



The Colorization Collective

# Chapter Program Guide



# Hello and Welcome

Thank you so much for taking the time to learn more about our organization! We are always thrilled to connect with new teens who are interested in diversifying the arts landscape. Whether you are thirteen or nineteen, sing or design pies, have extensive experience with activism work or are just starting to learn more about racial equity, there is a place for you in The Colorization Collective family.

This handbook contains all the information you need to start a chapter of The Collective in your own community. In a few easy steps, you and those around you can commit to supporting artists of color. Most importantly, your grassroots work will promote large-scale equity in the arts and culture sector. Starting a Colorization Collective chapter has a significant impact.

After all, we wholeheartedly believe that if more teens of color go into the arts, we will see an even greater increase in the production of diverse and inclusive art. Artistic institutions will begin making more space for a diversity of voices. People of color will see themselves represented in mainstream media; we will know our experiences and identities have value.

As Oscar Wilde said, “life imitates art more than art imitates life.” If we follow his logic, what we see in art manifests itself in the real world. If we view diverse voices and stories, we’ll be more inclined to practice diversity in our daily lives; if we gain exposure to experiences different from our own, we’ll become more open, accepting, and tolerant. In other words, by starting a chapter and advocating for diverse art, you are also building a kinder and more empathetic society.

-Anya and Kat, co-founders

Cover art by Linda Yan, 2020 Summer Mentorship participant.

Love her work? Contact her at [lindayan002@gmail.com](mailto:lindayan002@gmail.com).

# Our Organization

The Colorization Collective is an organization that supports teen (ages 13-19) artists of color.

The Collective began as a Seattle-based web-series in June of 2019. Since then, we have expanded our programs and now work with individuals and organizations from around the world.

Run entirely by teens of color, The Collective's free programs allow our participants to share their stories, learn from professional artists of color, and push for racial equity in the arts world. In doing so, we hope to create and promote diversity in the arts through inclusive and accessible means.

## About Us

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## Mission

The Colorization Collective supports teen artists of color by providing our participants with free resources, opportunities, and a community of peers and mentors who look like them and share their experiences. We are committed to making the arts accessible for all people of color.

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## Vision

An inclusive, diverse, and racially equitable arts community where race is not a barrier to arts participation or success within the arts industry.

# Chapter Overview

## What Is a Chapter?

A chapter is a branch of The Colorization Collective that is focused on a city or school. Chapters work primarily at a local level to promote racial equity in the arts. This can include creating a zine, hosting a schoolwide event, or leading a discussion series.

Chapters can be comprised of a group of friends, classmates, or members of a community organization. In keeping with our organizational mission, chapter leads should be teens of color. If leads feel comfortable, white allies are welcome to participate in chapters and chapter activities.

It can be helpful to have a faculty advisor or adult mentor for your chapter; however, this is not required.

## Starting a Chapter

1. Apply to start a chapter by filling out a [brief Google Form](#) on our website.
2. The Director of Chapters will schedule a brief call with you to discuss your project ideas, goals, and how our leadership team can support you.
3. Set up an Instagram account using the template @thecc.[your city/school] so that you can post about your chapter activities and recruit locally.
4. Get to work on your project! You will be asked to fill out a quarterly Google form to check in with the Director of Chapters.

## Requirements

1. Chapters must meet at least once a quarter.
2. Chapters must plan an activity (this can be as small as a monthly discussion group or as big as a showcase or event) each year.
3. Chapters will fundraise or apply for grants to fund these events.
4. Chapters must communicate with the Director of Chapters quarterly by filling out a Google Form, as well as create and share a folder with all their chapter lead materials (i.e. event plans, receipts, notes, budgets) with the Director of Chapters.

The estimated time commitment is about 3-4 hours per month. This can change depending on how many people you have in your chapter and the scale of your event.

# Chapter Overview Cont.

## Checking In

Each quarter, chapter leads will be asked to complete a brief Google Form. You will be asked about:

1. Your project plans and progress
2. Budget and fundraising needs
3. How the Director of Chapters can support you
4. Feedback on discussion materials (if applicable)
5. Photos of your group in action (optional)

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## Project Ideas

In keeping with our organizational values, all activities and events must be free to participate in and attend (though you can ask for a suggested donation). Projects should prioritize local artists but can have a national or global scope.

We also ask that you think about accessibility: for example, if you are hosting a physical showcase, will guests need transportation stipends to attend? Your Director of Chapters is happy to discuss these issues further, as well as work with you to fundraise, create materials, and provide you with resources as needed. We are also happy to showcase your projects on our blog or social media.

Examples of potential activities or events:

1. A monthly/biweekly discussion group to discuss relevant issues of arts and arts equity. *If you choose to host a discussion group, know that our team will provide you with monthly discussion materials.*
2. A showcase of teen artists of color. If you're comfortable with a live showcase, this can be a poetry slam, reading, performance, or gallery. If you'd prefer an online showcase, you can create a zine, digital gallery, or web-series.
3. A panel discussion featuring teen artists of color at a local art space or Town Hall.
4. A mentorship program. Local adult artists of color can speak about their experiences as artists of color or host skill-building workshops. You can also partner with undergraduate or graduate students at local community colleges or universities to mentor teens of color in your area.

# Final Notes

# Commitment to Diversity

As an organization, we want to support people from all walks of life. We center diversity as much as possible—not just diversity of race, but socioeconomic status, gender, location, age, and much more.

Before you create a chapter, it's important to think about your city/school and its resources. Which groups or areas typically have the most funding or opportunities? What kinds of people do you tend to see in art spaces? This information can help you as you build a local community of diverse artists. Your Director of Chapters will also chat with you about your city/school and how you can connect with artists from a wide variety of backgrounds.

We believe it is also important to foster open dialogue between yourself and members of your leadership team. This can be as simple as asking your team for anonymous feedback on your work as a chapter lead. Make sure that, even though you hold a position of power, people are not afraid to speak up and voice their ideas.

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# Still Have Questions?

Email us at [colorizationcollective@gmail.com](mailto:colorizationcollective@gmail.com) or message @thecolorizationcollective on Instagram. We'd love to connect with you!