

Shakespeare **STEAM**: 2022-23 Summary + Future

What is Shakespeare STEAM?

Shakespeare STEAM is Shakespeare in Detroit's educational program which supplements and complements the curriculum of students in grades 3 thru 12 via artistic and vocational training.

What are the pillars of Shakespeare STEAM?

- **Science** of lighting a production
- **Technology** of sound design
- **Engineering** of a form (*i.e. an Elizabethan costume*)
- **Art** of classical performance (*i.e. heightened language, verse vs. prose, metaphor, antithesis, iambic pentameter*)
- **Mathematics** of building a set

What is the purpose of the program/what need is Shakespeare STEAM meeting?

The purpose of the program is to supplement the arts programming in Detroit schools, both charter and public, with professional, qualified artists who are actively working in the industry and serve as teaching artists and cultural insiders. In addition, the program will introduce the technical aspects of theater with the aim of inspiring more young people of color to explore careers as technicians and designers in lighting, sound, costume design, carpentry and other behind-the-scenes aspects of theater. Students will earn a skill set that is applicable to the American Theater and several industries that incorporate engineering, technology and science into their workforce.

The program also aligns with Shakespeare in Detroit's mission for an equitable world by offering an artistic/theatrical curriculum that is competitive with [the country's top ranking states for education](#) as the [city's public school system continues to rank low in comparison to other national districts](#).

Why does our programming begin in 3rd grade?

According to the [National Endowment for the Arts](#): "Children experience rapid and important transformations from birth to eight years old in three broadly defined domains: social emotional, physiological, and cognitive."

We have chosen the latter part of this age range as the students have, probably, developed certain skills at this point in their educational trajectory which give them the capacity to understand classical text or comprehend its basic tenets. However, we also note and work with the awareness that all students are individuals and each may develop and learn at a pace uniquely their own.

Important Note: During the 2022-23 academic year, Shakespeare STEAM's teaching artists engaged students from grades 3-4 at the James and Grace Lee Boggs School. In addition, the program worked with middle school students and teachers at Clippert Multicultural Magnet Honors Academy and high school students at The School at Marygrove High School. Shakespeare STEAM was also able to bring a 90-minute workshop to 6-8 grade students at Detroit Premier Academy and spent 12 hours in a workshop with 10-12 grade students at Western International High School. We also partnered with MAGNA International, who assigned one of their Innovation Program Managers, to attend a class at The School of Marygrove with SiD to talk about transferable skills between costume design and automotive design. In addition to the work in schools, Shakespeare STEAM Teaching Artists participated in Michigan Science Center's FREE Day in September 2022 and spent over 8 hours engaging with hundreds of students while demonstrating STEAM exercises. SiD also partnered with Inside Out Poetry for its second year during April 2023 for Shakespeare's Birthday and National Poetry Month, working a total of 8 hours with students in grades 3 - 12 on sonnet writing.

Our Summer 2023 Youth Conservatory students assisted in building the set for the production of Macbeth and spent 10 hours during the week of May 1, 2023 and another 4 hours in July with [Live Coal](#), a Detroit non-profit organization that aided in bringing the set to life. Summer Youth Conservatory students also performed vignettes through three pop-up performances at several recreational organizations in the community.

Detroit Public Schools Community District remains in crisis having lost 3,000 students during the pandemic according to Chalkbeat (May 2023). This calls for more budgetary restrictions and cuts and the arts remain at the top of the list when the district needs to sacrifice programming. We consider our work critical because it helps supplement opportunities, exposure and curriculum where the district cannot, especially, during these times. More specifically, federal relief money, totaling roughly \$190 billion, was meant to help schools address needs arising from COVID-19, including making up for learning loss during the pandemic. But the latest national data shows large swaths of American students remain behind academically compared to where they would have been if not for the pandemic also according to Chalkbeat (September 2023). We always knew that our work was vital—necessary. But we now know that our work is also critical—crucial to the well-being of Detroit youth as we want them to thrive vs. survive, academically, emotionally and artistically or creatively.

