

prevent violence
teach values
tell your story
view a performance
create lasting change
host a workshop
share experiences
make peace
expand perspectives
walk in another's shoes
resolve conflict
promote understanding



“City at Peace gave me a different outlet for the frustrations I felt and saw in high school. We created classroom scenes that mirrored what we’d experienced. By dramatizing it you can live it again but on your terms, and highlight what went wrong instead of leaving the classroom mad.”

Baratunde Thurston, City at Peace DC alumnus, now an author, political satirist, and Web editor for *The Onion*

“Recently in discussions in school we’ve talked about sexism. Now I have tools to talk about it. I can be one of the people who speaks up.”

Gabi Huffman, City at Peace DC cast member, production team member, and high school senior

Do You Know Young People Who Are...

Threatened by violence?

City at Peace DC teaches conflict resolution and violence prevention in a unique cross-cultural environment. Participants may have experienced violence first-hand or been a witness to gangs, domestic violence, or gender-based violence. City at Peace DC can help young people understand and diffuse conflicts.

Struggling with their sexual identity or gender issues?

City at Peace DC works with young people throughout the Washington, DC area who are diverse in sexual identity, religion, race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status. It helps youths discover and become comfortable with who they are.

Ready to become leaders?

Using a youth-led model, City at Peace DC builds trust and relationships, achieves artistic excellence, and creates lasting change in the lives of participants, families, schools, and communities.

Balancing their cultural heritage with life in the US?

City at Peace DC is the only organization in the DC area using the performing arts to work intensively with a diverse group of young people to promote cross-cultural understanding. Cast members come from a variety of backgrounds. Some have never known people of another race. Some identify as multiracial. Some are grappling with changing ideas about their race and culture.

Seeking a more peaceful community?

Teaching young people how to value individuals who are different from them and how to effectively share power leads to the resolution of conflicts and the elimination of violence. City at Peace DC provides workshops and performances in the community that help participants develop and sharpen these skills, resulting in the creation of a more peaceful community for all of us.

CITY AT PEACE DC AND YOU

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“A couple of young people arrived at our City at Peace workshop not knowing what it was about and seeming apathetic. Once the workshop started, their demeanor changed and they were actively participating. I saw shy kids volunteering for different roles than they usually take on. I saw the dynamics of several mother-daughter pairs change, creating more intimacy between them. And there were a lot of a-ha moments for adults about how we deal with young people and how we can do better.”

Ana Lopez,
Executive Director,
Community Bridges



In addition to our signature intensive year-long afterschool program, City at Peace DC works in the community, sharing our performances and model for conflict resolution and violence prevention. We can work with your school, organization, nonprofit, congregation, or company to:

- Lead a workshop for young people
- Perform a full-length City at Peace DC production for your audiences
- Perform selected scenes from a City at Peace DC production that are relevant for your audiences
- Customize a project or performance to meet the unique needs of your organization.

“For two years City at Peace conducted workshops with ESOL [English for Speakers of other Languages] students and non-international students who we thought might be open to examining their attitudes about international students. At the end we produced a student-driven show based on the activities City at Peace did with the students about their experiences when they arrived at South Lakes. It touched on some pretty controversial topics. A lot of white students in the audience were surprised. The second year the international students created four scenes woven into our school talent show. Kids in the talent show, most of whom were American, participated in City at Peace workshops with international students. That worked out well—kids from different backgrounds were hanging out together. We see the success of City at Peace in interactions between kids.”

Patty Meagher,
ESOL Teacher and Sponsor, International Club,
South Lakes High School

WORKSHOPS

City at Peace DC has developed an innovative and effective model for helping young people and adults to better understand themselves and each other in order to identify and dismantle the causes of conflict and violence. Our time-tested workshop techniques can help young people from all backgrounds deal with issues such as:

- Race and racism
- Sexism, gender roles, and violence
- Adult and youth power
- Gender, homophobia, and heterosexism
- Conflict resolution and violence prevention techniques and practices
- Planning and visioning
- Power in relationships

Our trainings use theater as a tool to engage deeply with these issues and involve a variety of active, creative exercises. Our Artistic Director and Assistant Artistic Director, along with a group of trained and experienced facilitators, lead City at Peace DC workshops. We can conduct half-day or full-day workshops and ongoing trainings to help your group address the challenges it faces. City at Peace DC also offers workshops for adults who work with young people.



