



## NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

### **VOICES AGAINST VIOLENCE AND THE FRICK PITTSBURGH RECEIVE \$150,000 GRANT FROM THE RICHARD KING MELLON FOUNDATION TO EXPAND PROGAMMATIC COLLABORATION**

***Grant award will further a comprehensive arts program that provides youth and families with new opportunities for creative expression, self-advocacy, and growth***

PITTSBURGH, PA, February 14, 2022—Voices Against Violence and The Frick Pittsburgh announce a \$150,000 award from the Richard King Mellon Foundation to support an organizational partnership that is expanding arts-based educational experiences for youth and families in the Hilltop region of South Pittsburgh.

The partnership between Voices Against Violence, a grassroots, community-focused Hilltop organization, and the Frick, an art and history museum in Point Breeze, began in 2020, as a summer camp collaboration that culminated in *Beautifully Black in Red and Green*, a youth art installation led by artist Ernest Bey and creative/cultural educator Luqmon Abdus-Salaam, and currently on display on the museum campus.

Since then, the partnership has grown organically to embrace the full year—from expanded summer camp activities held at each location, to collaborative afterschool programming based at Voices Against Violence, to special events that engage families with the broad range of cultural experiences at the Frick, including art exhibitions, nature walks, concerts, and even winter skating.

— more —

South Pittsburgh's Hilltop communities (including Allentown, Arlington, Arlington Heights, Beltzhoover, Bon Air, Carrick, Knoxville, Mt. Oliver, St. Clair, and Mt. Oliver Borough) experience a disproportional share of crime and gun-related violence. Voices Against Violence, founded in 1995 by Richard Carrington, Sr., provides out-of-school programs that support the mental health and wellbeing of young people in the Hilltop region, by providing essential creative outlets in a safe, caring environment with trusted adults.

Together, Voices Against Violence and The Frick Pittsburgh are creating new creative opportunities that give young people from the Hilltop the chance to explore and make art as a means of creative expression. With support by the Richard King Mellon Foundation, participants will engage with all of the arts, including music and movement, and will make meaningful connections between the history of Pittsburgh and present-day experiences. "Avenues of creative expression such as art, writing, and music provide safe spaces for individuals to explore and process experiences and emotions," reflects Maureen Anderson, Ed.D., director of programs for Voices Against Violence. "Through drawing and painting, carving, spoken word poetry, and creative writing, young people have brought to light concerns or challenges, and with caring adults and collaborative mental health professionals, they are able to work towards healing."

Violence prevention can take many forms. Richard M. Carrington, Sr., executive director of Voices Against Violence explained, "This is a great way to build bridges between communities and open new doors of possibility for our families and youth. We look forward to our children exploring their innate creativity and moving beyond the violence and pain so many of them experience."

Elizabeth E. Barker, Ph.D., executive director of The Frick Pittsburgh, observes, "All of us at the Frick and Voices Against Violence feel deeply grateful to receive this substantial grant from the Richard King Mellon Foundation to support our partnership. We're tremendously excited by the opportunities ahead to empower young people and their families to navigate challenges and lead successful lives made more beautiful through engagement with the arts."

"This partnership between Voices against Violence and the Frick is yet another demonstration of how nonprofits can extend their positive impact by working together," said Sam Reiman, director of the Richard King Mellon Foundation. "The arts can be a powerful pathway to help our young people to avoid violence and to see and seize new pathways to economic mobility, and the Foundation was pleased to fund their collaboration."

## **ABOUT THE RICHARD KING MELLON FOUNDATION**

Founded in 1947, the Richard King Mellon Foundation is the largest foundation in Southwestern Pennsylvania, and one of the [50 largest in the world](#). The Foundation's 2020 year-end endowment was \$3.1 billion, and its Trustees in 2020 disbursed \$130 million in grants and Program Related Investments. The Foundation focuses its funding on six primary program areas, delineated in its [2021-2030 Strategic Plan](#).

## **ABOUT THE FRICK PITTSBURGH**

Located on the estate of 19<sup>th</sup>-century industrialist Henry Clay Frick, The Frick Pittsburgh offers authentic experiences with art, history and nature that inspire and delight. Visitors of all ages and backgrounds are warmly welcomed to explore The Frick Art Museum, offering world-class collections of European art and Chinese porcelain alongside an active schedule of temporary exhibitions; Clayton, the Frick family's French château-style mansion (remodeled by architect Frederick J. Osterling in the 1890s); the Car and Carriage Museum; and a large working greenhouse designed by architects Alden & Harlow—all nestled on six acres of beautifully landscaped lawns and gardens in Pittsburgh's East End. Amenities include an Education Center, the Frick children's playhouse (also designed by Alden & Harlow), The Café at the Frick, and the Grable Visitor Center, which houses the Frick Museum Store. Information about The Frick Pittsburgh is available online at [TheFrickPittsburgh.org](http://TheFrickPittsburgh.org).

## **ABOUT VOICES AGAINST VIOLENCE**

Established in 1995, Voices Against Violence's mission is to strategically and proactively reduce interpersonal conflict among youth through activities focused on prevention and diversion. Voices Against Violence serves young people ages 4 to 24 and their families residing in South Pittsburgh communities, including Hilltop communities (Allentown, Arlington, Arlington Heights, Beltzhoover, Bon Air, Carrick, Knoxville, Mt. Oliver, St. Clair, and Mt. Oliver Borough), as well as Beechview, Bon, Air, Brookline, Mt. Washington, Overbrook, and the Southside. Over the last 25+ years, this grassroots, community-focused organization has developed and implemented a wide range of programs to serve area youth, including numerous anti-violence and restorative justice programs, street violence intervention, conflict mediation and resolution, school-based retention programs, and after school programs, as well as facilitated parent groups, managed summer employment programs, and cultivated other leaders who have since branched off to start their own programs. Voices Against Violence also hosts a free summer camp for area youth ages 4 to 14. Information about Voices Against Violence is available at [vavpgh.org](http://vavpgh.org).

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

The Frick Pittsburgh is located at 7227 Reynolds Street in Pittsburgh's Point Breeze neighborhood. Free parking is available in the Frick's off-street lot or along adjacent streets. For information about hours of operation and visiting, the public may visit the Frick online at [TheFrickPittsburgh.org](http://TheFrickPittsburgh.org) or call 412-371-0600.

**For additional information or images, please contact Kaitlyn Clem, Marketing & Communications Associate,  
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