

DREAM! STUDIO

SPRING/SUMMER 2024

Roots and Bonds

THE EXHIBITION





DREAM! Studio

DREAM! Studio is the result of a vibrant two-year collaboration (2022-2024) between Creative Director Parris Whittingham, Creatives Rebuild New York (CRNY), Dare to Revitalize Education thru Arts & Mediation (DREAM!), Producer and photographer Yolanda Hoskey, and LR2 Photo Studio.

Based in the Bronx, this youth-led Teen Artist Residency, designed for and by artists ages 15-19, nurtures leadership, artistry, and entrepreneurial skills while offering a guaranteed income. We integrate Restorative Practices, digital wellness, and Social Emotional Learning into professional development training, providing real-world experience that empowers emerging artists from historically disadvantaged and under-resourced communities.

We are deeply grateful for the support of Fujifilm and White House Custom Color (WHCC), who have generously provided camera rentals and printing services, further enhancing the transformative impact of DREAM! Studio.



whcc



Guest Experts & Contributors:



Hana Anwar, Interdisciplinary Artist & Author

- Author of My Dear Papa (2023).
- Led a studio session on Interdisciplinary Arts.
- Supported exhibition development.

Henning Grosse Ruse-Khan, Co-Director at the Centre for International IP and Information Law (Cambridge University)

- Led a studio session on Intro to Intellectual Property (IP) Law and Contract Law
- Offered support to artists for follow-up consultations.

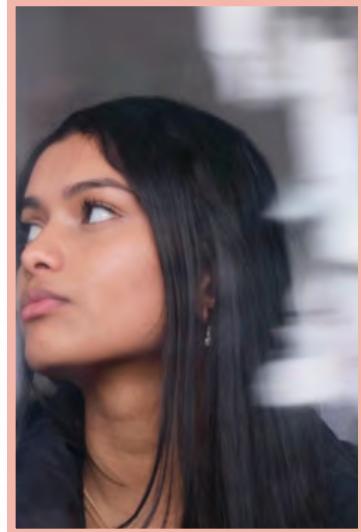
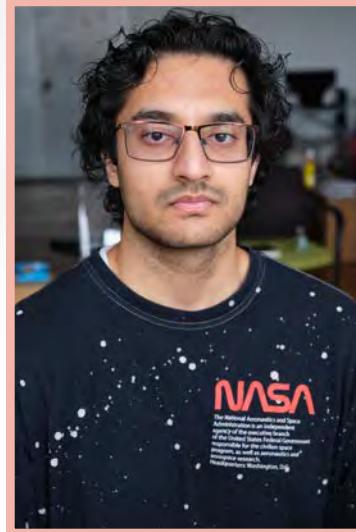
Julio E. Reyes, Jr., Vice President, Regional Manager at Citizens Bank

- Led a session on personal and business finance as well as budgeting.

Syed Yaqeen, Photographer

- Featured Artist at Photoville 2024 in Dumbo, Brooklyn.
- Led an onsite tour and interview for Artists in Residence.

DREAM! Studio Co-Directors



In February 2024, Emerging Artists resumed at DREAM! Studio as Co-Directors, leading studio operations including teen artist recruitment, exhibition development, budgeting, and outreach. After finalizing negotiations on an Artists in Residence contract with DREAM!, our creative journey towards the "Roots & Bonds" exhibition was in full swing.

Note: 7 of 10 Artists in Residence served in a co-director position. The final 5 are featured here.

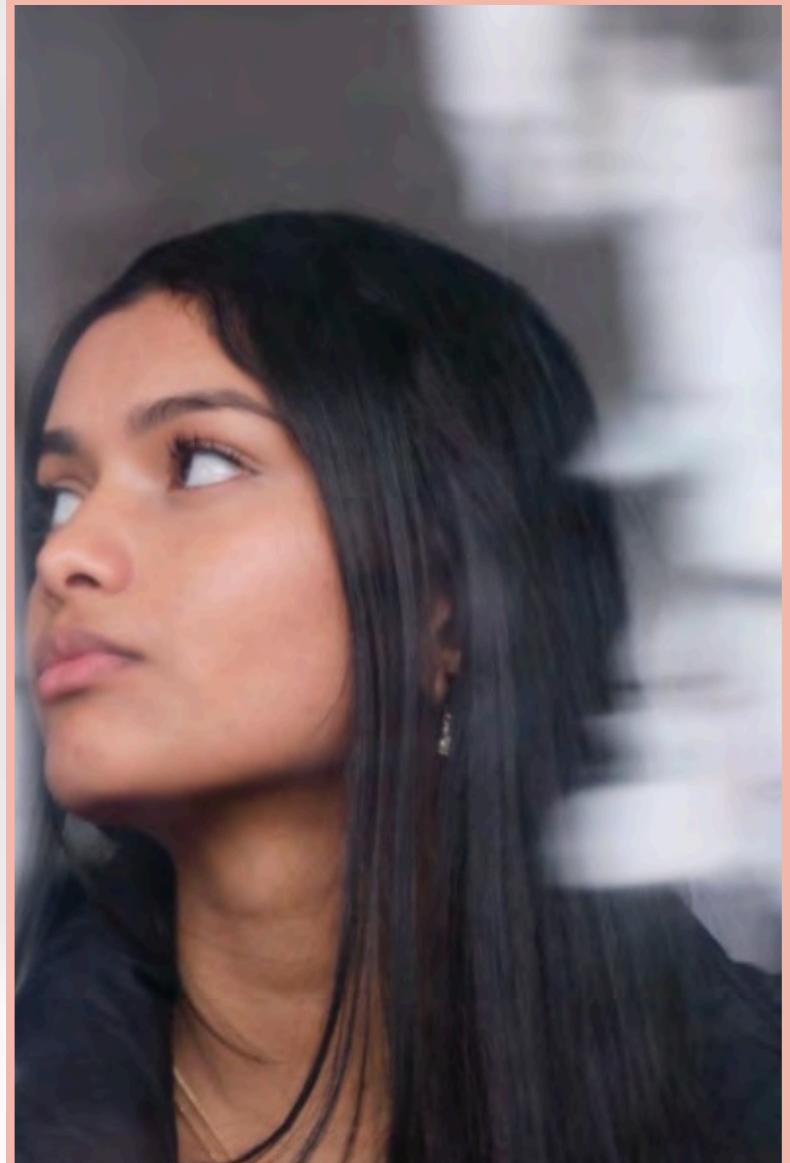
Roots & Bonds



Building on the success of our inaugural showcase, 'A Love Letter to The Bronx' (Summer 2023), 'Roots & Bonds' marks the second exhibition by DREAM! Studio. Our 2024 exhibition unearths the depths of familial and chosen relationships, exploring the intricate bonds that connect us beneath the surface.

This work celebrates our understanding of cultural, and biographical heritage while shining a light on universal themes of beauty, joy, love, loss, and resilience.

Through interdisciplinary practices like photography, mixed media, soundscapes, and installation art, each Artist in Residence navigates kinship, interconnectedness, and our profound connection to the natural world.

