

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT ACH



**Part-time Maintenance Tech** needed. Hours flexible. Must be able to obtain an Act 33/34 clearance and be able to lift at least 25 lbs.

Prior experience required.



**Artistic Program Assistant** needed part time for the creative summer camp. Must like working with children and be able to obtain Act 33/34 clearance certificate.

Art experience required. Prior experience working with children required.

Interested persons may contact ACH at 412-815-0271 or email [admin@achcp.org](mailto:admin@achcp.org) for further information

### SUPPORTING ACH CLEAR PATHWAYS



ACH Clear Pathways is proud to be a part of the United Way Contributing Agencies. You may sign up through your employer or give directly.



For our Corporate Partners:

ACH has been approved to participate in the EITC program and is supported by the Superintendent of the Pittsburgh Public School District. Your donation will not only benefit your corporation, but it will help the families that ACH serves.

### BE THE FIRST BRUSH STROKE ON A LIFE! Your gift matters!

Contact and Billing Information      CHECKS: *Make checks payable to ACH Clear Pathways*

FULL NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

CREDIT CARD NO. \_\_\_\_\_

EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_ CVC \_\_\_\_\_

Sign me up for email updates: EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

United Way Contributing Agency Number #10532885

I want to give: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ *Make my gift One-time* \_\_\_\_\_ *Monthly* \_\_\_\_\_

### Contact Info



Administrative  
412.815.0471  
Office  
412.815.0271



[achclearpathways.org](http://achclearpathways.org)



510 Heldman Street  
Pittsburgh PA 15219



To learn more and donate,  
text WALKINGTOUR  
to 44-321



For android users,  
download app:  
"QR Code Reader"



First Quarter 2024 Newsletter

THE NEWSLETTER THAT KEEPS YOU INFORMED

# ACH COMMUNICATES

## NURTURED AT ACH!



**L-R-Camille, Jaylynn, Lisa and Jalil Curges**



**Jaylynn Curges  
One of the first ACH students**

**I**t was almost summer; and like many other mothers, Mrs. Kelly Curges wanted her children to be involved in summer activities in a safe, and nurturing environment. She had sent them to Bible camp, where she knew they would be in a safe place; but her four children wanted more than the Bible camp offered. Jaylynn, the eldest, especially needed to be somewhere that she could paint and draw.

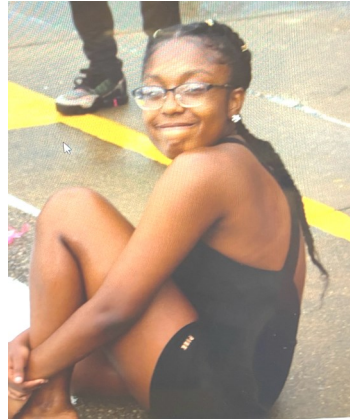
It was 2011 and Tyian Battle, Founder and Executive Director of ACH had just starting having her summer programming at Ammons Recreation Center. When Tyian told Mrs. Curges, her friend, what she would be doing in the summer, Mrs. Curges started asking questions and getting the right answers! It was settled! Jaylynn, Kamil, and the twins, Jalil and Jalisa were all going to start going to ACH. They would be in a place where they could swim, and create different kinds of art and most of all, they could make new friends.

The children were 10, 7, and the twins 5 when they began being a part of ACH. Jaylynn, the oldest, is now 21 years of age. Where did the time go?

ACH provides out of school time programming for children in kindergarten through the 8th grade. When children, who have passed their thirteenth birthday, want to continue with ACH, they are given the opportunity to work as junior counselor's through the "earn to learn" program. Jaylynn wanted to stay and she did. She has continued to be a part of ACH by being a creative camp youth worker. She felt that it was a great way to make money and she was able to continue to be a creative artist. Jaylynn began to feel that she had a big sister role with the younger children. She said that "because I continued to come back every year, I got to watch the younger kids grow".

Jaylynn especially liked the idea that she was helping the children

grow and develop their individual talents. One of her concerns was that “kids don’t seem to have anything to do except social media, which I think stunts their growth”. Jaylynn graduated from Penn Hills High School, where she participated in the “Emerging Leaders Program”. Her leadership gifts are evident as she guides children through difficult days and helps them to see the sunshine instead of gloom. When Jaylynn graduated, she was excited because she would be able to continue working at ACH. Jaylynn’s passion for children developing their talents has led her to continue to return to ACH every summer. During COVID, Jaylynn was one of the tutors at the



Left—A young Jaylynn waits anxiously to get into the pool. My how time flies as we see Jaylynn and her sister Kamil enjoy time at the pool with the children.  
Below—Left—Jaylynn and Miss Amani, dance instructor, have become great friends at ACH.  
Below—Right—Jaylynn is having as much fun horse riding as the children. Her smile captures the essence of her spirit!

