

Collective Impact and How Each Collaborator Benefitted from BYAEP

*“Our research shows that successful collective impact initiatives typically have five conditions that together produce true alignment and lead to powerful results: a common agenda, shared measurement systems, mutually reinforcing activities, continuous communication, and backbone support organizations.” – John Kania & Mark Kramer (2011, p. 39), *Collective Impact**

Medicine Wheel Productions

I think the most lasting benefit that the BYAEP grant from the Barr Foundation had on our organization and the people we serve is how the grant honored and supported best practices and recognized those practices in the grantee organizations. BYAEP allowed Medicine Wheel to quantify and demonstrate objectively what we knew about our participants anecdotally. Having hard data about the impact we are having on the youth we serve makes a much more powerful statement to the community, the Board, and funders (both present and future). The BYAEP Framework really helped us create stronger programs and focused our energy on what we do well, on areas that we need to improve on, and in areas that we need to pull back from. It was a deeply satisfying journey for Medicine Wheel to be on our common path of moving beyond diversity to inclusion, building community from the inside out, using art as a threshold. – Michael Dowling, Artistic Director

The Theater Offensive

We hadn't anticipated the extent to which the BYAEP process would benefit our strategic planning process and our program development in general. Sure, all of our programs had always had evaluation plans, and we had learned a great deal from assessments. But our association with BYAEP has changed our organizational culture, increasing the energy we devote to understanding the depth and complexity of our program goals. This clarity is tremendously useful in the midst of the constricting financial environment we face. We are better able to make the tough choices about priorities than we would otherwise be. – Abe Rybeck, Executive Artistic Director

ZUMIX

Implementing the BYAEP evaluations has been both rewarding and challenging for ZUMIX. We have particularly found the Program Evaluations to be helpful in allowing us to assess our programs and enhance our work based on direct feedback from our students. Because ZUMIX offers twenty-three different group programs over the course of three semesters (winter/spring, summer & fall), our biggest challenge has been an issue of capacity—truly planning, implementing, inputting, and analyzing these evaluations and the data they provide to their greatest potential. This has given us the insight that the BYAEP materials and their implementation guidelines are not a one-size-fits-all model. We have carefully considered how to make these materials work for us both in our current year of programming and in the future. – Kim Dawson, Program Director

Hyde Square Task Force

BYAEP gave us an opportunity to capture how our youth connect with the community and develop leadership skills through the arts. Leadership and community are two things that our organization puts a lot of emphasis on. The tools were able to give us valuable positive results that support our strong organizational focus in these two areas. – Barbara Civill, Manager of School-Based and Cultural Programs

Raw Art Works

What BYAEP has done for us, first and foremost, has been to elevate the quality of our work with youth, due to the focus that it has brought to the areas where our practice can increase in efficacy. Secondly, as an organization now in our 25th year, this has allowed us to use our own field knowledge and wisdom to work together with peer agencies to collectively achieve an impact greater than the sum of our own diligent individual selves. We have been looking for ways that we can leverage greater collaboration and deeper learning about what we do as youth arts programs, and BYAEP has provided that opportunity. – Kit Jenkins, Executive Director



“Through our art, we are able to send out a message from our hearts or minds that we sometimes cannot do by words. I feel that my first year here, I was very introverted and not sure of who I wanted to be. Each year I felt old layers peeling and new layers building about who I am as a person and an artist. Here, the staff believe in the youth’s unknown potential. It helps us to heal, grow, and change.” – Dari, age 17