

## **RICHMOND TEEN COMMUNITY RESOURCES**

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According to the National Education Association, “The school-to-prison pipeline disproportionately places students of color, including those who identify as LGBTQ, have disabilities, and/or are English Language Learners, into the criminal justice system for minor school infractions and disciplinary matters, subjecting them to harsher punishments than their white peers for the same behaviors.” Virginia Rep is glad to share this list of local organizations which use arts, education, and mentoring to empower children and teens to succeed in life. Please reach out to them if you are interested in helping or learning more.

Please note, we compiled this list by asking a few experts, but there are likely many more great organizations in Richmond. If you believe we should include an organization, please let us know ([dcummins@virginiarep.org](mailto:dcummins@virginiarep.org)). We are limiting this list to nonprofits and organizations focused on teens.

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### **Art 180**

[art180.org](http://art180.org)

ART 180 offers arts programming at no cost to young people in Richmond. We partner with schools and community centers to provide programs to students ages 8-18 years old. We also have an art gallery and teen center downtown called Atlas, where our programs are available to high school students.

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### **Big Brothers Big Sisters**

[bigbrobigsis.com](http://bigbrobigsis.com)

Big Brothers Big Sisters is accountable for youth building social skills, increasing academic achievement, and creating healthy lifestyles. Individual youth have goals, developed with the mentor and parent/guardian, that are based on Search Institute's 40 Developmental Assets.

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### **Boys & Girls Club of Metro Richmond**

[bgcmr.org](http://bgcmr.org)

Five Clubs in Four Neighborhoods, 1,200 Youth Served Annually, 60+ Community Partners. Our mission is to empower young people, especially those from historically marginalized communities, to succeed in life. State-of-the-Art Teen and Community Center opened in the fall of 2021.

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### **Cadence Theatre's STAGE WRITE**

[cadencetheatre.org](http://cadencetheatre.org)

Cadence Theatre Company's STAGE WRITE student leadership and workforce readiness program provides Richmond and regional high school students with an opportunity to gain experience in critical thinking, problem solving, communication skills, and teamwork through writing and performing narratives that are directly relevant to the issues they face in their own lives. The program is based on pedagogy that demonstrates that performing arts training builds workforce readiness skills and lifelong personal strengths. Now in its 8th year, STAGE WRITE is led by professional teaching artists versed in the creation of original curriculum, including creative writing, oral presentation, and essential soft skills. Students work with professionals to create work inspired by themes explored in class and in their community.

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### **MENTOR Virginia**

[mentorva.org](http://mentorva.org)

For over 25 years, MENTOR Virginia has been serving as the catalyst and leader for the expansion of youth mentoring across Virginia. We work closely with mentoring programs to help them build their capacity to provide high-quality mentoring relationships to young people ages 5-24 and provide training for new mentors. We believe that our communities, families, schools, and workplaces all benefit when young people have access to a caring adult mentor who empowers, encourages, and elevates them to reach their full potential.

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**The Hive**[thehivemovement.org](http://thehivemovement.org)

Building a more just future for the next generation. The Hive is a new youth-centered community in Richmond that holistically supports young people as they transition into adulthood. Their Youth Ambassador Squad (YAS) is a reentry program that supports Richmond City youth ages 15-21 who have navigated the justice system, in an effort to keep them free from incarceration. More info at [www.thehivemovement.org](http://www.thehivemovement.org) or on social media @thehivemovement

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**Peter Paul Development Center**[peterpaulrva.org](http://peterpaulrva.org)

Our mission is to support the neighbors of the East End and educate its students, equipping them to serve as positive contributors to their families, community, and society.

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**Podium RVA**[podiumrva.org](http://podiumrva.org)

Podium provides weekly writing and communication workshops, publications, and showcase opportunities for youth ages 10 - 19 across Greater Richmond. Communication is a critical skill we all need to shape the futures we seek, and writing helps us reflect, de-stress, organize our thoughts, and share our innermost feelings. We prepare youth for high school, college, career, and for their adult lives.

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**Richmond Youth Peace Project (RYPP)**[www.rpec.org](http://www.rpec.org)

Through our teen programs, the Peace Center engages with Richmond's youth and nurtures developing community leaders. Our teen programs provide peaceful alternatives to teen violence, empower youth to promote peace and justice in their own communities, and provide guidance and opportunities for teens to express themselves in dynamic ways.

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**Saving Our Youth**[savingouryouthva.org](http://savingouryouthva.org)

At Saving Our Youth VA, we assist youth with post education planning which could include planning for college, trade school or other opportunities. Our after-school program offers a support system, leadership training, and personal reflections to help them reach their post education goals and become future leaders.

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**We Are the Youth Outreach**[wearetheyouthoutreach.com](http://wearetheyouthoutreach.com)

Our mission is to provide today's youth and young adults with life-affirming resources utilizing our personalized mentorship, finance, and education programs. We pledge to help increase their personal growth opportunities as well as their mentality for a brighter future and financial stability all while reducing computer illiteracy, the rate of youth opioid and opiate addiction, child hunger and recidivism rates.

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**Virginia Dept. of Juvenile Justice**[djj.virginia.gov](http://djj.virginia.gov)

Our mission is to provide excellence in public safety through a diverse and highly skilled workforce that provides interventions that strengthen and transform the lives of the youth, families, and communities we serve. To explore volunteer opportunities at one of our Court Service Units or Facility, call (804) 971-3973. We also partner with the Family and Children's Trust (FACT) of Virginia on an emergency funds project, specifically for youth who have received DJJ services, to provide flexible funding for critical supports. Please go to [fact.virginia.gov](http://fact.virginia.gov) and write "DJJ project" in the section on the page that says "In honor of."

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**Youth Life Foundation of Richmond**[ylfr.org](http://ylfr.org)

The Youth Life Foundation of Richmond operates learning centers to develop leaders by making long-term investments in children from at-risk communities. By supporting students academically, developing their character from a young age, raising expectations, and investing in their lives through committed mentoring relationships, these youth will rise above their circumstances to become tomorrow's leaders.

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