What were the short-term goals of the program?

The 2022-23 academic year was our fourth year stewarding an official educational program. We returned to full-time in person learning with teaching artists in three schools within Detroit Public Schools Community District after teaching via MS Teams during the 2020-2021 school year and having post pandemic challenges during the 2021-2022 school year, such as two long school closures at DPSCD because of COVID-19. We had some adhoc youth and educational programming in 2016 and 2018 but Shakespeare STEAM is more of a strategic, curriculum-based partnership between our partners, sponsors and additional stakeholders, serving students in grades 3-12.

In 2022-2023, Shakespeare in Detroit Teaching Artists engaged two classrooms per school throughout the year impacting a total of 160 students and over 350 hours working with Boggs students 2x per week, Clippert students 2x per week and with The School at Marygrove students once per week. SiD also piloted a workshop template to be able to bring to schools within DPSCD and around metro Detroit as a means to engage, educate and grow the STEAM program within our community. We will continue to bring Shakespeare STEAM workshops to schools outside of our partner schools.

Shakespeare STEAM engaged a total of approximately 120 students during the regular academic year. In addition, students/parents used our online content for educational purposes.

Our goal was to engage students in elementary, middle and high school grade levels, both in person and digitally with our teaching artists in classrooms and via our digital educational content, about the pillars of Shakespeare STEAM.

The Max M. and Marjorie S. Fisher Foundation funding supported 500 STEAM hours of in-classroom instruction and Summer Conservatory training. Eleven Detroit-based teens in Summer 2023 received \$1,083 each for a total of \$12K in scholarships provided to the 14-to-18 year olds.

Funding Details:

1. Funding from **Deloitte** paid for supplies for the program.
2. **DTE Foundation** funding supported the brick & mortar needs of SiD to host our students at our new home at Marygrove Conservancy, where the company is based as of June 2021. They also paid for snacks and supplies along with rent for the summer conservatory needs.
3. **Greektown Casino** paid for supplies and teaching artists fees.
4. **Max M. and Marjorie S. Fisher Foundation** supported both in-classroom activities and the summer 2023 conservatory for Macbeth, which was performed on August 11 and 12, 2023 at Campus Martius

What are the long-term goals of the program?

The long-term plans for the program include the following outcomes:

- Establish Shakespeare STEAM as the premiere performing arts youth program in the city
- Impact twenty thousand students in the City of Detroit via accessible programming including content at no cost to them, free live performances, vocational training and artistic opportunities by 2025
- Develop summer employment opportunities in the arts where students gain industry experience and an income
- Build a conservatory with qualified artists and technicians leading the work for high school students to learn directly from experts currently working in the American Theater
- Establish two full scholarships for two extraordinary students to receive “full rides” to the university of their choice (with an accredited theater program) by 2030
- Hire a full-time + contracted staff to facilitate and grow Shakespeare STEAM
- Monitor and improve literacy and life skills for students in Detroit with more defined measurables
- Establish curriculum that is competitive with youth drama programs around the country to meet Detroit’s incredible students at their potential
- Continue and grow workshops that can be presented by our staff of Teaching Artists to schools that we do not normally have in our program within Detroit Public Schools Community District and with districts around Metro Detroit
- Sustain hope and humanity by connecting Detroit to live theater for, by and of this valuable and most vulnerable population to build a brighter educational and economic future
- Continue to partner with STEM professionals for classroom visits to demonstrate STEAM transferable skills
- Focus on building a pipeline to the conservatory in Southwest Detroit with our continuing partnership at Clippert and adding Western International High School as our 2023-24 high school partner
- Recruit students from Western International High School for our 2024 Summer Conservatory as we continue to create a positive arts pipeline with Southwest Detroit
- Build a robust relationship with the drama/film teacher at Western International, integrating their curriculum with the STEAM and conservatory objectives i.e. how do we make Julius Caesar 2024 a filmed theater project?
- Students create a costume piece or prop that will be used in the conservatory show
- Participate in a lights/sound project during conservatory
- Give away \$20,000 in scholarships -- 15 acting students and 5 who focus on behind-the-scenes work

What were the successes of the program during the 2022-23 academic year?

