



Freedom Arts & Education Center

Art & Academic Workshops

Freedom Arts & Education Center offers over 50 Art and Academic Workshops! These workshops are interactive seminars that provide students of all ages and backgrounds with unique and meaningful learning opportunities that combine arts and academics. Our highly skilled teaching artists facilitate explorations in multiple disciplines in a fun, educational setting aligning with school curriculum and principles. These workshops can run as one-time, one-hour sessions, or can be spread out over multiple visits as a cumulative residency. Areas of study include music, painting, drawing, writing, dance, theater, literacy, math, history, culture, philosophy, physics, electronics, technology, and even career research! Browse our Art & Academic Workshops Catalog and contact us at Info@FAECSTL.org or (314) 795-3803 for pricing and scheduling.

Street Drumming

Students will learn basic rhythms and grooves as they apply to the streets! Found percussion items such as buckets, pots, and pans will be used in a fun way to teach rhythms and playing as a group. Students will learn rhythmic counting, improvisation, listening, and how to play as a group.

Music | ages 7-16 | 25 students

African Percussion

Students will explore the diverse percussion traditions of Africa. They will expand their cultural knowledge and learn the techniques and rhythms of authentic instruments like the djembe, caxixi, agogo, and kalimba. By using the new techniques they have learned to play rhythmic games and call-and-response exercises, students will increase their musical abilities and communication skills.

Music | ages 8-16 | 12 students

Music Production

In this workshop, students will learn the fundamentals of how to create a modern song from conception to release! Students will get hands on experience with industry standard digital audio workstations and guided instruction from experienced songwriters and producers. From lyric writing to recording to mixing, students get to walk away with an original song and the skills to create more. While exercising artistic and scientific skills, this workshop combines creative thinking and practical application to encourage and develop young songwriters and producers.

Music | ages 12+ | 12 students

Rhythm Rumlbers

This fun workshop gets young students moving and grooving! Through energetic activities, students will get to dance, drum, and learn how to interpret and play basic rhythms together. By incorporating music and movement, this exciting workshop exercises bodies and minds while teaching rhythmic counting, improvisation, and listening.

Music | ages 3-7 | 20 students

Musicology

This workshop is intended to develop a basic musical foundation for anybody who wants to know how music works! By discussing fundamental musical concepts, notation, and philosophy, the science of music will become clear. Students will play rhythm games, explore acoustics, play percussion and keyboard instruments, participate in ear training exercises, and get to learn how our Western musical system works. Don't worry if you think you are tone-deaf or have no rhythm. This workshop will prove otherwise!

Music | ages 7+ | 25 students



Pulse, Rhythm, & Life

When a group of people is united by a universal power such as rhythm, barriers are broken down and perspectives are expanded. This workshop uses drumming as a means of improving students' abilities to interact with a group and empowering them to be strong leaders. Students will learn the diverse uses of the drum within various cultures and contexts. They will learn how rhythm impacts our brains. They will learn that listening and cooperation are not only conducive to a strong percussion ensemble, but that these principles extend to everyday life and positive group interaction. Through fun musical activities and rhythmic exercises that connect drumming to expression and unity, students will expand aural, verbal, interpersonal, and leadership skills.

Music | ages 12+ | 30 students

Think You Can DJ?

Turntablism, or DJing, is the art of manipulating sounds and creating new music, and is one of the pillars of hip-hop. In this workshop, students will learn all about DJing, from the music history, culture, and theory of scratching to production, spinning to composition. Students will gain skills such as how to scratch to a beat, how to beat match, and how to make a party mix.

Music | ages 8+ | 15 students

World Percussion

Learn to play a wide array of percussion instruments from around the globe! We will explore the basic rhythms and techniques for bongos, congas, maracas, guiros, claves, agogos, cowbells, and more. We will survey the musical cultures of Cuba, South America, and Africa. Through musical exercises and games, students will expand their cultural consciousness, improve listening skills, and increase musical ability.

