

# West Palm Beach Center for Arts & Technology



Transforming lives for  
youth and adults through  
mentorship, education,  
beauty and hope.

  
**West Palm Beach**  
Center for Arts & Technology

# 10 REASONS

## to Support the WestPalmCAT

Established in 2018, the West Palm Beach Center for Arts and Technology (WestPalmCAT) offers arts education to historically underserved high school youth and targeted job training, support, and employment services to prepare unemployed and underemployed adults to obtain and retain living-wage local jobs. The

WestPalmCAT is modeled after Pittsburgh's Manchester Bidwell Center, founded by entrepreneur and McArthur Genius Award winner Bill Strickland. Since 1968, the Center has developed successful strategies to address low educational achievement among youth and high unemployment rates among adults.

# 1

## POVERTY

17% of West Palm Beach residents live in poverty; In the Northwest District, 29% live in poverty.

# 2

## 50 YEARS

The model used by WestPalmCAT has a 50-year record of success and has been replicated in 11 cities internationally, with an additional 9 CATS in planning stages.

# 3

## MENTORS

Positive role models and mentors create pathways to successful futures. The hands-on mentorship provided via CATs is instrumental to long term and lasting success.



Cover photos – Top: Certificate holders from the WestPalmCAT Summer Program 2020. Bottom: Chef-in-training, courtesy of the New England Center for Arts and Technology.

# 4 RESPECT

Programs provide a safe and nurturing environment with a deep respect for young adults as unique individuals. This environment allows young adults to reach their highest potential.

# 5 CAREER TRAINING

Career training leads to jobs in high demand locally. With the critical skills learned at CATs, students earn living wages, which leads to overall community improvement.



# 6 \$5 MILLION

The CRA has already committed \$5 million toward the \$10 million fundraising goal for the WestPalmCAT. This significant endorsement of the WestPalmCAT is attracting great interest among other potential supporters.

# 7 INVESTMENT

The project builds on significant investment in the Northwest District, with the Sunset Lounge, Heart and Soul Park and the Styx Promenade nearing completion. The WestPalmCAT will bring a critical educational component to where it is needed most.

# 8 PARTNERS

Partnerships with existing arts programs and industries will maximize impact, as it will avoid duplication of programs and ensure targeted job training, internships and employment to meet demand.

# 9 SUCCESS

More than 95% of the students who attend CATs nationwide graduate from high school. 82% of career training graduates found jobs paying \$12 - \$19/hour or \$23,400 - \$37,000 per year.

# 10 BEAUTY

A new center will bring light-filled, world-class architecture to West Palm Beach, adding to the city's growth and aesthetic beauty.

Photos on these pages courtesy of Manchester Bidwell Corporation and The New England Center for Arts and Technology.

# Our Programs



**Afterschool Arts Education** for high school youth will focus on the digital and performing arts, using the Manchester Bidwell strategies of mentorship, low student-teacher ratio and the pursuit of graduation. Over 95% of high school students enrolled in the CATs graduate from high school and 85% of them go on to higher education.

**Career-training programs** will provide unemployed and underemployed adults with culinary, pre-apprentice construction and horticultural training for living-wage careers. The goal of this program will be for these trainees to receive an accredited diploma or in the case of pre-apprentice construction, a certificate, leading to greater opportunities for advancement. 82% of adults who complete the programs offered by the CATs are employed in positions that pay \$12-19 per hour.

## A two-phase plan to realize our vision

The WestPalmCAT plans to build a state-of-the-art facility in the Northwest District of West Palm Beach, considered one of the most underserved communities in West Palm Beach. To bring the vision to reality, the WestPalmCAT is launching a capital campaign to raise \$10.0 million to fund two phases of development. West Palm Beach's Community Redevelopment Agency has already committed \$5 million toward the project.

### PHASE 1

Arts and career training programs in existing rented space.

**Total to be raised:  
\$500,000**

### PHASE 2

Construction of a new building and greenhouse.

**Total to be raised:  
\$4,500,000**



For more information on how you can support the West Palm Beach Center for Arts and Technology, please contact:

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