Organization Profile

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| Name of Organization: | Empower You Edutainment |
| Website URL: | https://empoweryouedutainment.org/ |
| Address: | 1427 Murdock Ct, Riverside, CA, 925071 |
| Primary Contact Email: | [empower@empoweryouedutainment.org](mailto:empower@empoweryouedutainment.org) |
| 5 Keyword Descriptors: Tutoring, afterschool, STEM, college access,  career exploration | Afterschool, Performing Arts, Enrichment, Education, Entertainment |
| Mission Statement: *What’s the ‘missing” in your service area? How will you fill the gap? Who benefits?* | Empower You Edutainment mission is to break down social and economic barriers and empower, educate, and transform lives of the voiceless through song, dance, and theater. |
| Target Population: *Gender, age, socioeconomic status: infants 0- 4, youth 5-13,*  *Females ages 14-18. Young adults 19-24 from underserved, urban communities. Adults with disabilities ages 25- 55 in the San Fernando Valley.*  *Seniors 55+, afflicted with dementia or Alzheimer’s.* | The target population of Empower You Edutainment includes male and female youth aged 5 to 18, from underserved communities. The target population of Empower You Edutainment consists of individuals from underserved communities living in the Inland Empire. |
| How many clients will you serve and how often?  *Include the timeframe, monthly, quarterly, annually.*  *e.g., 100 youth per month* | Empower You Edutainment will serve an estimated minimum of 75 youth per month through a diverse range of activities. Participants will engage in both virtual and in-person weekly activities. These interactions will encompass a rich array of opportunities, including classes, mentoring sessions, performances, and showcases. |
| What geographical area will your organization serve?  *Community, City, State, Country. i.e., The West Athens community of South*  *L.A.* | Riverside County: Riverside, Moreno Valley, Corona, Perris, Hemet, Beaumont, Eastvale  San Bernadino County: San Bernadino, Fontana, Colton, |
| Describe the Gap your organization will fill? *List resources, training, education, opportunities,*  *role models, alternatives, access, etc.* | Empower You Edutainment offers a diverse range of performing arts classes, such as theater, dance, and music with skilled Instructors and mentors. The organization utilizes resources, including lesson plans, handouts, and digital resources, to empower the participants. Through showcases, participants witness the practical application of the lessons and gain inspiration for their own artistic expression. Our youth are able to work with accomplished guest speakers and talented performers that are there to share their knowledge and expertise with our attendees. Empower You Edutainment uses videography to enhance the learning experience. By combining resources, Empower You Edutainment crafts a dynamic and enriching educational environment where youth can discover their artistic talents, acquire essential life skills, and grow into empowered individuals ready to face life's challenges with creativity and confidence. |

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| Describe the innovation in how your organization fills the gap. *Math tutoring by African American Alumnae Engineers, On-the-job training with industry*  *professionals, Homework assistance via app.* | Empower You Edutainment's innovation lies in its unique approach to bridging the gap between entertainment and education, and how it caters to the needs of youth from underserved communities. Empower You Edutainment empowers students to excel academically, grow personally, and contribute positively to their communities. By nurturing well-rounded individuals with a passion for learning and a sense of social responsibility, the organization lays the foundation for their future success as informed and engaged citizens. |
| **Program Description(s):**  What are your organization’s programs?  *Youth development College Readiness Career Exploration Relationship Counseling Parenting Classes*  *Program title: From Boys2Men Rites of Passage*  *Service provided: Mentoring, homework assistance, college access and admissions, career planning, parenting/relationship counseling.*  Measurable goals: *What is the problem? Homelessness.*  *What is the change (verb) your program will produce? i.e., increase, decrease, reduce, eliminate, cure*  By how much?  *(% - make the goal attainable. Usually 10-25%)*  *e.g., To reduce homelessness by 10%* | Provide a description (with all the information listed) for  **EACH** Program |
| ***Program One:***  ***Boys2Men Rites of Passage*** *is a male youth development program for young African American men ages, 12-24 from the Watts, Compton, West Athens communities of South Los Angeles. Youth are partnered with professional African American men, ages 25-65 who model positive characteristics, decision-making, healthy relationships, and career choices. Participants attend a two-hour workshop every Saturday for 12 weeks, covering topics from peer pressure to goal setting, college, and career exploration, to healthy relationships. The goal of the Boy2Men Rites of passage program is to reduce the school-to-prison pipeline by 25% from these underserved, overrepresented communities by 2025.*  Program 1: Our Voices Five Minute Film Festival- Six Weeks Program Age 8 through 16 (Youth Age)  Empower You Edutainment proudly offered a compelling initiative called "Our Voices," providing free virtual film-making classes to youth aged 8 through 18 in Riverside. Through this transformative project, young participants were invited to unleash their creativity and dive into the world of scriptwriting and film production, all accessible from the comfort of their cell phones or computers. The program took a powerful stance on addressing crucial societal issues, encouraging youth to fearlessly explore and tackle topics like racism, homelessness, environmental injustice, and mass incarceration during engaging workshops. By empowering these young minds to use their artistic voices to shed light on pressing matters, "Our Voices" aimed to not only develop technical skills but also cultivate empathy, resilience, and a sense of social responsibility.  A central strength of the program lay in its ability to connect participants with inspiring role models from the Black community. These experienced mentors played a pivotal role in guiding and supporting youth in the art of scriptwriting, fostering their growth as aspiring Black scriptwriters. The goal was clear – to increase representation within the film-making industry by 10 percent |

