adult Drum Circles, and African Diasporic Dance.
- 189 community members applied for mental health services through the Black & Brown Therapy Collective.
- 17 yogis participated in the first cohort of Roots of Yoga, our yoga teacher training.

Birth Justice



Services aim to reduce infant mortality of black babies and disrupt the barriers and risk factors many people face while seeking healthcare and support during pregnancy, birth, and postpartum by providing resources and supportive services.

- Red Birth Green, our intergenerational & multi-ethnic doula collective, is comprised of 10 community doulas
- 24 families received birth doula services, and 5 families received postpartum services. 19 babies were born with the assistance of a Red Birth Green doula.
- 40+ people participated in programs such as Release: A Healing Workshop, Grandma's Hands: Herbs of the Black Southern Tradition, and 10+ parents of babies aged infant - 4 years old joined us for Village Playdates.
- 13 people became certified birth doulas through the first Community Doula Training.



Operations

Finances

Rootead Enrichment Center has grown so much over the previous year!

We have increased capacity by hiring new staff. Welcome - Rianna Clay, Patrick Mugan, Vanessa Moon, Carmen James, Tyana Hughley & Will Stewart! And we have added a new board member. Welcome - Janet Muller!

Through our many collaborations, we have impacted 500+ youth in our community. Thank you!



We aim to be good stewards of the resources we have been given by our funders and community partners.

\$20,000+ worth of scholarships have been awarded to community members to receive birth services, and to participate in Roots of Yoga, Summer Camps, Rootead in Youth, Community Doula training, and more.

We have been intentional about hiring or contracting with local Black & Brown businesses such as Cornerstone Creations, Shaq's Handy Services, DJ Disobedience, Cima's Kitchen, B&W Charters, Zooroona, DJ Boogie, Maya James, Dr. Kandace Lavender, Soul Artistry, and more.

This year, we also supported a few entrepreneurial youth;

Thank you, Lewis Carrington, for watering our plants!
Thank you, Nayla Lewis, for cleaning our studio and office!
Thank you, Lily Hahn, for organizing our storage room!

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Rootead Enrichment Center

A year of connection, transformation, & joy!



Come vibe with us!

505 E. Kalamazoo Avenue
Suite 4
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
Tuesday - Friday, 11AM - 6PM

Testimonials

Because of my disability I am on Medicare which made it difficult for me to be able to afford a therapist. Because God is so good he made a way for me to have therapy through BBTC with a scholarship that required \$0 from me. Thank you BBTC!

- L.R.

Black & Brown Therapy Collective Participant

I love my experience at Rootead because its an amazing place to be whenever I'm feeling down. Whenever I'm at Rootead my mood is always picked up, I love dance and to do dance with my friends makes it even better. Rootead has always been something to help me through my pain and has brought me so much joy and happiness. I will forever love Rootead.

- Ash, age 16
RYDDE member

I really enjoy RYDDE because I get to travel to different places and perform; not only to perform, but also to learn and have my friends next to me as we experience the whole thing. RYDDE gives me the confidence and emotional outlet that I don't really get to express anywhere else. If I could describe RYDDE in five words, they'd be: Expressive, fun, community, learning, and love.

- Naylah, age 18
RYDDE member

I really needed therapy after my god sister's suicide attempts. Once she was moved out I needed help managing my emotions that stemmed from her moving out. With therapy I was finally able to manage my emotions and how I cope with them.

- A.E.
Black & Brown Therapy Collective Participant

As a Black queer person, Yoga Teacher Training helped me forever to be a student that utilizes this tool for liberation to fight against systematic oppression. To allow myself to have access to my body, my breath, to slow down within the depths of consciousness and unconscious. To continue to unlearn misinformation about Yoga and to be healing-informed. For the hopes to share with people and communities who may or may have not experienced. With more love in the world.

- Jasmine W.
Roots of Yoga Participant

I love the experience of Rootead because when I am feeling down I feel brought-up by drumming. Whenever I am at Rootead drumming I can let all of my anger out and have fun.

- Haile, age 14
RYDDE member

Gratitude

Many thanks and deep gratitude to our supporters!



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