

2017-2018 RACE AND JUSTICE MINIGRANT AWARD RECIPIENTS

Denver Office of Community Affairs

AGENCY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

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A Better Road Foundation - \$1,000

A Better Road Foundation has collaborated with the City Wide Youth Mentoring Program and Denver Police Department District 2 on mentoring and relationship and trust building activities. They will also come together for an ice cream social and car show.

Building Bridges - \$1,000

Now in its third year, Transform brings together young women from across metro Denver for a year-long leadership development program that equips students and law enforcement officers with the tools to have difficult conversations, self-advocate and engage with different people. Participants will engage in monthly workshops, spring retreats, one-on-one check-ins and a graduation ceremony.

Hope Communities - \$3,000

Hope Communities, founded in 1980 to create and maintain diverse, healthy communities, will develop a new pilot concept that includes cross-sector conversations, engagement between youth and law enforcement, and facilitated tours throughout Denver with individuals and families who come from all over the world. Interpreters will assist in communication as the groups visit sites and locations of importance, including service providers and educational sites as well as the state Capitol and cultural attractions.

Mayor's Youth Commission - \$3,000

For the past 18 months, the Mayor's Youth Commission has been working on alleviating tensions between youth and the Denver justice system. They began by surveying local young people to gauge the current climate around police conduct. When data revealed the need for a transparent space for youth and police to safely and positively interact, they created the Woke Minds Forum to provide the space and encourage a healthy dialogue around civic and social issues.

Safe Place/Safe People - \$2,000

Safe Place/Safe People will facilitate the creation of the Radio Rookies & Cops Show, which aims to help teens find the confidence to seek a productive future by allowing them to join law enforcement officers in creating radio stories about their lives particularly as they relate to law enforcement in their community. Many of the teen stories will address issues of concern in their communities, interactions with cops, leadership in their communities, their views of law enforcement and more. Teen hosts will receive conflict resolution, mediation and communication tools and training as they work to produce the stories. The shows will air as podcasts on PBRadiolive.com.

Sun Valley Youth Center - \$3,000

The Sun Valley Youth Center will expand an effort begun through a Race and Justice mini-grant last year to build relationships and trust between young people and police officers through bike rides. The rides, educational and beneficial for the overall health and wellbeing of both officers and students, have led to student participation in monthly rides with the Denver Police Department/Front Range Cycling Club. Several youth now compete on their team.

The Brave Coalition - \$2,000

The Brave Coalition, which seeks to identify and address individual and cultural biases by increasing awareness, shifting mindsets and inspiring action, will select students from twelve local middle schools within the Denver, Aurora and Adams County school districts to attend a one-day program facilitated by Rosetta Lee, a Seattle-based diversity speaker and trainer. In partnership with both the Denver and Aurora police departments, the program will focus on diversity, inclusion, implicit and unconscious bias, and effective strategies to navigate or mitigate intolerance. The diverse group of students will interact, learn from one another and be encouraged to share their stories in ways that promote empathy and trust.

Academia de Policía - \$3,000

The Academia de Policía is a bilingual three-day program that brings community members from the Westwood, Montbello and Five Points communities together with the Denver Police Department to learn about their rights when interacting with law enforcement officers, how to connect with police in cases of domestic violence, and what residents can do to defend themselves in cases of home invasions, robberies, etc. The program aims to begin creating trusting relationships between the community, specifically the Latino community, and police officers. It began after longtime community organizer Rosa Vergil attended the Citizens' Police Academy and realized that the academy was not offered in Spanish and was therefore not accessible for many predominantly Spanish-speaking Latino parents, grandparents and youth. Rosa then partnered with the Denver Police Department to create the Adademia de Policía.

Camp POSTCARD - \$2,000

Camp POSTCARD (Peace Officers Striving to Create and Reinforce Dreams) is a free one-week camp for deserving 11- and 12-year-olds who are at higher risk for school problems and involvement with juvenile justice and foster care systems. The camp provides an atmosphere of community, team-building, trust, life skill development, and healthy adult-youth relationships. Camp POSTCARD began 22 years ago at Volunteers of America, Northern New England, in Maine. Two camps have already been held in the Denver area.