SiD was able to continue its partnerships with the James and Grace Lee Boggs School and Clippert Multicultural Magnet Honors Academy as well as return to The School at Marygrove High School. We also brought STEAM workshops to community events, such as Michigan Science Center's FREE Day in September 2022 and to non-partner middle and high schools within DPSCD.

We were able to continue a consistent schedule and continue the Shakespeare STEAM program despite the ever changing challenges of post pandemic life.

SiD also retained seven students from partner schools, for our theater conservatory in Summer 2023.

The summer youth conservatory welcomed thirteen youth actors from Cass Tech, Detroit School of Arts, Western International High School, Redford High School and The School at Marygrove to its summer programming. Eleven of the students completed the summer conservatory. These students spent 180 hours with Shakespeare in Detroit, in-person, over the course of 6 weeks at the home of Shakespeare in Detroit, The Marygrove Conservancy (formerly Marygrove College).

The students were introduced to costume design, learned verse vs. prose, iambic pentameter, dance choreography, an intro to stage combat/fight choreography, text analysis, dramaturgy and set design.

Conservatory students performed two full productions of Macbeth translated by Migdalia Cruz for [Play On Shakespeare](#) on Friday, August 11 and Saturday, August 12th, at Campus Martius for family, friends and the community with free admission.

Twelve thousand dollars in scholarships were distributed to participating youth actors thanks to SiD's impactful partnership with the Max M. and Marjorie S. Fisher Foundation.

Conservatory students also had the opportunity to perform in other community events such as Shakespeare in Detroit and [InsideOut Literary Arts](#) 2nd Annual Sonnet Slam and community events throughout the city of Detroit

What were some of the opportunities for growth and progress discovered for the next academic year?

With the added workshops to the in school curriculum SiD has the opportunity to engage with new schools as possible new school partners, allowing us to also attract more youth actors to audition for our summer conservatory.

After sharing the paid opportunity with stakeholders at DPSCD, speaking with principals at our partner schools and throughout the district, sharing audition information with the Partnerships Office at DPSCD, doing promotion for the opportunity on our social media platforms and e-blasts, we had our largest turnout for auditions with 16 students from across Detroit attended. We strive to have at least 30 youth audition for the 2024 conservatory.

There is an opportunity to find a more engaged high school partner for the next academic year. We need a high school principal and drama teacher who have great ambitions and excitement for the arts, specifically, theater. We are hopeful that with the addition of STEAM workshops that allow us to engage with more high schools that we will be able to achieve this. We are also focused on continuing our relationship with Western International High School as we grow our program in Southwest Detroit.

The goal was to give out \$15K in scholarships and we gave out \$12K in 2023.

SiD also realized, during the Summer 2021 Youth Conservatory, that there is a need for mental health support for students participating in the summer program and for the summer 2022 Youth Conservatory was able to enlist a Ph.D psychotherapy candidate from Wayne State University to be available for the mental health needs of students twice a week from July - August 2022. Thanks to the sponsorship of the Max M. and Marjorie S. Fisher Foundation who gave additional support for this need. The summer of 2023 saw that it was imperative to have a mental health professional during conservatory and once again, SiD enlisted a Ph.D. candidate from Wayne State University who was present for 4 days in conservatory for two of the five weeks.

What solutions can be put in place to create radical change that can improve processes and positively impact the program and its most important beneficiaries, youth?