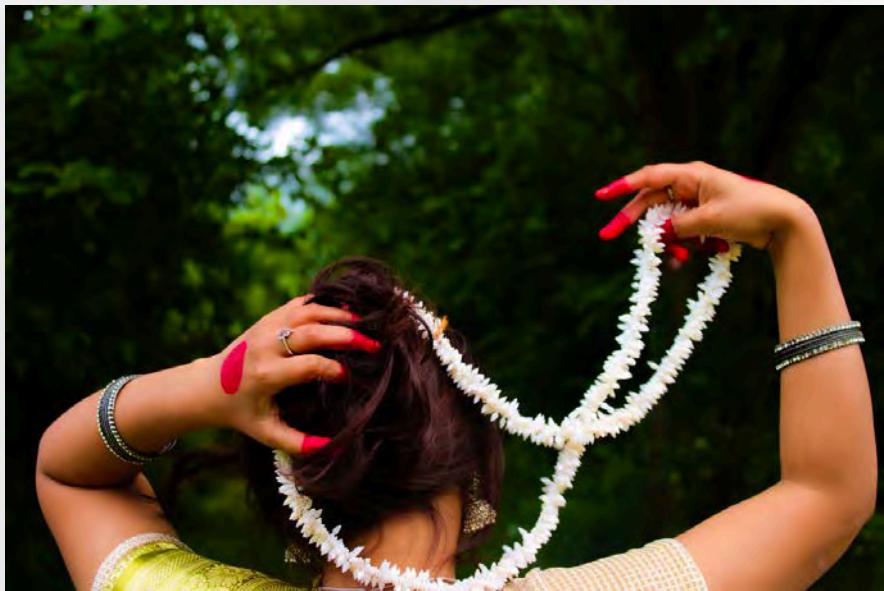


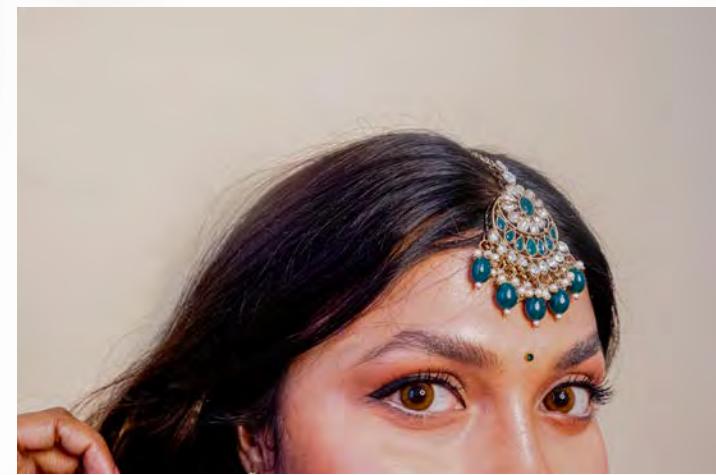
Desi World

Anindita Mandal

- Role: Outreach Co-Director
- Graduating Class: 2026
- Bio: Bengali
- Neighborhood: Ftley Ave
- “Desi World” presents my Bengali heritage through cinematic portraits, fashion, and nature-inspired imagery.







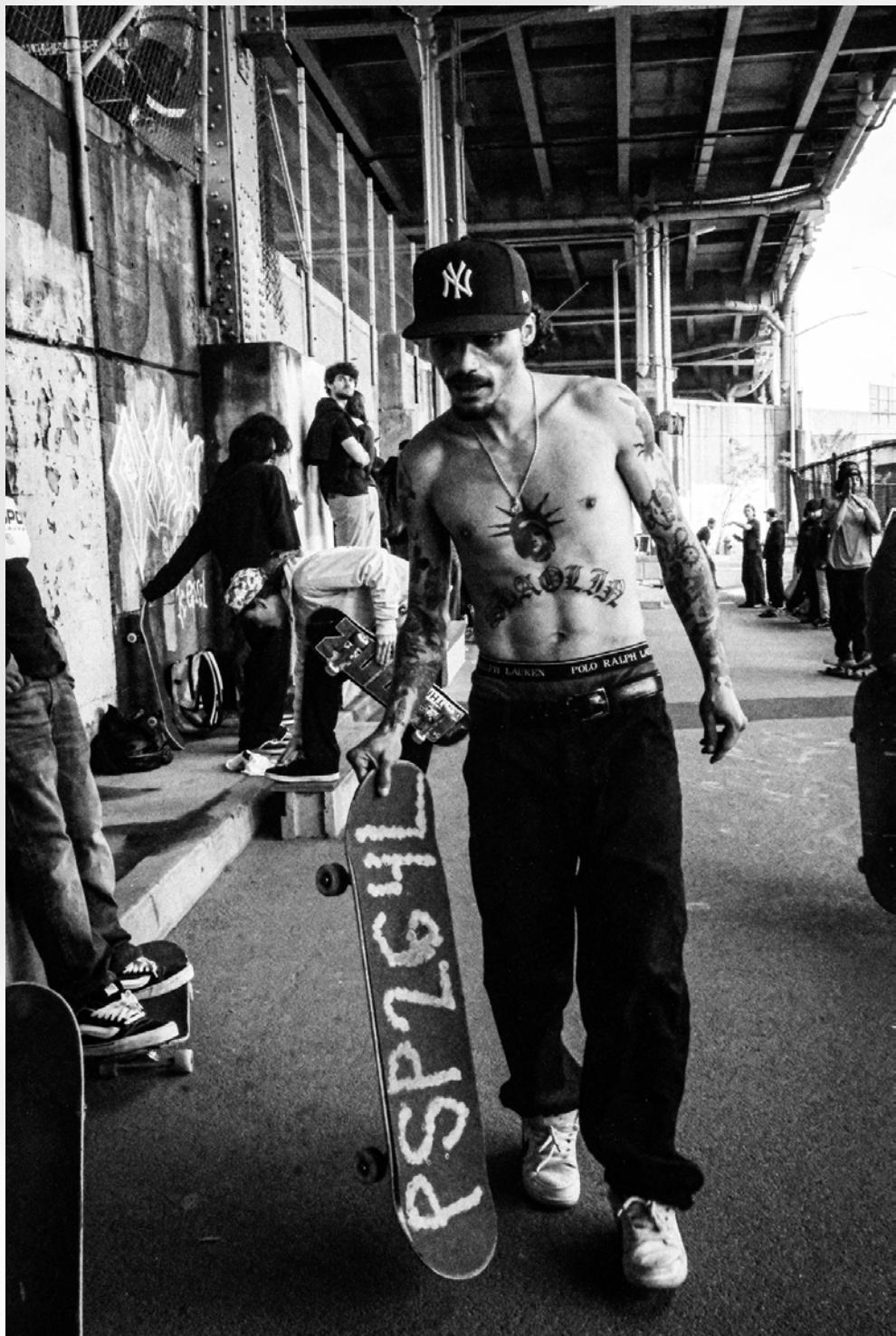


Race Magazine

Pedro Montero Columbus



- Graduating Class: 2024
- Bio: Venezuelan
- Neighborhood: Webster
- Race magazine: Capturing the skateboarding community and my chosen family through stunning photography of views and tricks.