Music, Academic | ages 8-16 | 15 students



Instrument Engineers

In this workshop, students will push their creative side as they construct custom musical instruments out of household materials and reclaimed items. This workshop includes a discussion of the science of musical instruments, the historical and cultural significance of major instruments, and of course the opportunity to design and build! Students will work together to create familiar and brand new instruments out of provided materials and play music with their creations.

Music, Academic | ages 8+ | 20 students

Duke to Dilla

How are Duke Ellington and J Dilla connected? What about Miles Davis and Madlib? Thelonious Monk and Talib Kweli? We will show you! Learn the history of jazz and hip-hop and how they are related as we take you through a crash course on the early life of jazz music and end up with hip-hop. We will listen to some of the most significant records and discuss influential artists from both genres. Students will discover how mainstream media and historical events shaped and separated these American art forms.

Music, Academic | ages 13+ | 50 students



Graffiti Art

Let kids "tag" the legal way! In this workshop, students will learn the ins and outs of aerosol art. Students will express their creative side while using spray paint cans, rollers, and other graffiti art tools. They'll learn the history of American graffiti and maybe come home with a "tag name." Students will hone their visual and motor skills and increase their abilities to work in groups by creating collaborative pieces.

Visual Art | ages 8+ | 20 students

Mural Making

Students will learn how to create a mural from concept to creation. They will work collaboratively to create a wall installation on large plywood panels. The students will define a theme and a story for the mural to express, then will create the basic outline using a grid. The end product is a unique piece of art that can be installed and displayed on site to communicate a common story or important message.

Visual Art | ages 10+ | 12 students



Creative Calisthenics

Creative and critical thinking come together in this fun workshop! Through games and activities that range from unique to downright silly, students will exercise their visual art and creative writing abilities to get a full artistic workout. Participants of all ages will realize and utilize their creativity and put aside worries about lack of technique. Students will strengthen communication skills, creative thinking, writing, and drawing abilities while letting loose and having fun!

Visual Art, Creative Writing | ages 8+ | 30 students

Art Innovators

How do you paint without a brush? How do you make art out of trash? In this visual art workshop, students will use everyday household items and recyclable materials in place of the more commonly used implements! Paintbrushes and sponges will be replaced by paper towel rolls, tissue paper, and even bubble wrap to discover new textures for creating art. Students will learn to think outside the box and be free to experiment with innovative processes in the visual art realm.

Visual Art | ages 6-12 | 15 students max

Water Color Doodling

Do you find yourself doodling in school? This hands-on workshop will teach students about watercolor paints, brushes, and techniques. Students will create vibrant and bold backgrounds and then use their imaginations to doodle over their artwork. No painting or drawing experience is needed; just bring your imagination!

Visual Art | ages 6-14 | 20 students

Art Explorers

Even the youngest students have creative abilities! In this engaging workshop, students get to experience new media and work their motor skills through painting, drawing, sculpting, and printmaking. This workshop encourages young students to engage in new art forms and enjoy creativity!

Visual Art | ages 3-7 | 20 students max

Primary Painters

After reading interactive visual art books, young students will have an opportunity to combine literacy and visual art in an age-appropriate painting activity. Students will learn about primary and secondary colors and create their own piece of artwork by exploring color combinations. This engaging workshop will increase kinesthetic and visual learning skills and allow students to relate a fun activity to reading.

Visual Art, Academic | ages 3-8 | 20 students

Poetry Writing

Students will be introduced to the art of poetry. They will improve their ability to communicate thoughts and feelings more precisely and powerfully through this art form. Writing exercises will involve discussing and imitating published poems from a multitude of styles and traditions.

Creative Writing | ages 12-16 | 15 students

Spoken Wordshop

This is a forum where students can learn the art of spoken word. They will learn how to write, remember, and recite poetry effectively. This is a tool to help prepare kids for public speaking, and build confidence in expressing and sharing their personal thoughts and views. Group writing sessions will also teach them to engage in conversation and interact with their peers.

