

CONNECT
CREATE
CHANGE

breaking walls

Our Mission: Breaking Walls exists to bring arts education and leadership skill-building to diverse communities of young people worldwide. Through its innovative programming and skilled artistic mentors, young participants utilize creative activism and peacemaking models to produce original pieces of literary, visual, and vocal art, as well as instrumental music, dance, and ensemble performances. Breaking Walls ultimately seeks to create a diverse, equitable, inclusive, and justice-oriented global community by bringing together young people through its art and activism programming.

Our Demographics: Breaking Walls' demographic represents a diverse range of cultural, religious, and socio-economic backgrounds. Additionally, differences in sexual orientation and identity, educational levels, special needs, immigration, and refugee status increase the risk of their being affected by what scholars call "voice poverty" - the denial of access to opportunities, agency, and advocacy due to a lack of attention given to a particular group, even when they speak out. Using a multi-disciplinary arts approach, Breaking Walls pushes back against the voice poverty plaguing the lives of so many young people. Their artistry is a testament to individual self-expression and collective energies within the creative community.

We offer young participants a three-tiered path to leadership and ongoing involvement, creating a sustainable model for creative collaboration. By providing a three-tier approach, we can better serve students and the skills they need for their specific age group. We break down the participants into these three categories:

- **Artists**, ages 11 to 19, write and perform their original work for a live audience during workshops, initiatives, virtual artist cooperatives, and international Summits.
- **Artists/Leadership Apprentices**, ages 19 to 21, continue to write and perform while developing their leadership skills.
- **Ambassadors**, ages 19 to 25, are former artists who guide the writing and performance processes while mentored by the Director Team.





Breaking Walls
2027 Summit Istanbul, Türkiye



Who: Thirty Breaking Walls artists and ambassadors, aged 12 to 24, from Barcelona, Basra, Berlin, Bethlehem, Brooklyn, Cape Town, Palermo, Santiago, Sarajevo, Tangier, and Yerevan will collaborate with ten peers in Istanbul to write and perform on topics related to self-awareness, freedom of expression, and the nurturing of a peaceful, just, and sustainable planet.

What:
The Breaking Walls International Intercultural Summit's comprehensive 17-day schedule is designed to support its goals of fostering creativity, empowering youth, and promoting global understanding.

1. Literary Art: The first five days of the Summit focus on developing each participant's literary art (stories, poems, dialogues, etc.). During this phase, the creative process is supported by responding to writing prompts, peer-to-peer editing, and rewrite coaching.
2. Community Service: On the sixth day, participants contribute a day of community service. At the same time, the Director of Theater Performance and their team of Artistic Mentors craft a script from the individual writings.
3. Rehearsals, Creative Activism, Health & Wellness: Days seven through fifteen are spent in a rehearsal process that combines spoken word, vocal and visual art, instrumental music, and dance, culminating in a polished performance. Throughout the rehearsal phase, participants rotate through the Creative Activist and Health & Wellness Lab sessions and our cultural explorations of the host city.
4. Performance: On day sixteen, a culminating performance takes place. The unified ensemble performance integrates individual writing pieces and voices the common themes uncovered throughout the Summit.
5. Friendship Day: On the final day of the Summit, we savor our success and new bonds, gather for our final community meeting, and express emotional goodbyes.

Breaking Walls is fortunate to have the professional expertise of our 2027 Team, who undergo training in anti-bullying, mindfulness, and diversity to ensure our goals are met successfully. The Director of Ensemble-Building is Josh Brisa (SP). Literary Art is Fran Tarr (NY), and Theater Performance is Angela Constantinidou (CY). Completing the team are the Director of Creative Activism, Adina Taubman (NY), and Assessment and Leadership, Dannie Kagan (SA).

When: A 17-day program from July 1 to July 17, 2027. Breaking Walls covers all in-country expenses except individual pocket money.

Why: As Breaking Walls enters its second decade, we truly embrace the “A Whole Child Is a Healthy Child” mantra. Pledging our commitment to promote cross-cultural, borderless human connections to create a nonjudgmental and intentional healing space where young people can unpack harm, build trust, and speak their truth using their art while developing solutions to address prejudgment, misinformation, and the myriad of social issues challenging them all.

“I’m a magician, but I still don’t understand the Magic of Breaking Walls. To meet people from all over the world and see that we are not different, see that we all want to fight for a better world; that’s the most beautiful Magic I’ve ever seen.”
Barcelona artist Sergi.



“Breaking Walls opened me up. I discovered new ideas, learned about the cultures and ways of thinking of my global brothers and sisters. I surpassed my fears. Encouraged myself to understand I am not alone in the world. I cannot express the amazing sense we had on stage together.”
Breaking Walls Yerevan artist Erik

“Breaking Walls introduces us to ourselves.. Kamva, Cape Town artist.





