



# ART FROM ASHES inc.

empowering youth through creative expression and personal transformation

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## Happy Holidays!

At Art from Ashes we believe in the power of gratitude and find small ways to practice it daily. Everyone who enters our office is invited to name their blessings on a white board that hangs prominently in our workspace. To end every staff meeting, we all participate in a gratitude circle, sharing why we are grateful for each person at the table, including what we appreciate about ourselves. We do this because taking a moment out of our day to appreciate the beauty and magic of our lives rejuvenates our souls and gives us strength.

According to Dr. Robert Holden, "The miracle of gratitude is that it shifts your perception to such an extent that it changes the world you see." Sound familiar? In our creative empowerment workshops, young people learn they have the power to shift their perception of themselves and their world through creative expression—and it changes their lives forever. As 2017 comes to a close, we would like to share just a few of our many bright spots with you. Here's what we're celebrating this year:

- We're growing! In 2017 we welcomed four new board members, expanded our staff to include a Community Collaborator and received funding for a Resource Development Coordinator, trained seven new youth workshop facilitators, and according to October statistics, we have already surpassed the number of youth served in 2016.
- We added a second free drop-in workshop called Creative Time to our Wednesday line-up! From 2:30-4 pm, youth can hang out in our space and express themselves through visual art before the 4:30-6:30 pm Phoenix Rising workshop, due to community funding, including grants, individual and corporate support (please see our website for a list of funders!).
- For the *fourth* time, Phoenix Rising has been named one of the top 50 arts and humanities-based programs in the country by the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities.



These accomplishments wouldn't be possible without donations from those who care about youth and the arts. All of us at Art from Ashes are grateful to YOU for your continued support of our creative empowerment programming. Your funding helps youth *express* their stories through art and poetry; *connect* with themselves, each other and their community; and *transform* their perceptions of themselves into valuable and powerful creative geniuses.

We hope you are grateful for the work we are doing on behalf of the youth and the community, and invite you to generously "give where you live" on Colorado Gives Day. Art from Ashes, as always, exists to serve by empowering youth and in so doing, supporting us all as a community. Please donate by returning the form below or by going to <http://bit.ly/donateafa> before Dec 5th at midnight.

### WITH GRATITUDE,

Catherine O'Neill Thorn

Alyssa Bennett Smith

Jess Whetsel

Jen Harris

I would love to provide youth with the gift of expression, connection and transformation through creative programs.



Amount of Donation: \_\_\_\_\_

Is this a Monthly Donation?  no  yes

All the following information is required in order to donate, including email and the 3/4-digit CVV.

Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Visa  Mastercard  AmEx Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## **In the Early Morning of My Childhood**

by Xexal Nightshade, 19

In the early morning of my childhood  
I was loose  
So unwound that I laughed  
Bouncy curls and messy buns  
I didn't care about how I was perceived  
As long as I was comfortable and warm  
Like warm sweaters knitted  
Out of a mother's love  
I was home  
For no matter where I was  
As long as I was present  
I was home  
I was my own lock to my key  
My sanction of territory  
Swathed in peace with a splash of wildness  
I was loose, carefree  
And I was home

.....

*Join us to celebrate  
the Spirits of AfA Past, Present & Future*

**Tuesday, December 5, 2017 | 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.**

**1310 W. 10th Avenue, Denver**

On Colorado Gives Day, we will honor more than 14 years of service to our youth!

Come enjoy drinks, hor d'oeuvres, youth and community poet performances, custom poetry, a silent auction and giveaways.

We want to celebrate all past, present and future volunteers, board members, partners, funders, sponsors, poets, artists and youth! We couldn't do it without you.



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