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| Actionable objectives: *How will your org accomplish the goal? By hosting three interviewing techniques workshops per week*  What is the length, frequency and duration of each program?  How long will your programs run? *e.g., 1 hour, 2 hours, 4 hours*  How often will your programs be offered?  *e.g. 3 times a week, 4 times a month, once a quarter, twice a year*  How long is the program?  *12 weeks, 6 months, 1 year*  *e.g,.* ***Boys2Men Rites of Passage*** *is a male youth development program for young African American men ages, 12-24 from the Watts, Compton, West Athens communities of South Los Angeles. Youth are partnered with professional African American men, ages 25-65 who model positive characteristics, decision- making, healthy relationships and career choices.*  *Participants attend a two-hour workshop every Saturday for 12 weeks, covering topics from peer pressure to goal setting, college, and career exploration, to healthy relationships. The goal of the Boy2Men Rites of passage program is to reduce the*  *school-to-prison pipeline by* | Program 2: Elephant in the Room: Killing the Wounds of Racism( Youth and their Families) Year-Round Program  Empower You Edutainment is actively engaged in a project known as "The Elephant in the Room: Killing the Wounds of Racism." This dynamic program features a series of empowering "sistas and brothers" talks, which delve into the profound effects of health disparities experienced by African Americans. Additionally, these discussions shed light on the significant influence of racism on the mental health of the African American community. As an ongoing initiative, monthly meetings are held to foster continuous dialogue and learning.  The overarching objective of this program is to empower and educate the African American community, aiming to increase their awareness of the impact of health disparities by 20 percent. By confronting the elephant in the room and addressing these critical issues head-on, Empower You Edutainment seeks to promote knowledge, healing, and resilience within the community, striving for positive change and improved well-being for all.  Program 3: Rites of Passage Program (Youth Program) Year Round Program for boys and girls  Empower You Edutainment has launched an inspiring Rites of Passage Program, catering to students from elementary through high school, with a dedicated focus on achieving excellence through the arts. Rooted in culture and guided by the principles of Kwanzaa, this transformative program facilitates a smooth transition from childhood to adulthood by embracing storytelling, spoken word, acting, singing, and dancing. By offering a safe and nurturing environment, our initiative aims to provide adolescents with valuable resources to reconnect with their cultural heritage, uncover their potential, and discover their greatness.  At its core, this annual program serves as an intervention to instill a sense of value and love in our youth. By involving them in the arts, we aim to bolster their confidence and self-esteem while fostering a deep appreciation for their cultural identity. The ultimate aspiration of this initiative is to increase the representation of African American youth in the arts by a significant 15 percent, empowering them to become exceptional artists and influential individuals in their communities.  Through the power of creativity and cultural connection, the Rites of Passage Program sets the stage for a brighter future, filled with possibilities.  Healing  Amidst the challenges of racism and the isolation brought about by unprecedented times, pandemics, and shutdowns, art emerges as a powerful outlet for our youth. Through illustration and painting, our program aims to blend culture, mental health, and healing in weekly sessions throughout the month of August. Participants will have the opportunity to express themselves creatively and embark on a journey of self-discovery. This inclusive class welcomes all ages and skill levels, encouraging everyone to join. As the program progresses, we aim to foster a supportive environment where individuals can channel their emotions and experiences into art. The culmination of this artistic exploration will be a final group art exhibition and show, celebrating the unique voices and expressions of our participants. Our ultimate hope with this initiative is to witness a 20 percent increase in the number of youth using art as a healthy outlet. By providing a safe and expressive space, we aspire to empower young individuals to cope with life's challenges creatively and find solace in the healing power of art. Through this |

