





LIBERATE

WITHOUT COMMUNITY, THERE IS NO LIBERATION. — AUDRE LORDE

A close look at American History affirms that no one was more responsible for ending slavery than the enslaved people themselves. “The Emancipation Proclamation reminds us that real change derives only from the actions of the people and that political leadership finds its truest moment when it acts upon the authentic will of the people.”

TO LIBERATE is to break free from that which binds. As a community we work together daily to break down the unjust forces that keep us (children, parents, siblings, teachers, artists, and all community members) from being free. We believe in freedom. We use art to investigate our social condition/reality and create a world where liberation reaches us all. We believe we have the right and power to define our legacy of freedom, and the ability to make it a reality.

During the 2024-25 school year, we challenge ourselves to create liberated spaces. We challenge ourselves to think about the ways we experience and perpetuate subjugation/restraint, both personally and collectively. We challenge ourselves to break free from old patterns that do not serve our collective liberation.



To liberate ourselves we let go of the dominant narrative that we must be freed by someone else and instead commit to freeing ourselves. In a liberated classroom, students help define the direction of their own learning. In a liberated work space, staff help define what their work is and how it is done. In a liberated community, we recognize that liberation means different things to different people, and we create space for us to collectively define what liberation means for us all.

TO NURTURE LIBERATION is to work together to build strong bonds between us, bonds that are healthy and long-lasting. We believe that we have the power to create a better world where everyone can experience what it really means to be liberated. We dedicate this year to working to achieve that experience for the DreamYard community. This year we will look at our core value of Nurture.

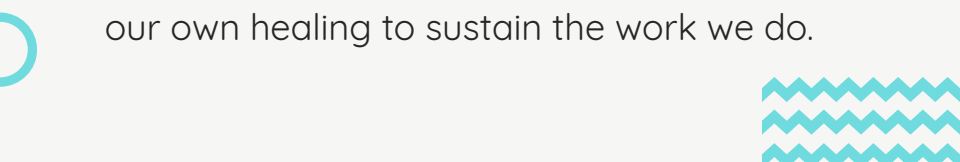
HOW DO WE NURTURE TO LIBERATE?





NURTURE

We view ourselves as incubators, havens, homes, hubs for locally grown leaders, artists, youth, families, and cultural administrators. We value the shared sense of humanity that is strengthened in fertile and nurturing environments. We recognize that the trauma that Black and Brown people experience specifically, is compounded, constant and complex. Building a new world requires a deep reworking and reimagining of our relationships to each other and to the spaces we occupy. We take ownership over our own healing to sustain the work we do.



NURTURE GUIDING QUESTIONS

What is self care? → *What does it mean to heal oneself?*

- What makes me thrive vs. just survive?
- What does healing feel like?
- How do I use my art for self care/to heal?

How do we care for each other? → *What are ways that we can support each other's healing?*

- How is my liberation connected to yours?
- How do we collectively reimagine and reinvent spaces?
- How do our spaces promote our health, happiness, and well-being?

How do I imagine new possibilities? → *What would it look like to imagine new ways of caring for each other, making art and creating change in our communities?*

- How do we remain on our growing edge?
- How do we imagine new ways to be free?
- How do we sustain freedom?

INDICATORS:

- Teachers, staff and students center, uplift and protect narratives that heal and celebrate our community
- Teachers, staff and students identify and offer a diverse set of community care strategies
- Teachers, staff and students express pride, confidence and healthy self-esteem without denying the value and dignity of other people
- Teachers, staff and students recognize that power and privilege influence relationships on interpersonal, intergroup and institutional levels and address how they have been affected by those dynamics through daily interaction, conversation and art making.
- Teachers, staff and students respond to diversity by building empathy, respect, understanding and connection.