

May 20 Notes Core Team Meeting/ Barre

How to help youth explore and plan for careers in the arts- Opal Jones, *VABIR Youth Employment Specialist*

- Hobby vs Art Practice/Portfolios
 - Careful not to dissuade young people as referring to their art as a “hobby” when they report they want to be an artist. Instead, encourage them to become fluent in talking about their practice of creating art. Including how the student came up with the idea, chose the colors, the practice of putting it together, and why the student makes their art.
 - Like any other profession, people are inspired by individuals who can communicate their passion. The same goes for artists.
 - Artists save their work in a portfolio and *everything* is saved. This is important for galleries, shows, and art colleges. Post-secondary education programs will ask for a variety of work and want to see where the artist started, where they are now, and the potential path of growth and expression.
 - Portfolios should be saved digitally.
- Networking/Volunteering
 - Attending local art-walks, attending shows at galleries like [Studio Place Arts](#) or [The Front](#), volunteering at the same galleries or [Vermont College of Fine Arts](#), connecting to local art groups or classes, and all of these increases the connection to other artists in the community. [Vermont Arts Council - Working for a Creative State](#) is another great networking resource.
- Entry Level: What to expect
 - Setting up a show, clean up, and become an artist assistant are paid jobs that often come from volunteer positions.
 - A mentor is an important part of the growth process and can help young people
- Reality: Finding a job that you enjoy that also funds your art practice
 - Many artists have other jobs that allow them to fund their art. The other job shouldn't be draining to the point where the person doesn't have the energy to create their art.
- Questions:
 - What about a site like Etsy?
 - This does require revenue to start the process however RedBubble and Society6 are websites that handle the printing and shipping. There is a level of risk with ideas being taken by other artists and sold on the same site.
 - Any additional questions, please contact Opal:
 - ojones@vabir.org

Next year's Core Team planning

- Agenda topics and guest speakers
 - Disability etiquette training (VCIL)
 - Employer guest speaker and panel
 - Cyber security
 - Alternatives to military or law enforcement
 - Unique job opportunities – specific to Vermont, opportunities in other states, STEM)

- Transportation panel
- My Futures VT
- Green Mountain Self Advocates
- How to help families navigate family hired employees (respite care for example)
- Youth Advocacy Council members panel
- How schools can set up a small business for students to develop skills in (like Bellcote and the dog biscuit business), invite a lawyer or business consultant