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LEAP Gives Students Meaningful Experiences During School Closures With Its First 2025 School's Out Theater Program

Through a partnership with the All Stars Project, INC. and The National Endowment for the Arts, LEAP and LEAP Artists LIVE! staged an acapella musical and workshops, which showed students how to amplify their voices through the arts.

New York, NY- January 30, 2025 -- The School's Out Theater Program, hosted by LEAP's LEAP Artists LIVE! program is a new initiative that provides free, full-day musical theater and art workshops during school closures. The program aims to engage



Members of the LEAP Artists LIVE! theater troupe

students in exploring lesser-known historical or underrepresented stories while addressing the safety concerns of children being left unsupervised during school holiday breaks. On January 20, 2025, The School's Out Theater Program hosted its first program at the All Stars Project Inc's. 42nd Street Center to help teach students through the arts. The production and workshops were made possible through a grant from The National Endowment for the Arts, which is a federal agency that funds, promotes, and strengthens the creative capacity of our communities.

"Hosting LEAP's School's Out Theater Program aligns beautifully with our mission of transformation through performance," said Diane Stiles, VP and Director of All Stars Project of NY. "Dr. King's dream of unity and equality continues to inspire our work, and seeing young people engage with this history through the arts reminds us that his message resonates just as powerfully today. As we reimagine our West 42nd Street center as a shared destination for youth and community development, we're

excited to partner with LEAP in creating spaces where young people can dream and discover new possibilities for their futures."

For this theater program, the musical focused on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the Children's Crusade of 1963. The theater troupe performed [The Movement: An Accapella Musical](#), which discussed how children and teenagers in Birmingham, AL, marched against segregation. The performance allowed the theater company to reach a diverse audience and allowed students to have a unique learning experience during one of the school breaks.

"The LEAP Artist's LIVE! School's Out Series is a celebration of creativity, community, and the transformative power of the arts, offering engaging arts programming on school closure days," said writer and Director of LEAP Signature Programs Kathy D. Harrison. "By providing meaningful performances like *The Movement: An A Cappella Musical* along with workshops, we encourage young people to connect with history, discover their voices, and see how they can shape the world around them—all while turning a day off into a day of growth and inspiration."

Students watched a performance and engaged in workshops that taught them about community needs and engaged them in social justice themes. Students were also given lunch, during which they could mingle with other students in the area. All parts of this event were free to the community, including workshops, lunch, and transportation if needed.

"This is one of the first events for the School's Out Theater Series, with more to come during the rest of the 2025 school year. From this series, we would like to expand our audiences and become a larger innovation that ensures children from all walks of life have meaningful experiences outside of school," said Gineyda Diaz, Director of Strategy & Impact at LEAP. "Children who are exposed to the arts become creative, confident, and productive adults. Thus, continued funding for organizations like LEAP and our programs is crucial."



Members of the LEAP Artists LIVE! theater troupe

LEAP Artists LIVE! will be participating in more School's Out Theater Programs this school year, with the next one taking place during the mid-winter recess in February. Please visit the [LEAP website](#) for more dates and information on the theater programs.

For media inquiries or interviews, contact Tiffany Joy Murchison at pr@tjmandco.com.

About LEAP Artists LIVE!

LEAP Artists LIVE! is a program of LEAP, a nonprofit that partners with school communities to encourage New York City youth to pursue passions, develop their strengths, and learn how to use their voices through creative arts programs. LEAP Artists LIVE! is an award-winning theater troupe that offers in-person or virtual residences, workshops, and touring performances. All their performances allow learning to be brought to the stage and for constructive conversations to start. They focus on social awareness topics, such as history, equity and inclusion, and youth empowerment, to allow personal connections through the arts.