



Dear Recess Community,

My name is Kerry Carrier, and I am currently an Assembly Peer Leader and Artist Apprentice at Recess. [Assembly](#) is an artist-led diversion program for court-involved youth, but it is also so much more than that.

Assembly has provided me a great opportunity to build a foundation for my career in the arts with the support of the entire Recess staff and artists like Sable Elyse Smith and Shaun Leonardo. As an Artist Apprentice and Peer Leader, I have developed my own independent film project, assisted artists, and served as a mentor for new program participants.

I wake up ready to come to the space, lift the storefront gate up, and continue working on my film project. This is a project I have been trying to make for a long time, but I never had the opportunity to do so before now. I never imagined I would be the one shooting and editing my own film. I never knew I would be good at it. That's amazing for me every day.

The Assembly program has become much more than what was first described to me. It is now my second home. We are truly one big family here. Coming to Recess in the morning is a blessing because there is nothing like waking up and knowing that I'm going to do something I love.

I moved to New York from Houston, Texas two years ago to chase my dreams, but there were so many barriers and hardships and failures. Everybody wanted something out of me, but no one wanted to help me. In Recess, I have finally found my place: space to sit down, focus, and create.

It's organizations like Recess that are going to carve this world and the next generation into greatness.

Thank you for supporting me, and Recess,

Kerry

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