



ART FROM ASHES inc.

empowering youth through creative expression and personal transformation

1310 west 10th ave • denver co 80204 • 303.837.1550 • artfromashes.org • fb/artfromashes • twitter/artfromashes

Happy Holidays!

My name is Kumi, and I am 18 years old. This holiday season, I'd like to share my story of transformation with you.

Before Art from Ashes, I was just an empty shell named Kumi, and I had a degree in making bad decisions. Now I'm getting a different kind of degree at CCD, thanks in large part to Art from Ashes!

"I had a degree in making bad decisions."

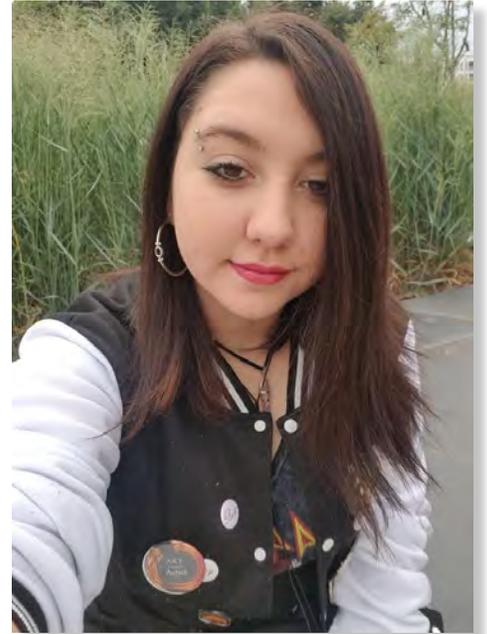
I was full of creativity, hidden behind a door barred shut by my enemy Bipolar Disorder. I was frustrated, depressed, ecstatic, and powerless. Imagine trying to defeat a monster with only a bottle of pills, the wrong kind of friends, and bad love relationships. Doesn't make much sense, right?

But then Art from Ashes came to our Creative Writing class at Endeavor Academy. I was so excited about how easy it was to let out my creativity in the form of poetry. I didn't really ever do much poetry before, so it was new and interesting...and soon it became my favorite thing to do.

I finally had something new to fight my monster with **and you better believe I felt empowered!** I felt strong with my new weapon and confident in my new skills. I learned the power of my voice as I read my poetry to the people willing to listen, and I learned how to conquer my fears. And with Art from Ashes, I learned to help empower others, as well.

Art from Ashes was able to come to Endeavor Academy because of generous donations from community members just like you. I'd like to thank you for your support and ask that you please consider financially supporting Art from Ashes this holiday season so that more youth can experience empowerment and transformation through art and poetry.

—Kumi Avila, Youth Representative to the Art from Ashes Board of Directors



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:

Here's what your generous donation provides:

- At Art from Ashes, we believe in paying artists! Your donation of **\$50** provides an honorarium for a guest poet or artist to inspire and motivate the young people in our workshops.
- We spend more than **\$1000** a year providing an honorarium to youth who perform their poetry for the community! Any amount you designate can support that goal: _____
- We believe in healthy food and LOTS of water for youth. Your donation of **\$50** will provide enough food and water for one 2-hour workshop for up to 20 young people! How many workshops would you like to support?: _____
- A monthly donation of **\$100** will provide writing and art materials for four of our weekly drop-in workshops, held every Wednesday (Phoenix Rising) and Thursday (Drawing on Air Creative Time).
- A one-time gift of **\$2000** will support a year's worth of weekly workshops for a struggling youth.
- A one-time gift of **\$5000** will provide the cost of an 8-workshop program for 20 youth (\$15/hr. per youth), which would include operating costs as well as program expenses.
- Of course, we would very much appreciate **any amount** you're willing to donate! Please designate an amount on the front and mail in your check or hold your camera over the QR code below which will take you directly to the website.

Does your employer match your donation? Please let us know!

**And we hope you'll come to our Annual Celebration of Light Party on Colorado Gives Day!
Dec 4th from 7 to 9 pm at Art from Ashes, 1310 west 10th ave, denver**



AfA website



AfA Facebook page



AfA-Colorado Gives



PayPal Giving Fund



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Happy Season of Light!