View Race Magazine



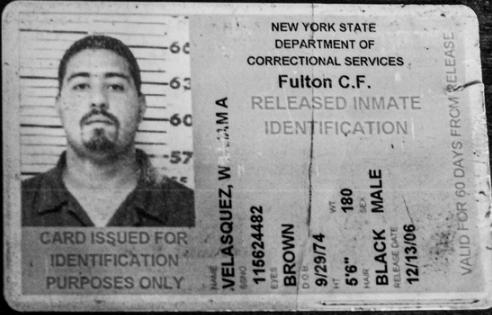
Scrapbook Takeover

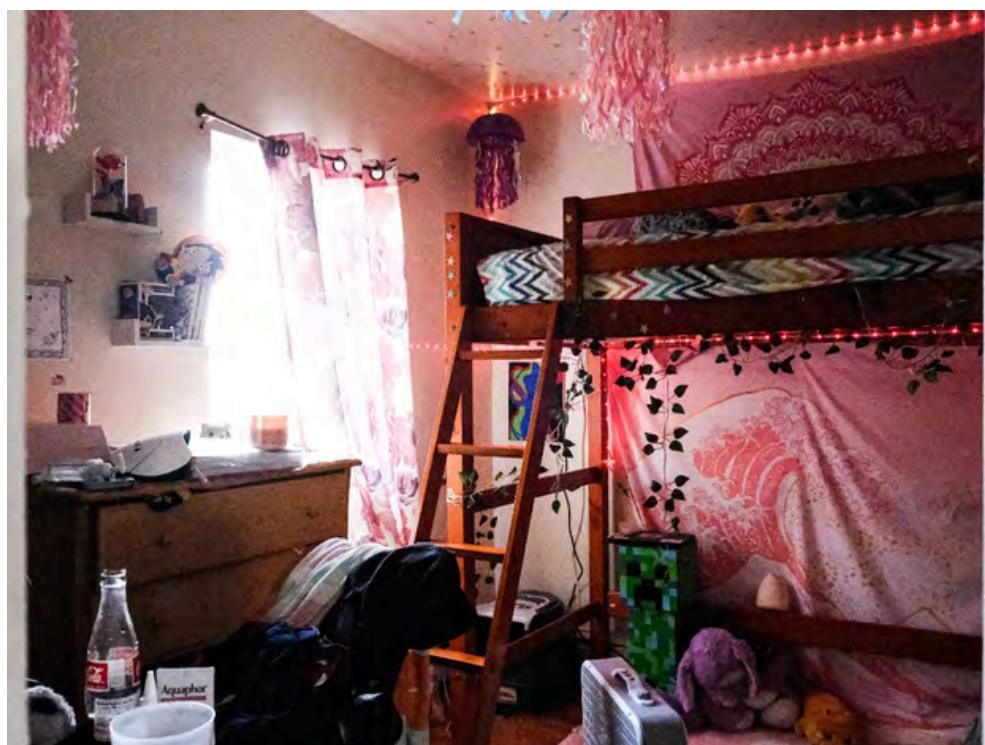
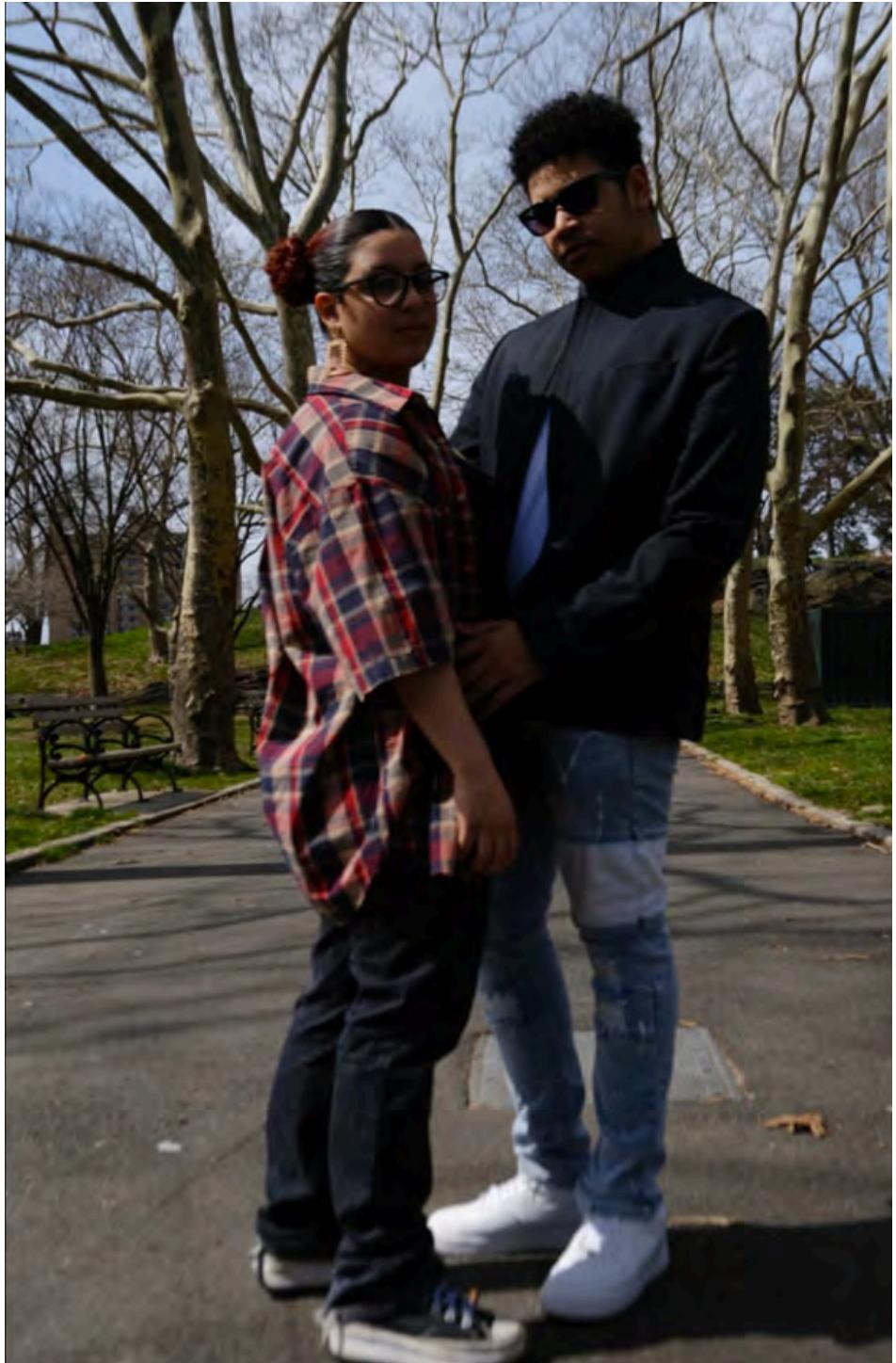
Emily Velazquez



- Role: Design Co-Director
- Graduating Class: 2025
- Bio: Puerto Rican
- Neighborhood: Bronx
- “Scrapbook Takeover” will go into a deep dive into my life and the struggles I had to overcome in order to become the person I am today.