“I had the pleasure of offering a City at Peace conflict resolution workshop to my Youth Alliance group. At the end of the workshop, my teens were thirsty for more expertise. Then I took them to the performance in DC, which made a huge impact on my teens and addressed many issues of today’s youth. The show sparked deeper conversation among the group about the issues presented on stage. I find it important to educate teens on what is and what is not acceptable in a family environment. The performance gave me an appropriate lead-in into this topic.”

Mary Seryak,
Resident Services
Coordinator, AHC Inc.



PERFORMANCES



“City at Peace’s performances are great. They are appealing to young people and adults and have the capacity to be raw and beautiful.”

Carmen James Lane,
Program Officer,
Eugene and Agnes
E. Meyer Foundation



City at Peace DC is made up of diverse teenagers from DC, Maryland, and Virginia. Each year the cast of City at Peace DC writes a new show based on participants’ real-life experiences. Original music, dance, and theater tell the stories of love, loss, fear, isolation, struggle, and joy that young people experience. The City at Peace DC musical production premieres at a Washington, DC theater in the Spring, then tours local schools and organizations through June. We can bring the production, or selected scenes from it, to your location to perform for young people or adults. An audience discussion follows.

“Those of us in Family Court are only seeing folks from skewed lenses — the neglect system or the juvenile justice system. Seeing the City at Peace kids perform every year at our conference helps judges see what it’s really like for kids. It’s had a very positive effect on judges because they see [young people] as productive members of society. Adults are able to hear difficult, touchy stuff because it’s coming from the heart. The kids can do it in ways that other adults can’t. Afterward judges say they really learned something about what it’s like to be a young person in DC and all the issues they’re facing.”

Magistrate Judge Mary Grace Rook,
DC Family Court

CUSTOMIZED SERVICES

City at Peace DC is proud to collaborate with organizations, individuals, and young people in unique ways to help them with their particular challenges. For example, in a long-standing partnership, City at Peace DC cast members work with third-year law students at the Georgetown University Law Center's Juvenile Justice Clinic. Cast members take on the roles of young people charged with crimes, add their own creative inspirations, and give law students the opportunity to practice working with young people they will be defending in court. After extensive role plays, the young actors give law students feedback about their experience as mock defendants.

We are open to developing creative collaborations with your organization to help promote cross-cultural understanding, teach conflict resolution, and prevent violence.

“It's essential that our students talk to people who are from DC who understand what it's like to be a kid or an adolescent here. Our students think they're not far removed from that experience, but this is DC and there are differences in class, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation than what our students may have experienced. The City at Peace kids are so diverse. I always thought City at Peace was an opportunity for kids to learn from each other and learn about themselves. Instead of just that they're coming out into the community to help us and educate us.”

Kristen Henning,
deputy director, Georgetown University Law
Center Juvenile Justice Clinic



“Often young people are hushed and devalued in terms of their feelings. At City at Peace you learn ‘I'm worth listening to. I'm worth being valued and heard. What I have to say does have a major impact on what's going on around me.’”

Kaneia Mayo,
City at Peace DC alumna
and board member,
now a teacher education
coordinator with the
Center for Inspired
Teaching



City at Peace DC is the only organization in the DC area using the performing arts to work intensively with diverse groups of young people to promote cross-cultural understanding, teach conflict resolution, and prevent violence. Using a youth-led model, our nonprofit builds trusting relationships, achieves artistic excellence, and creates lasting change in the lives of participants, their families, their schools, and their communities. We have been serving the region since 1994.

For more about City at Peace DC workshops, performances in the community, or other customized services, contact us at info@cityatpeacedc.org or 202-319-2200.

To learn more about City at Peace DC, visit www.cityatpeaceDC.org.



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