

JUNE 2021

WHAT'S AT THE CAT

CT CENTER FOR ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



BACK LIKE WE NEVER LEFT BECAUSE WE NEVER STOPPED.

All three programs have been running in person instruction since the beginning of the spring. In fact Phlebotomy Cohort 19 is just about at the end of their tutelage and will soon be preparing to sit for the national certification. Culinary Students are finding a groove in the kitchen and Medical Billing and Coding Students are on a brief break from learning all about medical terms.

We are preparing to celebrate Summer Commencement on July 24th with 34 students scheduled to receive their ConnCAT diploma.

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FREDDY FIXER COMMUNITY CLEAN UP

While the parade was canceled this year due to the ongoing pandemic, more than twenty volunteers joined ConnCAT, the Dixwell Management Team and The Elm City Freddy Fixer Parade Committee to clean up the streets.

Prior to the clean-up event, ConnCAT staff and committee members canvassed residents along the parade route to see what they needed to beautify their neighborhood.

Watch the video recap on our Facebook page.



STUDENT HIGHLIGHT NATHANIEL ALLEN

Culinary Arts Academy Cohort 5 graduate, Nathaniel Allen exemplifies exactly what ConnCAT hopes for its participants. From the first day that he entered ConnCAT's doors, Allen was committed and determined to finish. Every day, using public transportation, Allen commuted from New Britain and did not deter from his goal of completing the program.

During his graduation, he was recognized and received the ConnCAT Core Value Commitment Award. Since graduation Allen has worked as the Head Chef of Monterey Chicken, an up and coming ghost kitchen based in New Haven. Most recently, Allen has accepted a competitive offer from the New Haven Lawn Club. Nathaniel continues to strive to do better and has pronounced that there is no looking back for him.



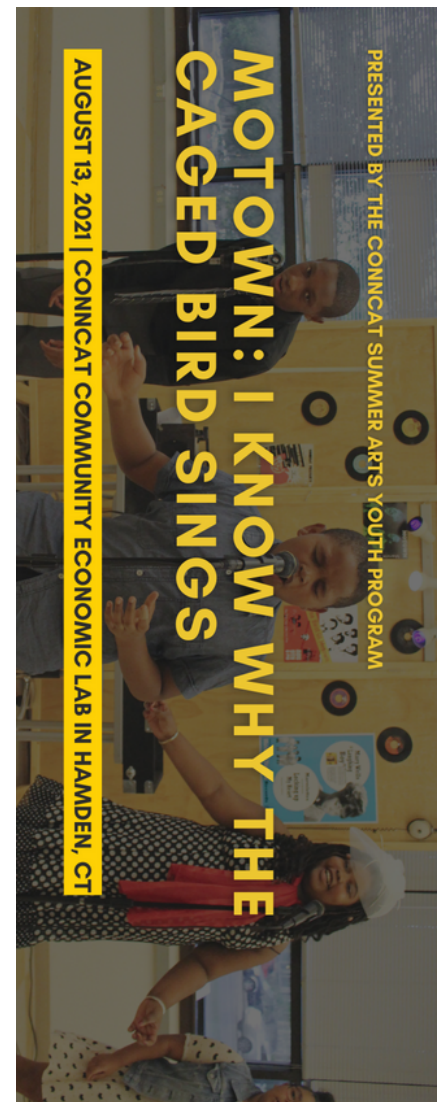
Summer Summer Summer Time

Summer Arts Youth Program is now in session. Parents were greeted with muffins and smiles when they checked their students in for the start of the program. A few familiar faces while on taller bodies were recognized, and a lot of new faces.

This year programming will run all day from 9am-5pm at no cost to parents. Still in the era of Motown, this year's theme is "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings." Students will dance with Ms. Nikki, create art with Ms. Gabby, appreciate music with Mr. Fluker and act out with Ms. Kendall in Theater.

With so much screen time during this past academic year, Youth Programs Director, Steve Driffin is limiting phone use this summer and is putting a huge emphasis on outdoor time. A field day is scheduled for every Friday.

As is custom, the summer program will culminate in August with a showcase. This year the performance will be held at The ConnCAT Community Economic Impact Lab (CCEIL) in Hamden.



**SUMMER SHOWCASE
AUGUST 13, 2021
ADMIT ONE**

ConnCAT and Stetson in Lockstep toward the Future

ConnCAT's partnership with Stetson Library takes on a new form as we begin programming at Dixwell Plaza (the Future ConnCAT Place). We kicked off this collaboration at the end of June. Ujima-Collective Work and Responsibility was the theme for the day event. Activities included African Healing Drum led by Brian "Jarwa" Gray, Hood Hula with Diamond Tree and ConnCAT Youth programs Art instructor, Gabrielle Fludd led family sketch.



"Stetson Library and ConnCAT have enriched our partnership and we are both pleased to announce ConnCAT in Residence at Stetson Branch Library. Through this residency we will continue to collaborate richly on community offerings that focus on engagement, education, and the arts," says our CEO and President, Genevive Walker.

ConnCAT has committed to a heightened presence in Dixwell Plaza even as we wait for the construction of our new building, we will begin programming which will entail improvements on store front properties which will be used for a host of community events for residents, neighbors, and those we will be welcoming to the area.