journey of self-discovery and artistic growth, we believe that our participants will emerge stronger, more resilient, and inspired to continue using art as a means of expression and healing.

Program 4: Lift Every Voice

Empower You Edutainment's "Lift Every Voice" is a 12-week program designed to empower girls by giving them a platform to develop their voices through cultural awareness activities, utilizing the power of performing arts such as spoken word and storytelling. This program caters to elementary, middle, and high school students, aiming to instill a deep sense of pride and understanding of Black history and heritage. Through the music and storytelling, "Lift Every Voice" pays homage to the rich African American history, focusing on stories that have often been overlooked or untold. Participants, parents, and the community will gain invaluable knowledge about the contributions and struggles of African Americans who have been trailblazers and change-makers in our nation's history, when participants share what they have learn. The program serves as a conduit for sharing powerful stories intertwined with uplifting songs that have given African Americans the resilience to persevere through challenges, fostering faith, hope, and triumph. By delving into the unyielding efforts of remarkable individuals who have left an indelible mark on our society, "Lift Every Voice" empowers the participants to recognize their own potential as agents of change and advocates for justice. With a focus on cultural awareness and utilizing the arts as a medium for expression, "Lift Every Voice" becomes a space of empowerment, fostering self-discovery, pride, and a strong sense of identity. It celebrates the resilience and accomplishments of African Americans while inspiring the next generation to embrace their heritage and make their voices heard in the pursuit of a more just and equitable society.

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| *25% from these underserved, overrepresented communities*  *by 2025.* |  |
| **Organizational History** (About Us, Who We Are, Agency History)  Year of inception. Year incorporated (if different than inception date):  Why organization was founded  What has been the organization’s biggest challenge?  How has the organization overcome that challenge?  What is the organization’s greatest accomplishment since its incorporating?  *Boys2Men was started in the basement of a school counselor’s home in Newark, New Jersey in1999 after witnessing 75% of his male African American freshmen class fall prey to gangs, drugs, teen pregnancy and prison. In 2003, the organization become a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and began administering programs in local elementary and high schools to disrupt the school to prison pipeline ravaging through predominantly under sourced, underserved Black and Brown communities. In 1992, after the L.A. civil unrest, the West Coast Chapter of B2M was incorporated to address the devastating number Black males in Watts, Compton and*  *the West Athens communities* | 2016  To cater to the needs of children and adults facing economic instability by providing them with the necessary tools and opportunities to learn essential skills for becoming successful and productive citizens. We believe in empowering individuals through education and exposure to various resources, paving the way for personal growth and economic empowerment. By equipping them with the right knowledge and abilities, we aspire to foster a brighter future, where everyone has the chance to thrive and contribute positively to society.  Empower You Edutainment faces one of its most significant challenges in securing sustainable funding and resources. As a small non-profit organization, the absence of full-time staff presents a significant obstacle. Relying mainly on small grants demands considerable time and effort for their maintenance. Consequently, the lack of substantial funds prevents hiring a full-time executive director or program coordinator, leading to added strain on inexperienced board members and volunteers, whose consistency may vary.The organization is spread thin, making it challenging to adequately follow up with potential funders or individuals who could propel Empower You Edutainment to new heights. These circumstances require careful resource management and strategic planning to overcome these hurdles and advance our mission. |

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| *of South L.A. entering prison or being killed. To date, the organization has partnered with 5 LAUSD school districts to graduate 100% of its participants (2,200 African American males), provided over $5 million in college scholarships, and placed over 1,750 youth in internships and assisted 1,571 with landing entry level professional and*  *paraprofessional jobs.* |  |