[View Scrapbook Takeover](#)

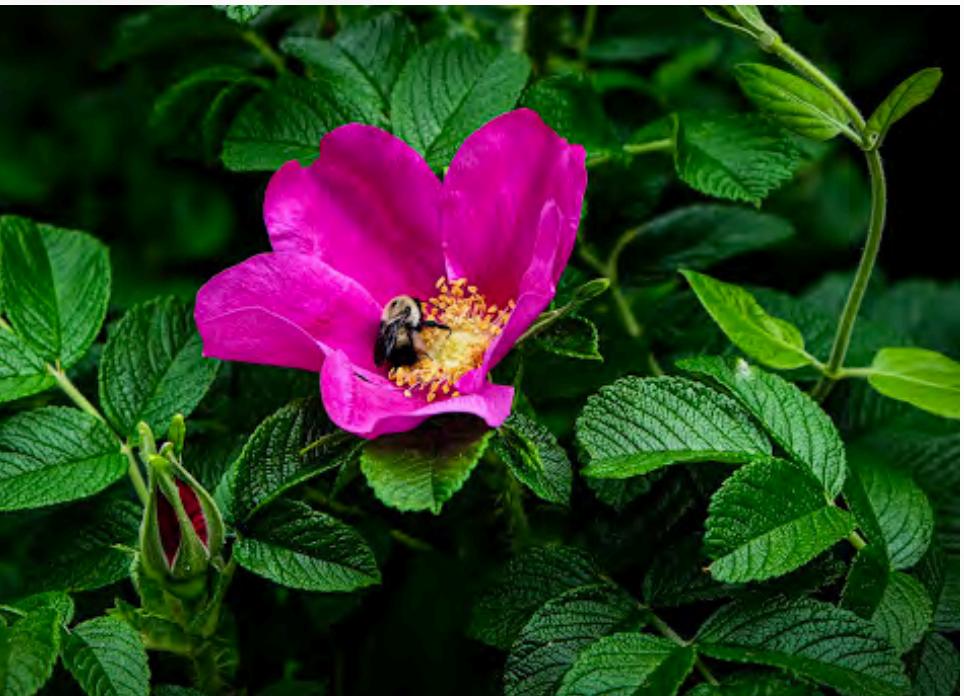


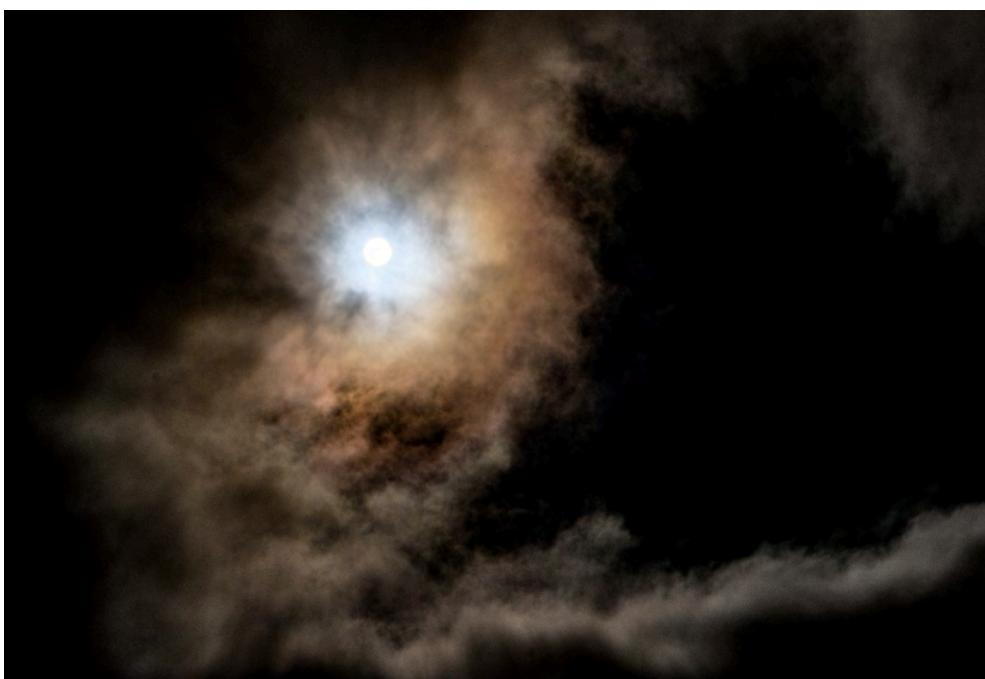
Nature's Family

Elianna Rincon

- Role: Internal Communications Co-Director
- Graduating Class: 2025
- Bio: Puerto Rican
- Neighborhood: Bronx
- Showcasing the memories made and the bonds formed through simple photos and places.







