



Historia y Objetivo del Programa:

Habilidad fue establecido en 2004 como un programa bilingüe de Mill Street Loft, y un componente hispano del Proyecto ABLE (Arte, Básica Educación, Lecciones de Vida, Empleos). Proyecto ABLE fue iniciado en 1994 para asistir la juventud de alto riesgo de nuestra comunidad y para ayudarlos a encontrar empleo y lecciones para avanzar.

Habilidad fue creado como respuesta a una comunidad hispana que creció rápidamente, en gran parte de jóvenes. Crea una oportunidad para que los jóvenes “ganen mientras estudien”, tan bien como poder trabajar con artistas-educadores bilingües profesionales usando programas inovatiuos artísticos, creando un puente entre conociendo de carreras posibles y participando en actividades educacionales.

Habilidad proporciona enriquecimiento académico y exploración de profesiones en un ambiente seguro y diario de 2:30 a 6:00, después de las horas escolares, para jóvenes de 11-17 años hispanos atendiendo Poughkeepsie Middle y High Schools.

Habilidad ayuda a los estudiantes:

- Desarrollar habilidades de comunicación
- Mejorar habilidades sociales
- Aumentar auto-expresión
- Elevar sentido de ser
- Aumentar habilidad de liderazgo
- Practicar Habilidad de ser empleado, incluyendo preparación de resume

Habilidad ayuda en aprendizaje para la juventud y aplicación de “habilidades suaves” que empleadores buscan, como:

- Resoluciones de conflicto
- Flexibilidad
- Liderazgo
- Responsabilidad
- Resolución de Problemas

Tan Bien Como:

- Exploración de Carreras
- Lecciones de vida
- Desarrollo de Portafolios
- Arte Pública

Program Support

Habilidad is made possible in part through grants and tax-deductible contributions from individuals and corporate sponsors including:

- Dyson Foundation
- NYS OCFS & Dutchess County Youth Bureau
- TD Banknorth
- United Way of Dutchess County
- City of Poughkeepsie Community Development Block Grant
- Children’s Services Council
- Community Foundation of Dutchess County
- Dutchess County Arts Council

Kudos

Habilidad student Shiann Mayorga, won a national scholarship from the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) to attend Marist College in 2008.

Habilidad received the 2007 A.H.O.R.A. Award (Association for Hispanics to Obtain Resources and Assistance) for contributions to the Dutchess County Hispanic community.

Habilidad student, Edgar Rivera won FIRST PRIZE in the 2006 National History Channel’s Hispanic Heritage Month art competition.

Habilidad students continue to win YEA (Youth Excellence Awards) from the Dutchess County Youth Bureau.

Membership

\$35.00 – Individual

- 10%-20% discount on various galleries and art supply stores.
- Invitations to gallery openings and receptions
- Recognition of membership on website, and the Annual Report
- Early Registration Privileges

\$75.00 – Family

- All of the above plus,
- Member discounts on all MSL art classes, camps, and institutes

\$125 – Contributing

- All of the above plus,
- Restaurant discounts
 - Discounts on art sightseeing trips

\$200 – Sustaining

- All of the above plus,
- One complimentary ticket to the Alumni Art Auction
 - Name in program for Alumni Art Auction and Friend of the Arts Awards

\$500 – Directors Circle

- All the above plus,
- Champagne reception preview before Alumni Art Auction

\$1,000 – Patron

- All the above plus,
- 10% discount on art for purchase at Mill Street Loft events (Except Friend of the Arts Awards and Art Institute Alumni Auctions)

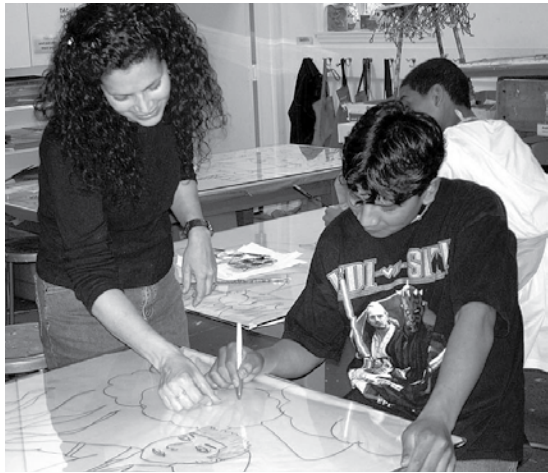
\$2,500 – Friend

- All the above plus,
- 10% discount on all art for purchase
 - Naming opportunity for one annual scholarship for Dutchess Arts Camp

*see our website, millstreetloft.org for full details.



For further info, Program Director: Glenn Futrell
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Habilidad (abilities)

Program Background & Objectives:

Habilidad ("ability") was established in 2004 as a bi-lingual component for Mill Street Loft's successful and award-winning Project ABLE (Arts, Basic Education, Life Skills, Entrepreneurship). Initiated in 1994 Project ABLE helps urban youth facing multiple barriers to employment acquire job and life skills.

Habilidad was created in response to the rapidly growing population of Spanish speaking youth in our community. It provides opportunities for these students to "earn while they learn," as well as to work with professional bi-lingual artist educators and mentors using an innovative arts-based program that links career awareness with educational needs.

Habilidad provides academic enrichment and career exploration in a safe environment daily after-school from 3- 6pm for economically disadvantaged Hispanic/Latino youth ages 11-17 recruited from Poughkeepsie Middle and High Schools. The program is free to all participants.

Habilidad helps students to:

- Develop communication skills
- Improve social skills
- Foster self-expression
- Elevate self-esteem
- Increase Leadership skills
- Practice job readiness skills, including: resume writing, interviewing, and team work.

Habilidad youth learn and practice applying the "soft skills" employers look for, such as:

- Conflict resolution
- Flexibility
- Responsibility
- Decision-making skills
- Critical thinking skills
- Problem solving

Program Activities Include:

Career Exploration – Students visit many of the region's prime cultural, educational and historic sites where they have tours, learn about varied career paths and job opportunities, and interview employers and employees while learning about differing workplace possibilities and policies. They visit such places as: the FDR Presidential Library, DIA: Beacon, the Culinary Institute of America, Dutchess Community College, Vassar Brothers Medical Center, the Poughkeepsie Journal, IBM, the Bardavon Opera House, and the Mid-Hudson Civic Center, among others.

Life Skills – Using improvisation, role-playing and journaling, Habilidad students are encouraged to address relevant personal and social issues including cultural sensitivity, peer and gang pressure, teen pregnancy, tobacco and illegal substance abuse.

Portfolio Development – Each student documents his/her experiences incorporating reflective writing, a personal resume, original poetry, photographs, artwork and other observations acquired during the course of the program. Portfolios provide tangible and authentic evidence by which to measure and evaluate each individual's development.

Public Art – Under the supervision of bi-lingual artist-educators, youth work in teams to plan, design and execute large-scale public art projects. Murals created by Habilidad youth have been installed and are visible in and on buildings throughout Poughkeepsie, enhancing the community and revitalizing underserved neighborhoods.

Technology Training – In cooperation with Nubian Directions and the Liberty Partnership at Marist College, Habilidad youth receive training on computers and in general business subjects, where they learn word processing, graphic design and practice resume writing and other skills needed for jobs in today's workplace.



A component of Project ABLE (Arts, Basic Education, Life Skills, Entrepreneurship) a nationally recognized job skills training and prevention program for disadvantaged urban teens