Learning Hub at ACH. Jaylynn is not just a “bystander” youth worker, she is an active participant with the children.

Jaylynn said that she feels like a part of the ACH family. Even as she prepared to go to college, she didn’t want to leave ACH because it was a comfortable place in her life. “I had connected to staff members, Ms. Takara, and Ms. Danai and of course to Ms. Ty!”



It must be a “family affair” because Kamil, Jaylynn’s sister, will become a member of the ACH staff this summer.

Jaylynn has been a part of ACH for 11 years. When asked what were her thoughts about this experience, she said the following:

“It helped me to flourish! I developed relationships with staff and made new friends. It has always been a place that provides wonderful opportunities to be creative! I am very proud of Ms. Tyian because I have been a part of the program from Ammon to Weil and now to be a part of the ACH Kaufmann Center”

Jaylynn is currently a senior at the HBCU, Grambling State University, located in Grambling, Louisiana. She is majoring in Biology in preparation for admittance to the School of Nursing. She’s studying for the Teas test.

The TEAS or Test of Essential Academic Skills, is a standardized entrance exam used by nursing schools and allied health programs. The test is meant to indicate to the school whether you’re prepared and have the skills needed to succeed in their programs before you start.

We, at ACH, know that Jaylynn has the skills needed to succeed. Jaylynn said that once she is accepted to the nursing school, she will have approximately one more year of classroom work before she completes the program.



No one wants to be left behind as the children board the ACH bus every Friday during the summer to go on an outing. Jaylynn’s personality allows the children to feel that same kind of joy she, herself, felt as a younger child.

Upon completion of her nursing studies, Jaylynn wants to eventually move to Houston or Dallas, Texas. She said she will probably come home to Pittsburgh for a couple of years while she applies to various traveling nurse agencies. That is her ultimate goal. She loves to travel and she loves caring for people, so what better way to combine her areas of interest!

believed by many that the portrait of F.D.R., which she designed, is actually the work used to cast the dime. The dime’s image is officially attributed to U.S. Mint Chief Engraver John Sinnock, but many, including Burke herself, claim that Sinnock borrowed from Burke’s depiction.

Selma Burke received many awards and honors, including honorary doctorate degrees from Livingston College, the University of North Carolina and Winston-Salem University. In 1979, Dr. Burke was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Women’s Caucus for Art and presented by President Jimmy Carter.

According to the University of Pittsburgh’s Art exhibition entitled “A Place to Grow”: The Selma Burke Art Center, which was held between the Fall 2021 and Fall 2022, Dr. Burke came to Pittsburgh at the invitation of the Mellon Trust. The purpose was to document and support the Black Arts community. Quoting the description provided at the exhibit, Dr. Burke “worked between the existing Black arts community and the city’s white-run philanthropy networks to build a center for creativity that centered Black youth”!

ACH is proud to share that it has the great honor to be entrusted with the work called “**Together**” (depicted on opposite page). At the time of the acquisition of the Kaufmann Center in 2019, ACH became the holder of the assets formerly held by the Hill House. Among the collection is also the Commemorative Plaque presented to Selma Burke on November 4, 1977 at the Hill House by the Black Women’s Association.



Dr. Selma Burke completed her final sculpture in 1980: a nine-foot bronze statue of Martin Luther King Jr. that stands in Marshall Park in Charlotte, North Carolina. She passed away in 1995 in New Hope, Pennsylvania.

### THE STORY OF DR. SELMA H. BURKE PART OF AN EXHIBIT AT THE SENATOR JOHN HEINZ HISTORY CENTER

**ACH** recognizes what a great honor it is to be a Trustee of the work of Dr. Selma H. Burke. One of the goals of Selma Burke was to bring art to the youth, especially to children from disadvantaged areas. The mission of ACH is to “nurture creativity through the visual and performing arts by providing an opportunity to youth and family within the arts”. The connection between the ideals of Selma Burke and ACH cannot be overstated. ACH wants to share the information of the life of Selma Burke; therefore, upon request of the John Heinz History Center to borrow the Commemorative plaque of Selma Burke for its exhibition of “A Woman’s Place: How women shaped Pittsburgh” we enthusiastically agreed.