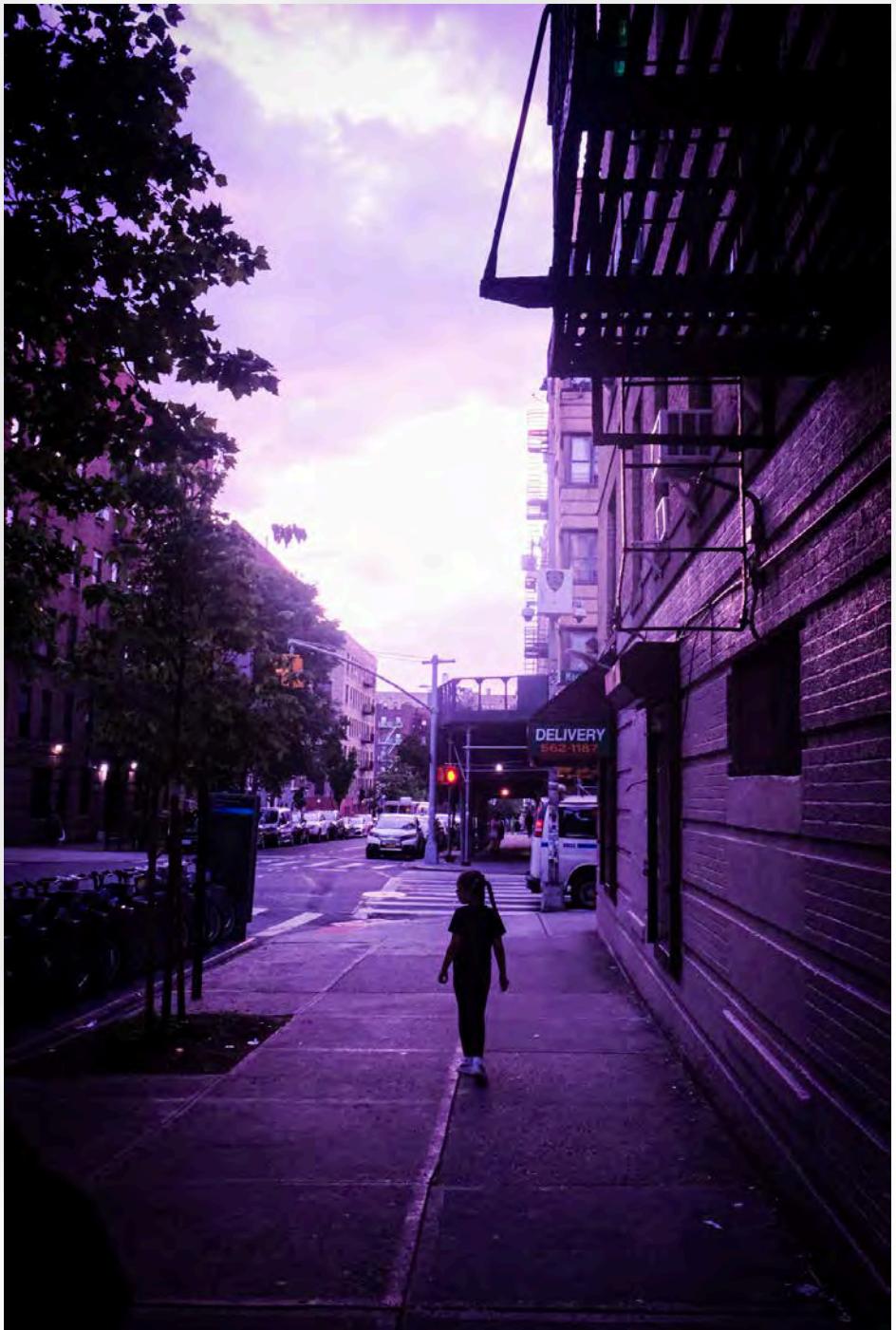


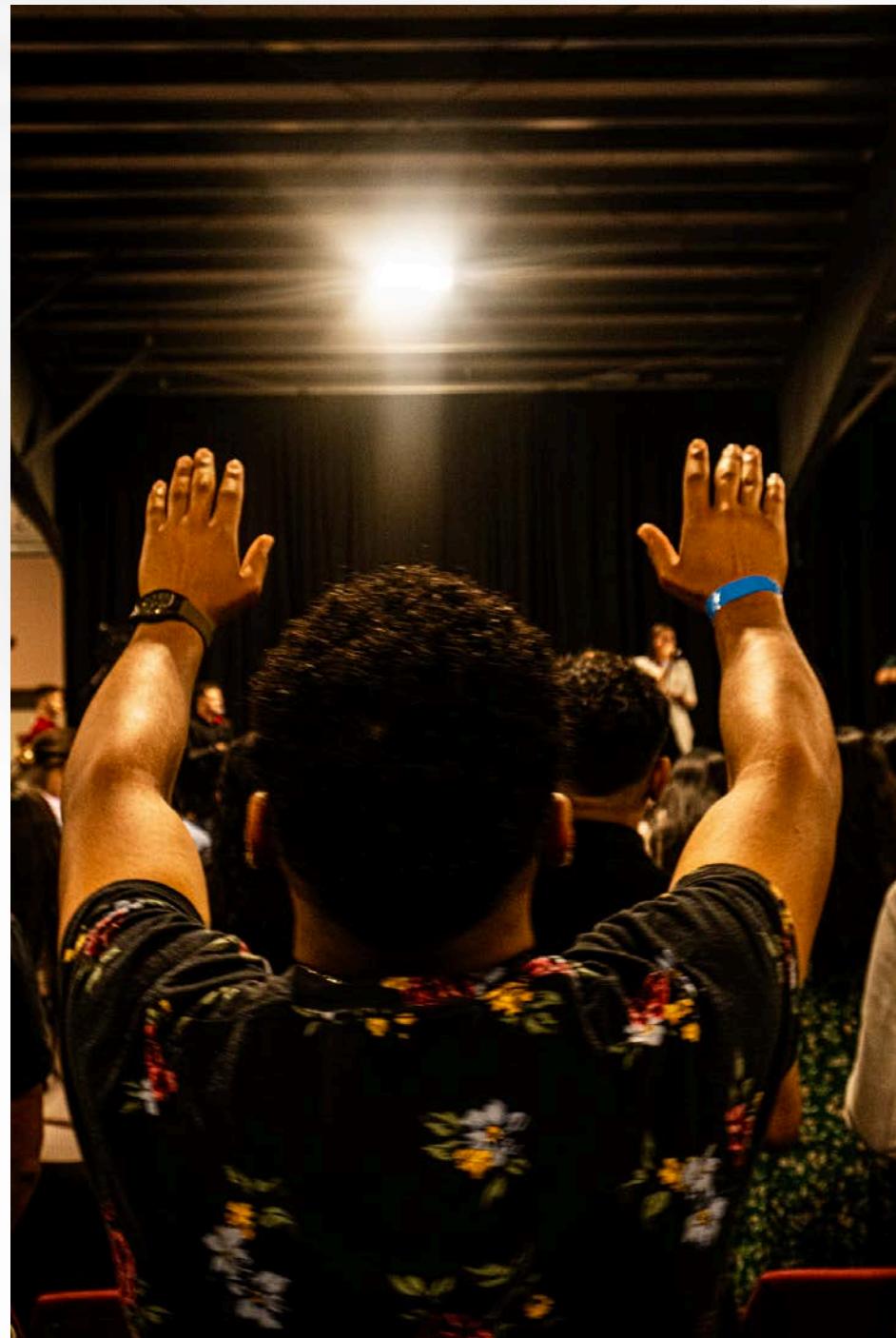
Faith Through Bonds

Jean Carlos Grullon



- Graduating Class: 2025
- Bio: Dominican
- Neighborhood: Morris Ave, Bronx
- “Faith through Bonds” is a photography project focused on glorifying God and showcasing genuine brotherly and sisterly connections in Christ.









