

BARELAS CREATIVE YOUTH TEAM

Partners: NHCC, Artful Life, Homewise, Working Classroom
2019-2020

In September 2019, after three months of recruitment, History and Literary Arts/NHCC and Artful Life, with support from Homewise and Working Classroom, formed a **creative team of teens who live in Barelás**.

Following a model created by Artful Life to employ youth teams to **co-create works of public art** in their neighborhoods, the teens engaged in teambuilding and creative collaboration with professional artists from September-December 2019. This led to community outreach (January-March 2020) in which the team surveyed Barelás residents, including walking the neighborhood to poll residents and gather their perspectives and stories as well as suggestions for neighborhood works of art.

The plan for the team for April and May 2020, was to lead the community in creating a new work of art, poetry, or performance for the neighborhood. Because of COVID-19, the co-creation of art was paused from mid-March to mid-April, but the team is now meeting virtually to continue their work.

Teens are compiling the results of the survey as well as walking the neighborhood (using social distancing) to map potential sites for art as well as research the availability of these sites.

They also continue creative collaboration as a team via Google Classroom and Google Hangouts. In mid-April the teens wrote individual "My Pandemic" poems which then generated an "Our Pandemic" collaborative poem (see the Artful Life website, www.artful-life.org).

The teens hope to resume their in-person work and create a work of art for Barelás during the summer of 2020. Teens are paid \$15/hour and call themselves the "Sunset Mix."

