

# LETTER TO OUR COMMUNITY

Three weeks ago, Black Houston Creatives Network introduced **Dream in Color**, an inaugural art supply drive rooted in our mission to increase the visibility, resources, and economic opportunities of Black creatives in the greater Houston area.

The goal of the drive was simple but deeply meaningful: to place unopened and gently used art supplies directly into the hands of Black and Brown creative kids in Houston. We pursued this work because, beyond creativity, access to the arts nurtures mental well-being, encourages emotional expression, strengthens academic outcomes, and creates pathways to future careers in creative and cultural fields.

When we placed the call to our creative community, the city responded.

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We began by partnering with organizations and businesses known throughout the creative community for showing up and giving back. Arts District Houston, Project Row Houses, Jerry's Artarama, Art League Houston, and The Culture Society immediately rallied around this effort, generously agreeing to serve as a drop-off location and ambassador for the drive.

Next, we identified the recipient organizations. Rather than deciding in isolation, we turned to the community for guidance. Two names emerged again and again: Project Row Houses and CoolxDad. We agreed immediately they were the right stewards of the creativity, care, and hope behind this effort.

While we are deeply grateful for our partners, it was the broader community response that truly left us in awe. The outpouring of support from individuals, small businesses, nonprofits, and faith-based organizations transformed this vision into something greater than we could have imagined. Because of you, the city

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witnessed a quiet glimpse into the deep generosity of the creative community.

What began as a modest goal of 50 volunteer hours, 1,000 pieces of unopened art supplies, and 1,000 pieces of gently used supplies, concluded with more than 150 volunteer hours, 6,000 pieces of unopened art supplies, and 8,000 gently used items.

All of this came together in just three weeks, revealing a level of generosity that speaks volumes about who we are as a community and sets a benchmark for future endeavors.

Each paintbrush, tube of paint, crayon, and sheet of sketchbook paper was counted with care and intention, because each one offers kids the opportunity to create, express themselves, and dream beyond their current circumstances.

Further, we are sowing love, faith, and commitment into the next generation of

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creatives with each tangible, monetary, and in-kind donation. Therefore, the Black Houston Creatives Network is deeply grateful to every known and unknown donor, partner, and volunteer who made Dream in Color possible. Through your support, we are advancing Black artistry in the greater Houston area.

Thank you for believing in our vision and in the power of creativity. We look forward to partnering with you to help even more children dream in color next year.

With Love & Gratitude,

Black Houston Creatives Network