Our Pride

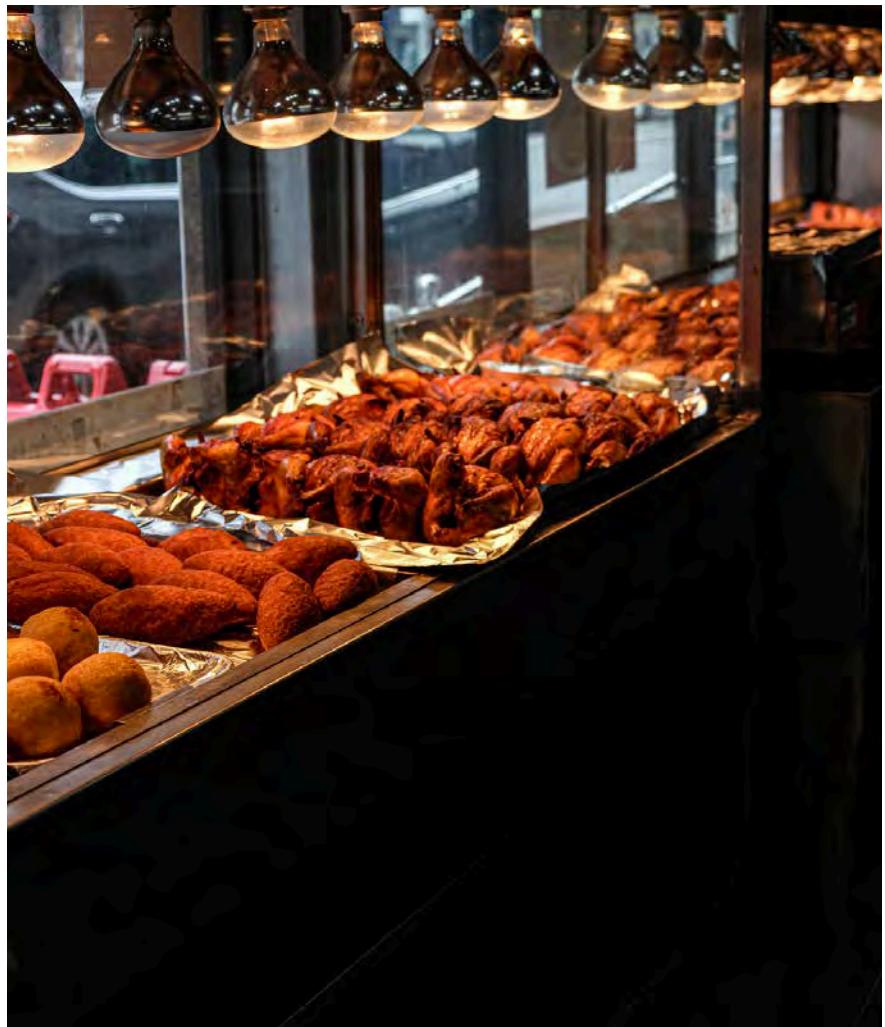
Prince Karilen



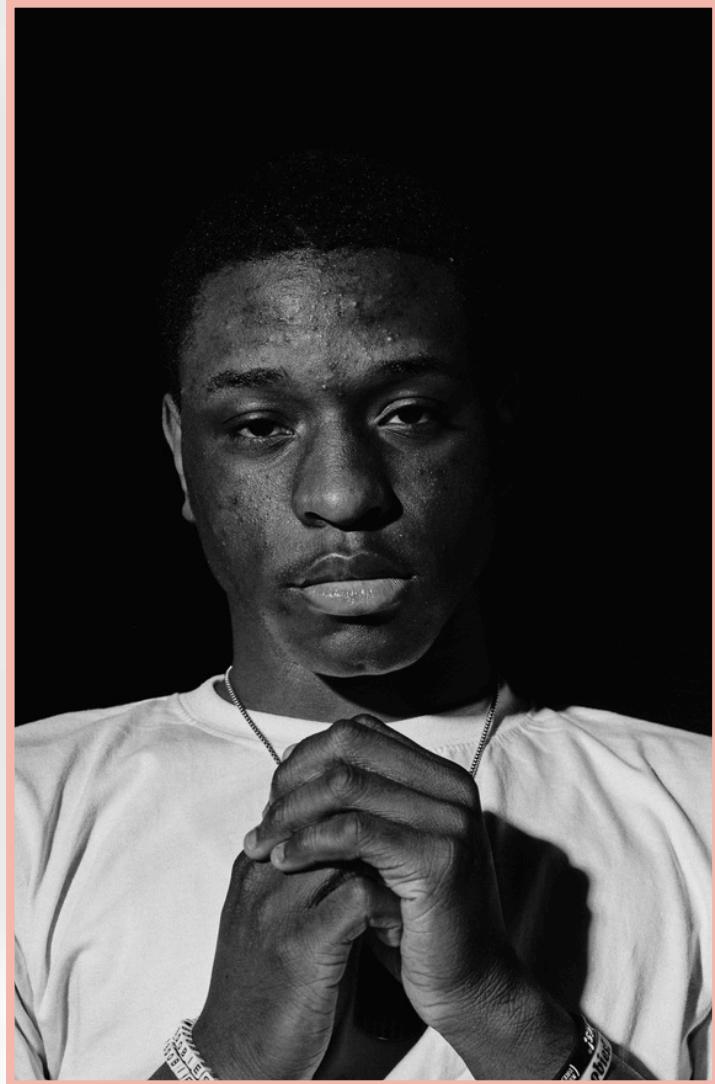
- Graduating Class: 2025
- Bio: Puerto Rican & Dominican
- Neighborhood: Bronx
- “ Our Pride “ presents my Puerto Rican culture through food, music, clothing, and flags.











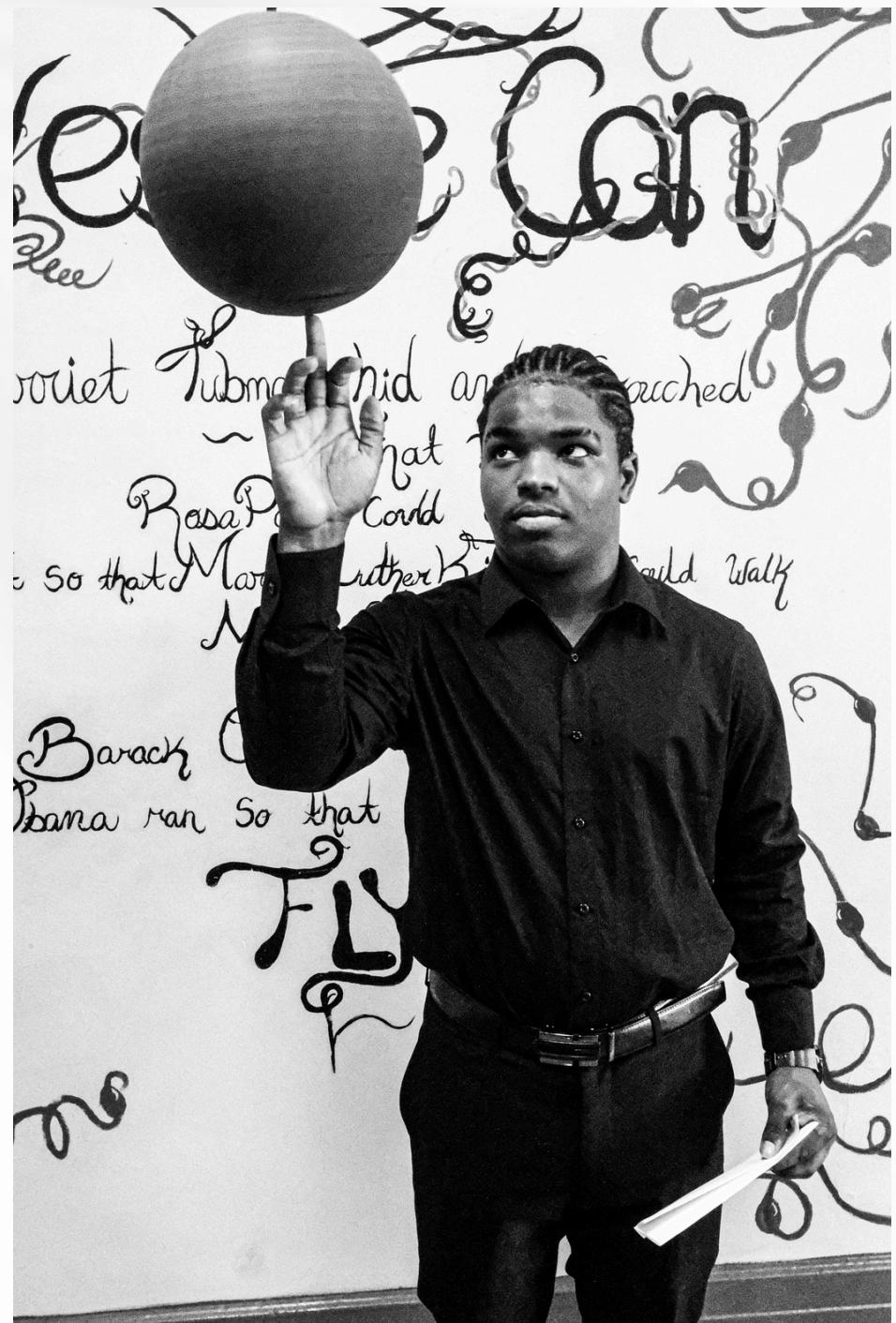
Blood and Bonds

Jahlil McKenzie

- Graduating Class: 2025
- Bio: Ghanaian
- Neighborhood: Brooklyn
- This project is defined by how my social life is structured through photographic portraits.