Creative Writing | ages 8+ | 15 students



Blues Songwriting

Students will get to express themselves through the blues! Learn about the blues and how to write and perform a blues song. Students will get to write their own lyrics and play a harmonica or percussion instrument while creatively expressing what makes them “blue.”

Creative Writing, Music | ages 6-14 | 20 students

Tell Your Story

This workshop creates an environment in which students find the comfort and courage to tell their story. Through guided writing and visual arts prompts, students will gain experience in expressing their thoughts and feelings through art and learn to accept the thoughts and feelings of others.

Creative Writing, Visual Art | ages 12+ | 15 students



Study Breaks & Beats

This creative writing workshop focuses on cultural identity in history against the backdrop of hip-hop. Students will focus on portions of history, typically overlooked or ignored, then expound on their meaning. Students will be challenged to incorporate what they've learned into spoken-word poems, rap songs, and short historical fiction. This unique workshop improves creative writing skills, increases historical consciousness, and encourages critical thinking with relevant music as its foundation.

Creative Writing, Music | ages 12+ | 20 students



Hip Hop Dance

Enjoy an upbeat hip hop dance workshop, including a dance with some well known moves! Students will learn the innovation of movement design and create their own original dance. This fun workshop exercises kinesthetic learning skills and expands cultural knowledge.

Dance | ages 12+ | 15 students

Praise Dance

Students will learn the basic techniques of Horton style modern dance and apply them to an upbeat American praise dance inspired by the work of Alvin Ailey. Students will learn dance warm ups and techniques including primitive squat, lateral, leg swing, and lunge. This workshop is a fun physical workout that improves kinesthetic learning skills and expands cultural knowledge through a unique style of dance.

Dance | ages 12+ | 15 students

Tap Dance

Come learn the basic steps of rhythm tap! Tap dance is a great part of African American history that has been adopted by many cultures throughout America and across the world. Students will discover this great heritage as they learn the modern tap dance. Please bring comfortable flat-bottom shoes or tap shoes.

Dance | ages 9+ | 20 students max

Ballet Basics

Students will learn the basics of ballet technique, including foot positions, steps, and dance combinations in the center and across the floor with music. No previous dance experience necessary. Please wear comfortable clothing that allows freedom of movement (no jeans). Students can wear ballet shoes if they have them; otherwise, socks will do.

Dance | ages 6-10 | 15 students



African Dance

Students will get to learn the basic steps for this unique style of dance. Students will also get the opportunity to play African percussion instruments to accompany the dancers. This fun workshop develops musical and kinesthetic skills and expands cultural consciousness.

Dance, Music | ages 9-14 | 25 students

Modern Movement

Modern dance was created by dancers who wanted a freer form of dance than ballet. Based on Lester Horton methods, dancers do exercises to help strengthen and stretch the body which enables the dancers to handle more challenging movements. Students will dance in the center and across the floor to music.

Dance | ages 9+ | 10 students

The Art of Magic

Students will learn to captivate their family and friends through the art and skill of magic tricks! Their imaginations will be inspired as they learn to perform simple “sleight of hand” tricks with basic household items and reclaimed materials. This interactive workshop fosters creativity, improves hand-eye coordination, and develops a fun skill.

Theater | ages 8-16 | 20 students

Improv Games

Improvisational theater games are not only energizing and engaging, but can foster necessary skills for navigating social situations and everyday life! In this workshop, students will get to be both serious and silly as they practice exhibiting different personality traits and character identities in a safe setting.

Theater | ages 12+ | 20 students

Quick Plays

How quickly can you produce a short play? This workshop gives students only 30 minutes! In this 90 minute workshop, students will be divided into two groups and then tasked with producing a 10 minute play using provided offbeat scripts, unique costumes, and a variety of props in 30 minutes. Freedom Arts mentors will serve as directors with students comprising the rest of the cast and crew. This workshop develops acting skills, strengthens teamwork, and helps students find and use their natural talents.

Theater | ages 12+ | 20 students

I, 2, 3, Do Math With Me!