We hope you enjoyed Kumi's powerful story of transformation. Stories like Kumi's, and the stories we've heard from countless other young people over the years, remind us why we exist and inspire us to continue this important work. Colorado Gives Day is Tuesday, December 4th—a day that allows our generous donors to contribute towards that beautiful goal. During that 24-hour period your donation counts more than any other time.

Speaking of years...on October 10, Art from Ashes celebrated its 15th anniversary! That's 15 years of young people discovering their creative genius through our unique and innovative programs. At Art from Ashes, we believe that by discovering their creativity, young people are empowered through art and poetry to find their voice, change their stories, and transform their lives. And as numerous studies and our own surveys have shown, it works.

In 2018, Art from Ashes experienced a few transformations as well:

- 🦅 AfA won the Mayor's Award for Excellence in Arts and Culture! This prestigious award is given to organizations that make significant and lasting contributions in the City and County of Denver. What a great way to celebrate our 15th anniversary!
- 🦅 AfA merged with Violet Hive, a nonprofit organization that shares our belief that art facilitates empowerment and healing. Founder of Violet Hive, Amy Leiter, joined the AfA staff; Bridget Hofstadter of Violet Hive is now our volunteer coordinator; and both are trained Phoenix Rising facilitators who have expanded our weekly Creative Time drop-in workshops!
- 🦅 Our programs and the work we do with youth in the community were highlighted on CBS4 and Fox Network, helping to send our message of hope and transformation to thousands of people.
- 🦅 AfA hosted and facilitated a workshop for the World Denver Iraqi Youth Delegation.
- 🦅 AfA has now partnered with more than 180 organizations to serve nearly 13,000 young people!



In addition to our ongoing workshops in the community and weekly on-site workshops, young people have shared their stories and their voices at a number of events in 2018. Some of these events include monthly First Friday performances at AfA, the Mercury Café's 30th Annual Poetry Rodeo, the Youth Voices in Recovery poetry performance, and AfA's 9th Annual Running of the Gays. Additionally, two of our youth poets were featured at the 2018 Denver Women's March, where they performed in front of thousands of people!

Seeing the magic happen in workshops and watching the transformation of both youth and community members during performances and art shows re-ignites our passion for the work we do and leaves us energized for a groundbreaking future:

- 🦅 Next year Violet Hive artists and AfA staff will expand the Drawing on Air curriculum, which is built on the foundation of our award-winning Phoenix Rising program.

 Of our existing trained facilitators, two are professional dancers interested in expanding and facilitating our Wingspan program, which we hope to launch by the end of 2019.

Our programs are magical, but we can't soar without you. We hope you will help us meet our goal to serve even more youth in 2019. Please consider making a holiday contribution to provide creative empowerment workshops to the young people in our community.

With gratitude and joy,

The Art From Ashes Staff, Board, Facilitators, Contractors and Volunteers

Catherine O'Neill Thorn
Bridget Hofstadter
Sarah Lanzarotta
Samantha Albala
Savannah Arterburn

Celeste Seiler
Tiffany Bowden
Amy Leiter
Marie Verrett
Carolyn Klier

Lewis Lease
Jessica Jarrard
Susie Martin
Johnnie Thorn
Kumi Avila

Plus 63 interns, volunteers, and guest poets/artists!

PS. For those of you who have been supporting, praying for, and thinking of Catherine as she has journeyed through this difficult past year, you can find her medical update on our website here:
www.artfromashes.org/category/news

*We hope you can join us at our annual Celebration of Light party at our location on 10th and Navajo. We'll have a cash bar, great food, holiday art projects you can make, youth and community poets and two fantastic musicians: guitarist, songwriter and vocalist **Eddie Roberts** and saxophonist **Nicholas Gerlach**:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y2tfsiqVR6o&feature=youtu.be>

itunes.apple.com/us/artist/nicholas-gerlach/1298238149

Join Art from Ashes on Dec 4th for our annual

Celebration of Light

Colorado Gives Day
Tuesday, Dec 4, 2018 || 7-9 pm
1310 W. 10th Avenue, Denver

Come enjoy drinks, hor d'oeuvres, youth and community poet performances, crafts & holiday card creation, a silent auction and giveaways PLUS music by Eddie Roberts and Nicholas Gerlach!

We will be celebrating 15 years of service to our youth with 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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