SAN JUAN CENTER

Y.C.C.I.P

1978
El Centro de San Juan
ARTES PARA LA COMUNIDAD

San Juan Center
ARTS FOR THE COMMUNITY

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The San Juan V.C.C.I.P.

On April 17th, 1978, the San Juan Center started the V.C.C.I. Program.

This program is for community youths from the ages of sixteen to nineteen. The youths were divided into different components, such as, Communications, Horticulture, Graphic Arts, Environmental Design, and Rehab (working on building renovation with Taino housing project), in which they were given basic training and salary.

However, there was only a six month contract on this program. It was funded by a grant.

Nevertheless, there was still hope for it continuing. The Director of the Planning and Program Development (Jed Schlossberg) had applied for funding beyond the September 30th, 1978 termination date.

If it does continue, some of us will stay to develop our trade, and some of us will go back to school or into other jobs.

All in all, through all of its hardships and good times, this project is a bright beginning of an exciting cultural center in Hartford, Connecticut.

By Geraldine M. Jones
Communications
Yasha Escalera - Executive Director -
"San Juan Center has been around since 1957. It has grown ever since it started on this block on the corner, 1972. It has grown every year from $20,000 to almost $1,000,000. So I figure that the San Juan Center will continue to be a viable mechanism for the community to resolve some of its own problems. This has been a hell of an experience. I want to thank everybody for all their patience, devotion and commitment!"

Yasha Escalera, Dir.

Administrators

Jed Schlosberg

Jed Schlosberg - Director of Planning
"I feel that if you put together a program as honestly as you can, admitting all the bullshit that goes on, you can feel good about it. I feel it in the people here - when I see work done well, smiles on people's faces and pride in working and taking home a pay check!"
Miguel Marquez

"I firmly believe in the concept behind the V.C.C.I.P. program and, if taken advantage of by the youth involved, it could be a rewarding experience and one that will add to the growth and unity of the youths."

Bill Ortiz

Bill Ortiz - Director of Operations for the San Juan Center

"How do I feel about the San Juan Center? I love it!"

Veronica Malave

"San Juan Center has played an important role in this community's cultural identity."
Staff

Didi Luciano    Celia Valentin    Rosa Hernandez

Eva Miranda    Esther Salas
Communications

Peggy Ryglisyn, Supr.

Photography

Carmen Perez - Communications -  "With the San Juan Center, I have learned to grow up and be a mature person."

Lynn Farrell
Horticulture

Wendy Miskin, Supr.

Farmer's Market
Otilio Rodriguez, Supr.

Festival de Agosto

Wendy Miskin - Horticulture Supervisor-

"We worked with what we had and I think we really did a lot more than what we started out with, which was nothing."

August Festival
Dance

Ysabel Morel
Folk Dancing of Spain, Caribbean and Latin American Countries
Fred Favorite
Ballet
Jazz

Ysabel Morel - Folk Dance Instructor -
"Dancing helps to study the cultures of different
countries. We have people of so many cultures here in
Hartford. I think it is good for the community that we
teach every kind of dance to give a sense of identification.
We can have a really exciting folk lore group here. I'm
very happy to be here doing what I like and what I believe in
doing."
Music
Sentimiento Latino

Felix Febles - Musician -
"If the program stays I would love to stay and teach!"
Johnny Ventura - Musician

"I teach mostly percussion. I feel that this program is a success now. It is the best program that I've ever seen!"
Ceramics

Duncan Gonzalez

Adrienne Diner
Vuncan Gonzalez - Ceramic Supervisor -

"Hopefully V.C.C.I.P. has helped some of the people in the community to learn how to work."
Luis Vallejo - Graphic Art -
"Bueno a mí me gusta si se dibuja haciendo poster, porque
me interesa porque hay muchas veces que uno puede aprender
y muchas facilidades que se pueden aprender, tú sabes, porque
podría aprender algo que yo no se te se decir. Tu sabe
que trata de ayudar a la comunidad y eso!"

Sammy Rosario, Supr.

Sammy Rosario - Graphic Arts Supervisor -
"Yo pienso que el que una comunidad sea limpia, esteticamente
bella, mejora la actitud de la gente y el estado emocional de
la gente."
Sammy Rosario

(I think that a clean and aesthetically beautiful community improves the attitude and emotional state of the people.)
Environmental Design

John Cremins - Environmental Design -
"I'm very, very excited about this project and it makes me feel good to be a part of it!"

John Cremins, Supr.
Mural Design for Barnard Brown School
Carmen Gonzalez - Communications / Crafts
"The San Juan Center Communications Program is the Joint Check it out!"

needlepoint
Taino Rehab
Y.C.C.I.P. Housing Rehabilitation
Jose Perez, Dir.

Ron Avery, Supr.
I've Learned

Not knowing the need of an education,

I took the San Juan Center Y.C.C.I.P.
as a vacation.

As time went on, my thoughts grew strong.

I've began to notice how the program had helped me along.

I've learned what it was to be a woman.

I've learned what it was to have a friend.

I've learned to love and to help others.

I've learned to care for my sisters and brothers.

I've learned to think and to let my mind grow.

I've learned responsibility and to let it show.

I've learned to express myself and to deal with people.

I've learned a basic trade to show, even if I have a ways to go.

I've learned that I was seeking high.

I've learned that life was passing by.

I've learned that I was one of a kind.

I've learned that I would not be left behind.

I've learned that I was not going to stop until

I've reached the top, and after I've reached the top and have done my best, I'm going to reach down and help the rest.

By Geraldine M. Jones

V. C. C. I. P.

Communications