



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ART AS MENTORSHIP LAUNCHES REBEL SONG ACADEMY IN TOPEKA, KS

KANSAS CITY, MO - Art As Mentorship (AAM) is partnering with [ArtsConnect](#) and Boys and Girls Club to bring its flagship program, the Rebel Song Academy (RSA), to Topeka, KS. In this first program outside the Kansas City area, young creators will band together to write, produce, and release original songs. RSA consists of a research-based, trauma-informed curriculum focused on self discovery through songwriting. Curious artists and supporters can find more information about RSA [here](#).

This 4-week pilot version of the RSA camp will take place at [Boys and Girls Club Topeka](#) in April and May. Students need no prior music experience to participate and together will form small band groups who will be guided by a mentor through song writing, synthesis, production, and promotion. Students meet, ask questions, and learn from artists, musicians, and music industry professionals. AAM has recruited two new Topeka-based mentors, Preston Walker and Justin Fowler, to lead the camp and each week of camp will be supported by Kansas City-based AAM mentors.

“The first time I heard about this program, I knew that we needed to find a way to make it happen in Topeka,” said ArtsConnect Executive Director, Sarah Fizell. “It just so happened that they were also looking for an opportunity to share the Rebel Song Academy program with young people outside of KC for the first time. We are so excited to be the first community outside of KC to have the Rebel Song Academy experience. It’s an incredible opportunity for young artists in our community to get a chance to work with peers - and have access to big names in the music industry locally, regionally and internationally.”

~ more ~

Camp will culminate in two trips to Kansas City to perform and record their music. On May 11, the Topeka RSA campers will join the KC RSA campers and the band Making Movies for a live performance at Chicken and Pickle in Overland Park. On May 14, the Topeka RSA campers will head to The LAB, the Art As Mentorship recording studio in Olathe, to record and produce their tracks.

This program is made possible with the generous support of the Kansas Creative Arts Industries Commission, the National Endowment for the Arts, The Boys & Girls Clubs of Topeka, The Topeka Community Foundation, Security Benefit and The Tonantzin Society,

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[Art As Mentorship](#) is a Kansas City based nonprofit, founded in 2017 by Enrique Chi and members of the band [Making Movies](#), whose mission is to “empower young people, through music, to write their own success stories.” The LAB is a state-of-the-art music studio that Art as Mentorship built in downtown Overland Park, Kansas. The LAB is the first studio in the metro area with the sole purpose of teaching professional music industry skills to under-served young artists.

[ArtsConnect](#) is Topeka’s premier arts engagement organization, working to promote the arts through building community connections and broadening the understanding of how the arts enhance our quality of life.

[Tonantzin Society](#) is focused on preserving and educating the community on Chicana/Xicanx art and culture including indigenous heritage, environmental & social justice, and community health.

[Boys & Girls Clubs of Topeka](#) seeks to enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens. More info: