

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Contact: Dawn Goodman Washington

Phone: 240.645.0730

Email: dgoodman@artsontheblock.com



Youth Rise “From the Ashes” Through Art

Sasha Bruce Youth Work to unveil a new youth created mosaic, celebrating resilience in the face of adversity and the power of art.

Kensington, MD - September 10, 2017: Sasha Bruce Youth Work will have an informal unveiling of their first major art commission at their SE 8th Street location in Washington DC on Friday, September 15th. The commission was created in collaboration with Arts on the Block (AOB) by teen participants of the Marion S. Barry Summer Youth Employment Program (MBSYEP) through Sasha Bruce Youth Work.

Over the summer, Sasha Bruce partnered with Arts on the Block by recruiting participants for AOB's Pour Your Art Out (PYAO) DC apprenticeship program that engages youth in managing real-world art projects for paying clients. Throughout the six-week program, PYAO Apprentices interfaced with real-world clients who commissioned them to create beautiful works of art, creating an opportunity for youth to experience a unique and effective combination of job readiness and art/design skills-building. These commissions will be installed in public spaces.

The mosaic commissioned by Sasha Bruce, titled "Rising from the Ashes" is an abstract 'Phoenix' image representing the unfortunate, but often powerful process that some youth and young adults at Sasha Bruce must go through in order to come out as constructive and contributing adults.

The unveiling ceremony will be 20-30 minutes with PYAO-DC Apprentice Artist introductions as well as short presentations by Arts on the Block teaching artist, Adjoa Burrowes, and senior representatives of Sasha Bruce Youth Work.

The commission of “Rising from the Ashes” was graciously sponsored by Susan and Kenton Campbell.

To learn more about Arts on the Block, visit www.artsontheblock.com

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About Arts on the Block: Since its founding in 2003, AOB's mission is to empower creative youth to imagine and shape fulfilling futures for themselves and contribute to the quality of life of their communities. We realize our mission by providing real-world experiences in the arts, arts education, and entrepreneurial training geared toward opening new pathways to learning, self-discovery, and achievement.

About Sasha Bruce Youth Work: The mission of Sasha Bruce Youthwork is to improve the lives of runaway, homeless, abused, and neglected at-risk youth and their families in the Washington area. We achieve this by providing shelter, counseling, life skills training and positive youth development activities to approximately 1,500 youth and 5,000 family members each year. Serving a community where systems are broken, and young people and their families are struggling to overcome obstacles, SBY uses proven youth development practices to help youth find new ways of surviving, thriving, and realizing success. Now with over 40 years of experience meeting the needs of DC's youth and families, with innovative programming and dedicated staff, Sasha Bruce Youthwork is always willing to listen, and always ready to help.