



RIVER CITY

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Bringing together the best of our city to build a path for families to walk from cradle to career to the glory of God.

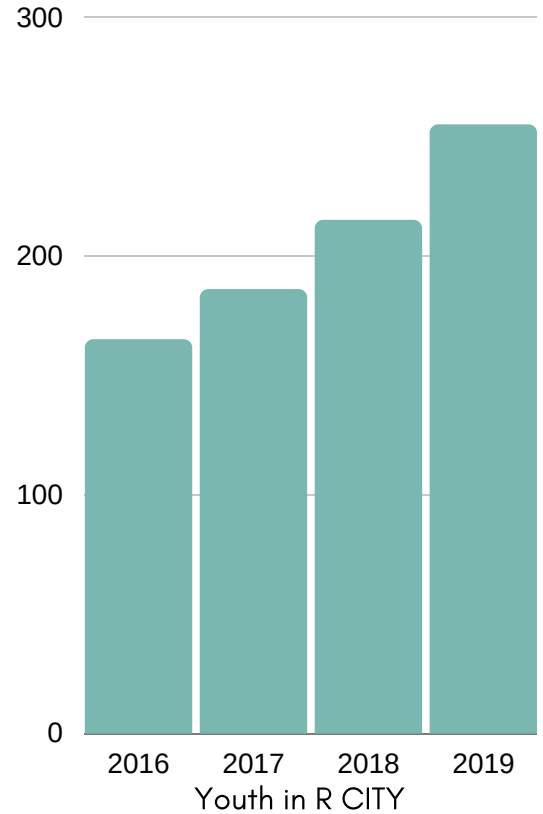
2019 Year in Review

"Than ever before..." When the work is done and the counting starts, these are the words nonprofit directors hope to write. It's not every year I get to write them, and we are thrilled to celebrate a year of *more than ever before* at R CITY. In those in-between months, though, when the work is being done, *more than ever before* doesn't feel like pure celebration. It feels like one little leap of faith after another, because every *than ever before* starts with a *never done that before*. And things never done before--they come with real uncertainty.

Will we be able to staff three simultaneous summer programs--and run them well? Will we be able to manage youth at three locations and two remote sites--all at the same time? Will there be enough resources? Enough leaders? Enough endurance? Enough...everything?

But (spoiler alert) there was enough, more than ever before: more income, more youth, more contracts, more products, more program days, more open hours. Because we remember so vividly the process of growth in 2019, we are especially thankful for each of you who made it happen. The monthly donors who just kept giving. The major donors who stunned us with generosity. The partners and funders who wanted us on their side. And the youth--the magnificent youth--who made us their second family. Whatever your role was, celebrate. This is your *more than ever before*.

Elizabeth Galik
Executive Director



2019 R CITY REACH

255

INDIVIDUAL
YOUTH SERVED

68

TEENS
APPRENTICED

105

VOLUNTEERS
ENGAGED



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Dreambuilders

104 Children Welcomed

In 2019, R CITY secured funding to expand Dreambuilders after-school program to 5 days weekly. This expansion made a significant difference for both parents and youth, with attendance gaining higher levels than ever before. To serve the higher levels of children, the 15 Dreambuilders apprentices (ages 11-15) have grown tremendously in their leadership

This fall, amid this unrest of our city, every day of the CTU Strike Dreambuilders Children's Program opened its doors. Serving an average of 36 students in grades Pre-K to 8, our staff and apprentices were all willing and ready to do whatever they needed to do to care for our students and assure our teachers that their young "friends" were safe in this time.



Peacebuilders

212 Products Produced

R City Print Shop (RCPS) began in March of 2019 and has grown rapidly before our eyes. What began with one small project has expanded to its own studio space and now an online store! Started by art instructor and screenprinter, Jeffrey Peltz, RCPS has trained 7 faithful junior high entrepreneurs who have learned the screenprinting process from design to sales.

RCPS has recently started taking custom screenprinting orders from partners around the city. These orders have stretched our students to reimagine designs for clients, growing them both artistically and as entrepreneurs. Two RCPS students are auditioning for Chicago High School for the Arts for visual art and we are excited to see the creativity and self-expression that they take from Print Shop into their high school career.



Citybuilders

60 Youth Apprenticed

This year was another busy year for Harambee Citybuilders! With 606 classroom hours and 4,044 service hours this summer alone, our youth impacted neighbors in unforgettable ways. One homeowner came to us in crisis, threatened with \$10,000 of city citations for necessary tuckpointing repairs. Through the Harambee model, we were able to take care of her needs at no charge.

Completing projects like this, our youth showed incredible levels of commitment. 87% of summer youth displayed mastery of the skills required for their level, and altogether, apprentices achieved a combined attendance rate of 85%. In a season when many youth make other choices, we are inspired by those who spend their summers with us, serving their neighbors.

Coming Up In 2020

The Harambee program is currently launching a sliding-scale model for tuckpointing, planning to use this earned income to grow to serve more homes. To further expand our reach, we are honing plans for a 2020 Harambee Graduate Crew, a small crew of young adults to do a wider scope of projects over a broader radius.

R CITY Print Shop continues to grow the marketing and business side of the project, increasing our capacity to deliver custom design and/or screenprinting projects. With 50% of product proceeds going directly to our young entrepreneurs and 50% returning to grow RCPS, every order benefits youth, now and in years to come.