1. Continue to engage with our current partner schools with SiD teaching artists embedded in classrooms
2. More frequent communication with school faculty to discuss common goals, objectives, collaboration opportunities and specific partnership expectations
3. Continued partnership with middle schools to inspire an interest in the arts upon entry into high school
4. Explore relationships with more schools through workshops to create more impact and identify more robust and meaningful partnership opportunities especially with schools in Southwest Detroit
5. Identify and partner with a high school that is engaged in creating a thriving theater environment for students in which drama or ELA teachers and principals can collaborate to excite students about the arts

6. Continue to grow STEAM workshops where our teaching artists can engage with students in our non-partner schools throughout DPSCD and around Metro Detroit
7. Continue to meet and grow relationships with STEM professionals that can visit the classrooms of partner schools to demonstrate the importance of STEAM/STEM and transferable skills
8. Attract 15 students, directly from in-classroom work who are recruited as actors for the summer conservatory and potentially 5 students to work behind the scenes

Quantitative Measurables for 2024

Measure literacy for in classroom learning on a scale from 1 to 10 (1) low reading skills and comprehension (2) low reading skills but with some ability to read and communicate the ideas of the text (3) low-to-moderate ability to read and communicate the text (4) intermediate levels of reading that include some articulation, pronunciation, diction and comprehension (5) average reading and communication of the text (6) above average ability to read the text and communicate (7) showcases ability to read and communicate text that is beyond average and shows an interest in theatrical performance OR theater making via STEM elements of the curriculum (8) exceptional performance and literacy skills with clear communication of the text OR demonstrates exceptional STEM abilities for behind-the-scenes theatrical work that includes transferable vocational aptitude (9) extraordinary vocational and artistic/performance abilities (10) student leader whose skill set surpasses other categories from vocational to artistic aptitude

Qualitative Measurables for 2024

- Increase confidence
- Lift up self-esteem
- Improve projection and public speaking
- Improve tactile skills
- Build collaborative skills and teamwork
- Increase agency
- Promoting positivity
- Build community
- Support creativity and artistry
- Improve focus
- Increase memorization skills and information retention

How was the program funded?

The program was funded at no cost to the school district, students or faculty. Sponsorships paid for the cost of the program for the 2022-23 academic year, along with some grant funding as follows:

- DTE Foundation (\$5,000)

- Greektown (\$5,000)
- MAGNA International (\$7,500)
- Max M. and Marjorie S. Fisher Foundation (*\$50,000 with \$8,295 for additional outdoor costs*)

TOTAL RAISED: \$75,795.00

Additional information:

SiD hired nine (4) teaching artists for the program: Steven Davenport (Clippert and TSM), Lisa Michaels (workshop TA), David Culliton (Boggs and Clippert), Odera Office (Boggs and TSM), Christine Pellecchia (Conservatory and Administration), Emilio Rodruguez (Conservatory), Janelle Effiwatt (Conservatory), Steve Carson (stage combat for Conservatory) Toni Davison (Conservatory), Iyla O'Connor (Conservatory), Jasmine Cosby (Conservatory Counselor) and Sam White (Conservatory, and Administration)

2023-24 ACADEMIC YEAR/SUMMER 2024 PROSPECTS FOR EXTENDED LEARNING:

- SiD's 2023-24 school partners are The James and Grace Lee Boggs School, Clippert Multicultural Magnet Honors Academy and possibly Western International High School in Southwest Detroit. They will all have in-person, embedded teaching artists throughout the school year
- Continue to grow workshops and be able to engage with more non-partner high schools at DPSCD and throughout Metro Detroit
- Have at least 30 youth audition for the 2024 Summer Youth Conservatory with focus on Southwest Detroit school partners
- Invite students/parents who participate in our partnership schools and throughout the district to see SiD's professional performances in the summer of 2024
- Continue to nurture and grow our team of talented teaching artists who cultivate and nurture excitement, positivity and interest for our programming
- Enlist more STEM professionals to host presentations with our partner schools to demonstrate the correlation between STEM and STEAM and transferable skills in the workforce
- Continue to create and grow relationships with other community organizations to have pop-up performances that feature Conservatory students
- Maximize our relationship with The Gilbert Family Foundation by bringing after school programming to Crowell Recreation Center

Shakespeare in Detroit
2022-23; Year 4 of Official Educational Programming
Shakespeare STEAM | September 2022 - August 2023
Composed by Christine Pellecchia and Sam White September 2023

