



**EMPOWERING BROOKLYN
STUDENTS THROUGH
INCLUSIVE, TRANSFORMATIVE
ARTS EDUCATION**



**brooklyn
CHILDREN'S
THEATRE**

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CHILDREN'S
THEATRE**

WWW.BROOKLYNCHILDRENSTHEATRE.ORG

OUR MISSION







Brooklyn Children's Theatre brings together youth from diverse backgrounds to learn and grow through the collaborative art of musical theatre

We are intentional about dismantling systemic barriers in traditional musical theatre education that prohibit the participation and growth of students from historically excluded communities.

The well-being of the "whole child" is centered in our approach to arts education, as we consider what our students need most to thrive, especially those from low-income and BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) backgrounds.



HOW WE ACHIEVE OUR MISSION

 <p>Equitable participation allowing all students to shine</p>  	 <p>Original plays written With Students, For Students</p>  	 <p>Social Emotional Learning</p>	 <p>Scholarships for 77% Of BCT Students</p>  
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WHAT HAPPENS WHEN EQUITY MEETS ARTS EDUCATION?

- 01 OVER 10,000 STUDENTS SERVED
SINCE 2004**
- 02 16 ON-STAGE PERFORMANCES
EACH YEAR**
- 03 74% BIPOC STUDENTS* IN
2022-2023**
- 04 77% MAJORITY OF
SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS IN
2022-2023**

**Black Indigenous, and People of Color*

SIGNATURE PROGRAMS



Viola Davis Summer Program

Students create original musicals in summer camps for our fall and spring MainStage program through imagination and improvisation.



MainStage Production Program

MainStage students are cast in, rehearse, and perform an original musical play on stage! Students learn acting, singing, and dance techniques in appropriate age groups in the fall and spring.



Free Weekend Program

Students who qualify for free or reduced lunch learn acting, dancing, and singing skills for free on Saturdays.



Teaching Artist Trainees

Paid mentorship and employment for young adults from historically excluded communities, as they build their careers as professional artists.

HEAR WHAT PARENTS ARE SAYING



"I can't even begin to explain what BCT means to us...BCT has helped boost [my son's] self-esteem. He now has much more confidence...He can be himself without fearing being judged or rejected....We could never thank BCT enough...it does take a village, and we have found the best one."

"BCT has changed my daughter's life...and has instilled confidence. It has awakened a happiness in my daughter that didn't exist prior. It's a judgment free sanctuary, that the day to day challenges her learning disability brings has no access to her. This program means the world to her and me!"

"I cried during the opening song. It is my greatest joy to see [my son] comfortable in his body and loving his art. Thank you so much for this life changing opportunity."

"[Our son] has social anxiety in a school environment [and] BCT has allowed him to truly shine and express himself."

PARENT TESTIMONIALS

"BCT [has] provided an inclusive experience for my daughter - as a child with special needs (ASD/ADHD) she was able to fully participate in this group."

Why Theatre Education ?

Better Communication Skills

Drama activities improve reading comprehension, and both verbal and non-verbal communication skills

Narrowing the Achievement Gap

A study published in *Champions of Change* cites theatre arts education as a source for "gains in reading proficiency, gains in self-concept and motivation, and higher levels of empathy and tolerance towards others" among youth of low socio-economic status.

Improving School Attendance

Students considered to be at high risk for dropping out of high school cite drama and other arts classes as their motivations for staying in school.



“(The arts) encourage children to ask questions, to use their imaginations, but also to approach their work in a systematic, disciplined way.”



We are creating the world we want to see at BCT:
A place where people from different backgrounds
come together to make art, find joy, and lift each
other up.