Students will get to participate in fun games to strengthen math skills. These stimulating elementary-level games and hands-on activities will build number sense and expand mathematical thinking.

Academic | ages 5-10 | 30 students

AcademOlympics

In this fast paced workshop, students will team up to compete in a race to complete academic tasks and objectives to win the gold medal! Physically stimulating activities incorporate math, science, and history into challenging objectives that will work both the mind and body while equipping students to work as a team.

Academic | ages 8-16 | 20 students

I Think It Means...

In this workshop, students will read poems and listen to songs as a group. We will then discuss personal interpretations of the poems and songs after situating them culturally and historically. This workshop encourages students to look beneath the surface of a work of art while exposing them to new literature and music. Students will strengthen listening skills, expand historical consciousness, increase vocabulary, and exercise analytical thinking.

Academic | ages 13+ | 30 students

Electronic Investigators

Here is your chance to investigate those electronic items that you see every day! Students will walk in to a scene of disassembled computers, stereos, clocks, and cameras. After receiving their own toolkit, students will be carefully guided through an investigation of how each item functions. By the end, they will have the opportunity to assemble their own safe and simple electronic device. By following careful instructions – and wearing the provided protective gear – students get to satisfy their curiosity of how common electronic devices work!

Academic | ages 13+ | 15 students

LEGO Engineers

In this workshop, students tackle engineering challenges using LEGOs. They will explore ideas and concepts in architecture, physics, engineering, and more. Students will discover creative solutions to individual and group tasks while learning to think critically and spatially.

Academic | ages 7+ | 30 students max



Web Design

Having the skills to build a basic webpage is necessary for 21st Century students. In this workshop, students from as young as 10 years old will learn basic coding with HTML, JavaScript, CSS, and more. Building and creating custom websites not only teaches students a highly relevant skill, but also exercises math, literacy, and creative thinking abilities.

Academic | ages 10+ | 12 students max

Computer Building

Today's students have a high expectation on them to know how to fluidly use computers. What if they knew how to build them, too? Using single-board Raspberry Pi computers, students will learn basic computer science and programming by building real computers with their very own hands! This workshop presents students with a basic but highly relevant experience and gives them the opportunity to learn the ins and outs of everyday tool.

Academic | ages 10+ | 12 students max

This Is Chess!

Chess is more than just a game to pass the time! It's a competitive exercise that strengthens problem solving, critical thinking, pattern recognition, focus, and concentration. In this workshop, students will learn the simple process of game play and discover the history and significance of the game and how it relates to society.

Academic | ages 10-16 | 20 students

Teamwork Dreamwork

Knowing how to work with a team is a crucial part of being successful. This workshop helps develop that skill! Students will participate in cooperative group activities and collaborate on creative ideas to solve problems and complete tasks as a unit. Students will have the opportunity to engage their ideas and talents to best serve the team in completing the given task. Group activities and tasks incorporate relevant life skills, current events, and societal issues.

Academic | ages 13+ | 20 students

Art Alchemists

Though art supplies are expensive, most don't cost very much to make. By using common materials and our brains, we can make our own! In this workshop, students will learn the science behind materials that we often take for granted. Students will learn how to make their own paint, sidewalk chalk, modeling clay, crayons, and even stamps and paintbrushes! This workshop combines art and science to give students a practical skill and the materials to be creative.

Academic, Visual Art | ages 8+ | 20 students

Artist Q&A

Freedom Arts has built a network of hard working, relevant artists and performers who want to assist young people as they develop career in the arts. This workshop serves as an invaluable opportunity for high school students who are interested in pursuing a career in the arts to talk with working artists, performers, and entrepreneurs from a variety of disciplines. Presenters include musicians, visual artists, nonprofit directors, arts advocates, and teachers. Most sessions include a performance and lecture with an extended time for questions from students. When contacting us for scheduling and pricing, please indicate the specific arts discipline or career type you are interested in.

