



OUR MISSION

LEAP provides quality educational arts programs to promote access and equity for New York City students underserved in the arts. We inspire diverse school communities to love learning, and build their creativity, collaboration, communication, and critical thinking skills.

We aim to support students' ability to be creative, use critical thinking, communicate their ideas, and collaborate with others. At LEAP, we refer to these four key skills as the 4Cs. These are the learning and innovation skills identified by the Partnership for 21st Century Learning (P21) as essential for youth to succeed in work and life. The 4Cs are direct outcomes of authentic and rigorous artistic inquiry, and the areas our participants learn and grow.

At LEAP, we define the 4Cs in this way:

Creativity

The ability to think and work with others in a way that activates imagination and expands thinking, leading to new ideas.

Critical Thinking

The ability to reason, make judgments, and solve problems.

Communication

The ability to express oneself clearly with oral, written, and nonverbal skills.

Collaboration

The ability to work effectively and respectfully with a diverse group or individuals as a team toward a common goal, while valuing the contributions of others.



FALL 2020 PROGRAM OFFERINGS

All LEAP programming can be done in-person or virtually (synchronously) throughout the 2020-21 school year.

360° Musical Theater - Arts and Activism, Grades 3-12: The LEAP 360° Musical Theater residency program provides a fully immersive experience in musical theater, connecting performance arts with history and social justice. Students will discover the world of musical theater with interactive lessons facilitated by the LEAP Artists LIVE! Ensemble members. Lesson content includes a 360° exploration of important historical moments in American history. Over the course of 25 sessions, students will research and analyze documentaries, photos, and other artifacts to get real accounts of this historical moment. They will watch the LEAP Artists LIVE! staged performance, learn scenes and songs from the musical, devise and create a new moment, and rehearse and perform a sharing of their work.

LEAP's 360° musical theater offerings include:

- **The Movement - An Acapella Musical**

Content: Music, Drama, Step Dance, Civil Rights, Playwriting, American History

The Movement is an acapella musical that uses narratives, harmonious singing, rhythmic movement, and historical photographic images to tell untold stories from the perspective of the young people in Birmingham, Alabama in 1963 who marched against segregation, helping to change the face of history.

- **Southern Folk: The Story of Sharecroppers**

Content: Blues Music, Drama, Dance, Playwriting, History, Geography

Southern Folk takes you on a musical journey through the Mississippi Delta during the late 19th century and follows the story of first-generation, born-free Americans. Through narrative storytelling scenes and blues songs, this coming of age story portrays the complexities of life that sharecroppers faced, and centers on Johnny, a sharecropper, who has dreams of moving north and makes a pact to leave for Chicago to find a life beyond the southern fields.



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LEAP Literacy, Grades K-5: LEAP Literacy is designed to develop in young readers a love of language arts through artistic inquiry and exploration. LEAP's literacy program is designed for K-5th grade students and uses a hands-on, active learning approach through a variety of art disciplines to improve literacy. Each session includes a read aloud connected to the theme of the lesson, along with artmaking, whether it be visual art, movement, or music-based. LEAP Literacy's hands-on, interdisciplinary teaching strategies are based on evidence that students learn best when they are engaged in multiple ways.

Public Art: Art for Change, Grades 6-12: Now in its 14th year, LEAP's Public Art Program has been reimagined to fit the unique challenges our schools will face in the 2020-21 school year. Art for Change uses a social justice framework and culturally responsive pedagogy to empower middle and high school students to have a voice in their communities and express themselves on social issues through the creation and public exhibition of their collaborative work. Student artists will showcase work that speaks about the critical community issues they address in their art. This program instills social responsibility and civic engagement, imparts creativity, artistic skills concepts, and techniques, and fosters peer leadership, self-confidence, and collaboration.

Poetry in Motion, Grades K-12: LEAP's Poetry in Motion is a movement-based residency that will combine poetry and dance. By using poetry as the driving force, students will explore themes in literacy, such as imagery, annotation, comprehension, and creative writing. Students use this material and the language of dance as a guide to exploring movement improvisation, learned choreography, collaboration, as well as other compositional strategies.

LEAP OnStage, Grades 6-12: LEAP OnStage is an intensive playwriting residency that immerses young people in storytelling, linear thinking, and creative expression. Throughout this process, students are introduced to the impact of theater as an art form and the thrill of live performance. This residency provides a safe and structured platform for students to creatively express themselves, enhance their literacy and writing skills, work collaboratively, and celebrate one another's accomplishments.

August Wilson Monologue Program, Grades 9-12: LEAP's highly regarded August Wilson Monologue Program introduces high school students to the life and work of renowned playwright August Wilson. In this program, led by LEAP's skilled theater professionals, students explore Wilson's 10-play "Century Cycle"—a dramatic chronicle of the 20th Century African American experience—and examine important social issues and historical events. Students strengthen their acting skills and performance techniques while entering the world of monologues from all of Wilson's works.

Tomorrow's Entrepreneurs, Grades 4-5, 6-8: The LEAP Tomorrow's Entrepreneurs (TE) program challenges students to design and promote a product that solves a community need. Through hands-on challenges, students explore the creative use of materials and apply concepts from Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM). Students then design and build prototypes of their products, and develop promotional materials.