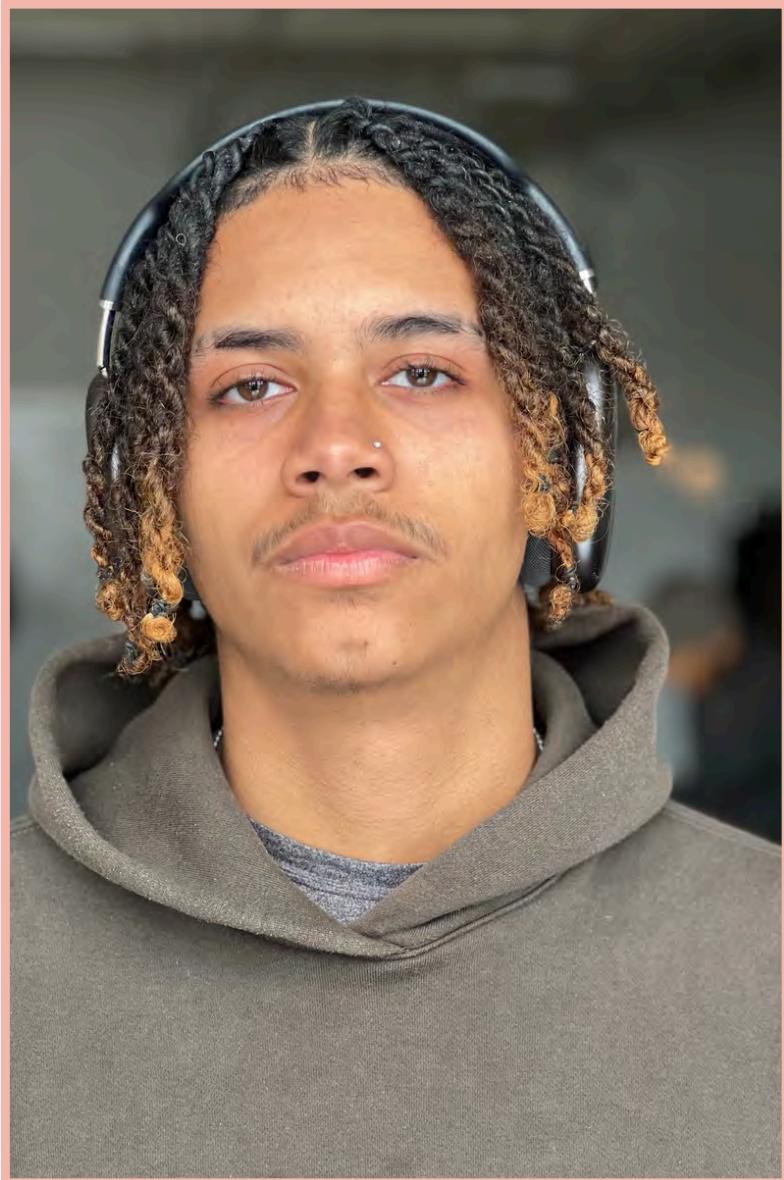






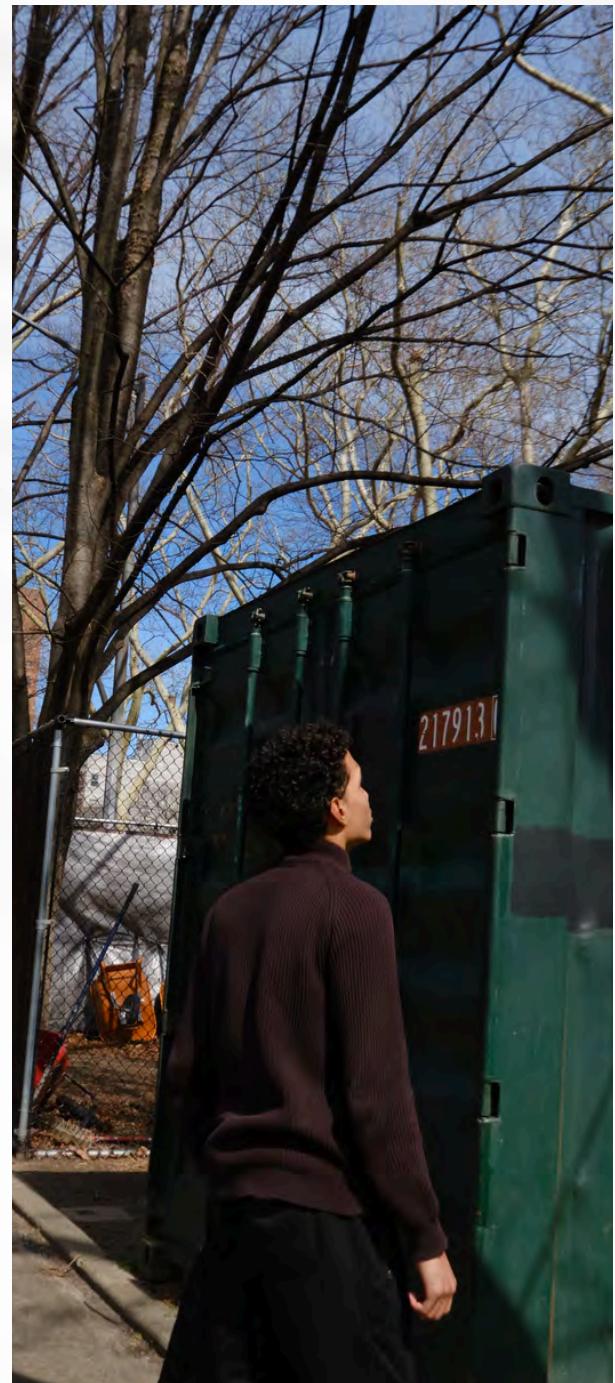
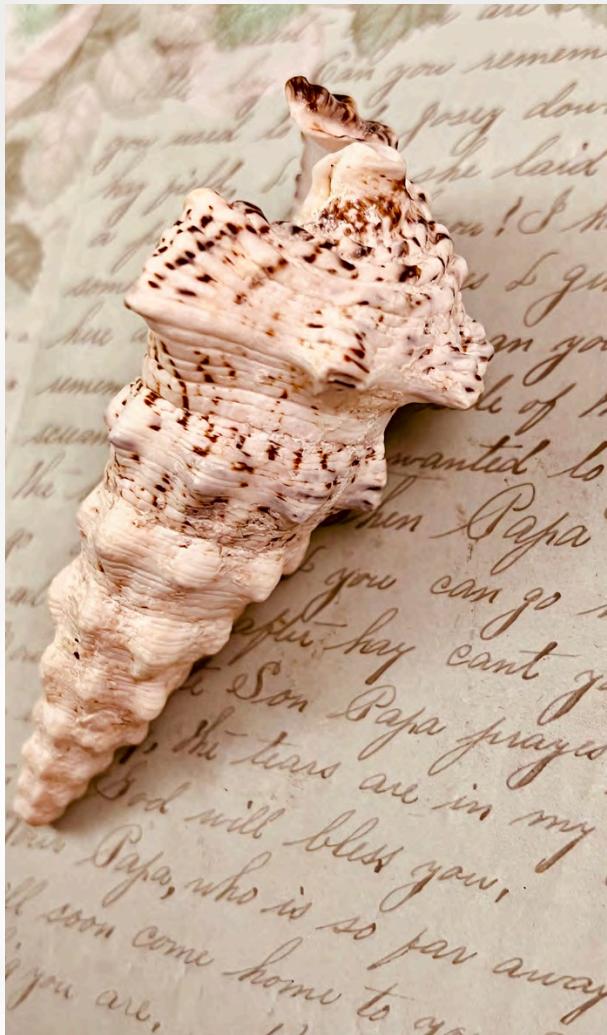
Shared passions

AJ



- Graduating Class: 2024
- Bio: Puerto Rican/African American
- Neighborhood: Bronx
- With the Shared Passion, I would like to show viewers the connections I've made through photography.







Filter Reality

Abdul Qureshi



- Role: Managing Co-Director
- Graduating Class: NYU, IDM 2026
- Bio: Pakistani
- Neighborhood: Queens
- I coded a camera filter machine that enables interactive family and friend experiences.

View Filter Reality.



Melody of Life

Ariel



- Role: Technology Co-Director
- Graduating Class: 2025
- Bio: Puerto Rican
- Neighborhood: Gunhill Rd
- Exploring family bonds through music, film, and photography; deepening creativity nurtured by close relationships.