Academic | ages 14+ | 50 students

Science Explorers

Science is not just educational, but exciting and entertaining, too! In this workshop, students will conduct experiments and complete objectives using household items and basic materials. They will be exposed to the wonder of science through safe, simple, and fun activities. This workshop features unique experiments that are age-appropriate but also push students to think and explore at a higher level.

Academic | ages 3+ | 20 students max



Songs of the Civil Rights Movement

Our nation's civil rights movements have an underlying pulse of music. In this workshop, students will learn about the songs and artists that sprang forth from the struggle and progress of Black Americans and find out how music has encouraged and empowered millions of people. Art and history will be connected in a relevant context to help us better understand our country and its people.

Academic, Music | ages 13+ | 50 students max

Black Music in Arch City

From the jazz of Miles Davis, the rock 'n roll of Chuck Berry, the blues of Albert King, to the hip-hop of Nelly, St. Louis has birthed and raised several major musicians in African American culture. They influenced a nation and touched the lives of people from every ethnicity and background. This workshop combines music and history in a relevant context to trace the lives and legends of some of the most influential African American musicians from St. Louis. We will discuss their music and myths and learn more about our culture.

Academic, Music | ages 13+ | 50 students

Black Music International

In Black Music International, students will get to explore Black music from all seven continents. Music such as Reggae, Grime, Wollo, Pan-Afro and more will allow students to develop an appreciation of different cultures and get a chance to learn about other musical artists and traditions from across the globe.

Academic, Music | ages 13+ | 50 students

Reader's Theater

If you love listening to or reading stories that come alive, Reader's Theater will be a great opportunity to practice your reading and acting skills! After choosing age-appropriate parts, students will practice their parts using good expression, fluency, and accuracy. After adding a few fun props, students will read their story for the others. This literacy based workshop is an exciting, alternative reading approach that increases confidence and comprehension.

Academic, Theater | ages 8-16 | 20 students

Hip Hop-rehension

The rhythm and vocabulary used in hip hop music can be used as an effective and relevant tool in developing student's reading abilities. Reading fluency and comprehension will be strengthened in this fun, musical workshop. Students and parents will learn creative ways to enjoy reading together!

Academic, Music | ages 9-13 | 30 students

Poetry, Pictures, Performance

This workshop combines literacy, visual art, and acting! After reading age-appropriate poems, students will draw thoughtful pictures to represent the poem, and then act it out for the group. Literacy skills will get a good work out as students connect visual art and performance with the words they read. This multi-discipline workshop exercises communication skills, reading comprehension, and visual art abilities.

Academic, Visual Art | ages 8-16 | 20 students

Read Between the Lines

Using David Shannon's "No David!" books, students will learn to make good inferences about the stories by analyzing the illustrations. Students will then follow the same model and work together to create their own "No, _____" story complete with original artwork for their readers to make inferences. This fun and creative workshop exercises writing, visual art, and reading comprehension skills.

Academic, Visual Art | ages 6-12 | 20 students

Writer's Workshop

In this workshop, students get to work like writers with a deadline! After drafting a "fast and furious" story to a prompt, each student will share and get peer-led feedback in order to begin the revision process. Like professional writers, students will learn revision techniques, a variety of writing disciplines, and how to accept feedback to write the best story possible.

Academic, Creative Writing | ages 6-12 | 20 students

Think-Pair-Share

Using picture cards, students will work in pairs to create a story that follows a given plot. Students will collaborate on creating characters, a good beginning, conflict, and resolution at the end. In this hour-long workshop, students will work together to produce a quality, original work of fiction!

Academic, Creative Writing | ages 6-12 | 20 students



Since 2012, Freedom Arts & Education Center has been empowering young people to become the highly creative, literate, passionate, independent thinkers they are capable of becoming. By providing quality arts education, professional academic tutoring, mentoring, and leadership training to the underserved youth of St. Louis, Freedom Arts inspires and equips young people to realize and utilize their God-given talents and worth.

Learn more and get involved at FAECSTL.org