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Step, Grades K-12: Step is an activity in which a student-led dance collective will learn the art of creating percussive sound using full body rhythmic movements. Young dancers will learn traditional step routines as well as explore creating rhythmic performances surrounding social activism themes.

Dancing Around the World, Grades K-12: A LEAP dance artist will work with students to help them develop a multicultural awareness and a knowledge of the body as a vehicle for expression. Students will learn specific dance techniques while exploring and performing traditional and contemporary dances from around the world. Students will gain self-confidence, communication, and team-building skills, and will be able to share an original dance at the end of the program.

Mindfulness, Grades K-5: Mindfulness for grades K-5 is a unique program designed as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic with a heavy focus on building resilience, gratitude, and physical practices to support a healthy body and mind. This program follows the LEAP Literacy model, beginning each session with a read-aloud connected to the theme. Students will learn traditional hatha yoga postures, breathing exercises, meditations, and mindfulness exercises. Students will also create a Mindfulness Journal and will receive prompts for writing and artmaking.

Visual Arts, Grades K-12: At LEAP, the visual arts use imagination, observation, and hands-on creation to explore two and three dimensional media. LEAP visual arts programs explore a variety of media to develop skills in experimentation and exploration with conventional and unconventional materials. Students develop their own view of artistic integrity based on their experience. From drawing and painting, to collage, printmaking, and more, LEAP's visual arts residencies can focus on a variety of disciplines.

Digital Photography, Grades K-12: Through this program, students will use iPads, iPhones, and/or digital cameras to explore basic digital photography techniques. Through a project-based learning model, students will gain skills in lighting, perspective, portraiture, storytelling, photo editing, etc., as well as gain insight into photography careers by exploring the work of real-world photographers.

Drama, Grades 3-12: LEAP drama is an in-depth exploration of acting, movement, storytelling, playwriting, and performance. By engaging in content rooted in a social justice framework, LEAP's drama classes aim to cultivate the interpersonal skills of listening and empathy as driving forces for learning. This work may include understanding theater and storytelling as activism, creating character, devising and developing narrative, rehearsing a script, acting and movement for the screen, and/or exploring any aspect of the theatrical process.

Using the tools of body, voice, and imagination, LEAP drama residencies challenge young dramatists to:

- BE SEEN (body, face)
- BE HEARD (physical voice, online voice, cultural voice, community voice)
- BE-LIEVE (imagination, visualization, goals, empowerment, self-confidence)



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Creative Writing, Grades 3-12: Students will develop skills in creative writing, exploring both fiction and nonfiction writing through projects like poetry, fantastical short stories, comics, and scriptwriting.

Singing and Songwriting, Grades K-12: Working with a LEAP music artist, students will select a theme, poem, or piece of literature as an inspiration to begin writing their own songs or one collaborative song as a class and then perform for the school community. Through this process, students will learn about melody, arrangement, meter, rhythm, and lyrics.

Music Blueprint: Then and Now, Grades 6-12: This series is designed for participants to not only appreciate the music of current 21st Century artists, but to also explore the past influences that are a part of the artists' creative DNA. Through the lens of contemporary musicians, participants will connect the dots to discover their favorite artists' musical genealogy.

The Soundtrack of American History, Grades 6-12: Participants will explore U.S. social history and events through the words and music that served as the backdrop of these critical moments. By listening to music, reading lyrics, and viewing historical footage, participants will see the connection between social movements and musical genres. Lessons are designed to incorporate active learning, where students will opt to write or create a digital audio recording for or from a social movement.

**WE BELIEVE IN THE
POWER OF ART.**





REMOTE FAMILY ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOPS

Yoga and Stress Management - Come and discover the calming and healing effects of Yoga. Explore breathing and meditation, and learn new yoga positions and terminology for the novice yogi.

Bookmaking - Make books together! Fold, sew, paste, pop, and draw on paper. Learn the basics of bookmaking and explore innovative, fun book techniques using materials found in your home.

Rhythm and Beats - Explore creative movement and sounds using your body as a percussive instrument. Join this upbeat and high energy workshop to learn simple sequences of timed footstomps, clapping, and patting to create catchy rhythms and beats.

Vision Boarding - A vision board is a collage of images and words that you can display to inspire your daily life and short and long term goals. Images and words can spark motivation, happiness, and be reminders of what you want to achieve. It could also be filled with things that inspire you or leave you feeling happy.

Free Movement - Dance to the rhythms and beats. This workshop starts with a warm up and eases in to a high energy dance class that is fun for the entire family.

Mindfulness - In this workshop, families will explore ways of strengthening their emotional connections and communication skills using story, mindfulness, artmaking, and conversation. Adults will be offered several youth-centered tools for supporting their family through conflicting, ambivalent, and challenging emotions.

Native American Family Pow Wow Sweat - Families will learn the Coeur d'alene "Crow Hop" Pow Wow Dance in this movement-based workshop. We will be breaking down the steps to the Crow Hop and then sweating it out to Native American music!

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