View Behind the Scenes

DREAM! STUDIO

JUNE 2024

June Exhibition

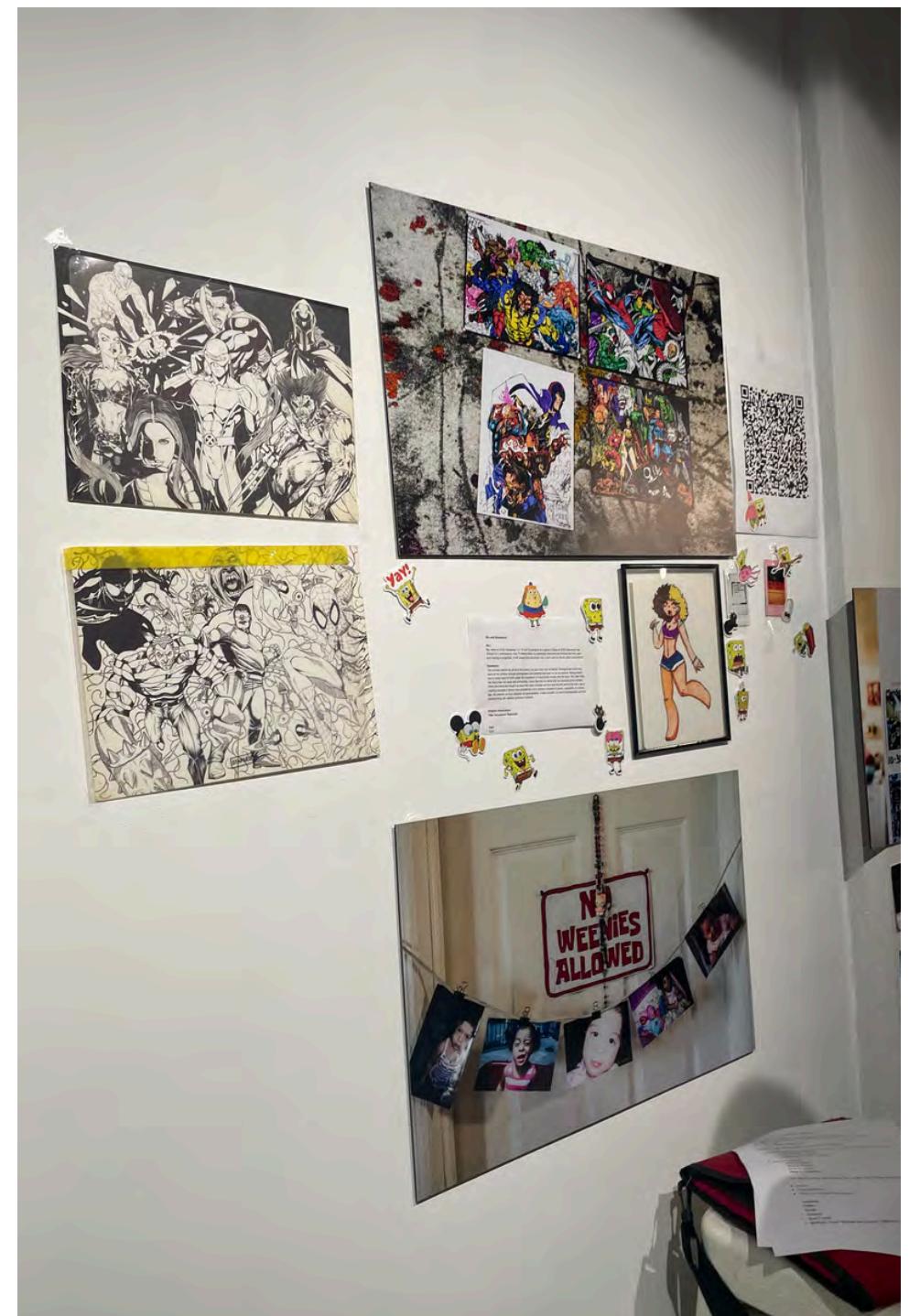




DSGNR Gallery

Navy Yard Brooklyn, NY

Onsite Amenities: TV, Projector and Seating
2000sq



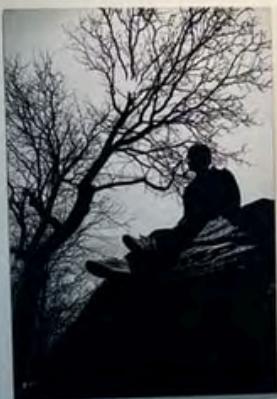


Exhibition Programming:



Artists in Residence installed their displays with onsite support before the exhibition. The Co-Directors hosted a private dinner for artists, their families, and DREAM! Staff. At the exhibition opening, guests explored the space and interacted with artists while light refreshments were served.

The event concluded with a keynote session where artists presented their work and discussed their creative journeys. Parris Whittingham facilitated a Q&A session with the audience and delivered closing remarks with Aisha Norris.





Exhibition Budget:

Ideal Venue:

Private Loft Gallery at the Brooklyn Navy Yard | Brooklyn, NY

Exhibition Date: June 21st, 2024

Venue Costs

- Rental Fee: \$2000 (estimate). Actual: \$1916.25

Marketing and Promotion

- Public Relations (Posh VIP): Free

Art Installation and Display

- Exhibit Installation (labor, materials): \$500. Actual: \$0
- Signage and Labels: \$162. Actual: \$0
- Cost for prints: \$1500 (estimate). Discounted rate: \$1006.10
- Mounting Materials: \$126.75

Art Transportation and Closing Costs

- Shipping: \$100 (estimate). Final: \$314.25

Opening Reception

- Catered Lunch/Dinner for DREAM! Studio (up to 20 ppl): \$500 (estimate). Actual: \$486.39
- Decorations: \$700 (estimate). Final: \$397.06
- Light refreshments and snacks: cost: \$300 (estimate). Final: \$400.48

Miscellaneous

- Contingency Fund: \$600 (estimated). Actual: \$314.93

Original Budget: \$5000

Estimated Total: \$7000

Actual Cost: \$4962.16



DREAM! Studio

Milestones & Outcomes

Community Engagement & Impact

- Engaged 22 teen artists (ages 15-19) from 2023-2024.
- 80% completion rate for artists in Phase One, and 100% in Phase Two.
- Phase Two introduced co-director roles for teens, solo projects, and leadership training.

Improved Work Environment & Technology

- Phase Two welcomed a production partnership with LR2 Photo Studio to provide a dedicated space, professional equipment, and technical support.
- Enhanced artistic growth and youth-led infrastructure for underserved Bronx communities.

Artist Support & Entrepreneurship

- Artist Residencies with guaranteed income, copyright protections, and full ownership of their work plus how their names and likeness are used.
- Entrepreneurship training in budgeting, project management, and IP and contract law.
- Equipped artists with skills for career advancement and economic empowerment.



Roots & Bonds | The Collective

Following the success of the "Roots & Bonds" exhibition, we are pleased to introduce the Roots & Bonds Collective. Our group of talented photographers and interdisciplinary artists from the Bronx, Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Queens is dedicated to creating, exhibiting, and selling our work independently. Beyond showcasing our art, we are deeply committed to fostering a culture of collaboration that supports and amplifies equity, inclusion, and our youth-owned vision.

Join us as we embark on this inspiring journey together, and stay connected for more updates and projects.