For more information, contact the Heinz History Center



MLK, JR STATUE – 1980

# ACH SALUTES THE HISTORIC ARTIST SELMA H. BURKE SCULPTOR-EDUCATOR-TRAILBLAZER



**Bust of Booker T. Washington by  
Selma H. Burke  
Circa 1935**

**I**f you lived in Pittsburgh between 1968 and 1981, you may already know that Pittsburgh was the home of the Selma Burke Art Center, which was located in East Liberty. Selma Burke was a well known artist during that time. She was born in 1900 in Mooresville, North Carolina as the seventh of 10 children. Selma was passionate about art from an early age. In 1945, she recounted her discovery of sculpting to a reporter from the New York Post “She began sculpting small objects and animals with white clay from a nearby riverbed. “One day, I was mixing the clay and I saw the imprint of my hands,” ... “I found that I could make something... something that I alone had created.” Selma’s father encouraged her pursuit of art; however, her mother, being more realistic encouraged her daughter to go to nursing school so that she would be able to provide for herself. Selma was obedient and went to Saint Agnes Training School for Nurses in Raleigh, North Carolina, where she graduated as a registered nurse in 1924. She moved to Philadelphia where she practiced nursing for several years; but, her love of sculpting never waned. In 1935, she moved to New York and worked

**“TOGETHER”  
Sculpted and presented  
to the Hill House in  
1975**

as a nurse to finance her studies. Selma eventually began teaching art appreciation and education to the New York youth. She traveled extensively throughout Europe to further develop her skills. The threat of Hitler and Nazism caused her to return to the United States. In 1942, she enlisted in the United States Navy, where she was one of the first African American women to enlist during World War II.

Although it may seem to be a circuitous route in art, she was where she needed to be to learn about a national art competition to paint a portrait of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. She drew several sketches and entered the competition.

Her persistence in her work paid off. She won the competition! The bronze relief portrait of F. D. R. is one of her most important works. The plaque was completed in 1944. President Roosevelt never saw the completed work. He died a few months before it was unveiled by President Harry S. Truman in 1945. It hangs in the Recorder of Deeds building in Washington, D. C. It is



The summer of 2020, Jaylynn became a junior worker. It was the first summer that ACH owned the Kaufmann Center and the first summer for Jaylynn to be a youth worker.



Above—Jaylynn at Grambling! Time and space has changed, but the genuine caring and love for others remains the same.

## A NOTE TO PARENTS FROM JAYLYNN

Because of Jaylynn’s long experience with ACH, I asked her “What would you tell other parents about ACH if they asked? Here is her response: “Your children will be cared for by people who care about children. They will have the opportunity to just be a kid who is interested in discovering new things. It’s so much better than just staying at home. The children get to have new experiences like going to the glass factory, horse back riding, and of course going to Cedar Point and Kennywood. Your children will make wonderful new memories that they will always cherish.”

**ACH CLEAR PATHWAYS**  
Nurturing The Hearts of the Arts

# Creative Legacy

**Cost \$500 Per Child  
\$250 Deposit Required  
TO SECURE YOUR CHILD'S SPOT**

**Breakfast Lunch & Snack Provided**

## Creative Summer Camp

**What Will Your legacy look like?**

**June 24, 2024 - August 2, 2024**  
Monday-Friday 8:30am-5:00pm

**SUMMER CAMP MAJORS:**  
Visual Art, Dance, Media and Music  
Creative Camp Activities • Fieldtrip Fridays • Daily Swimming

Participants Must Be Committed For A Creative Outcome!  
Contact 412-815-0271 or email dbattle@achcp.org

ACH CLEAR PATHWAYS United Way 10 #10532885 (Dedicated In The Memory Of Amon C. Harris)

**It's not too late to  
Register your  
child  
For the 2024  
Creative Camp!  
Just a few spots left!**

**Call  
412-815-0271**

## PITTSBURGH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY VISITS ACH



The students and professors were given a tour of the facility .

On Thursday, March 7, 2024, ACH participated in the Hybrid Gathering Contextual Engagement Program held by the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. They were visiting local non-profit organizations located in the Hill District to provide opportunities to its students to provide insight into how Christian witness and ministry, as well as civic leadership and community service unfold.

Tyian Battle, Executive Director, had been asked to give a history of the birth and development of ACH Clear Pathways. As always, people were amazed at the persistence of Tyian in order to complete the Mission that had been assigned to her.

## THE MALE INFLUENCE AT ACH



It is important that our children see men in a positive light. Statistics have shown that both boys and girls need positive role models in men in their lives.

ACH is about

**Positivity** in the lives of ACH children!

It was a difficult picture to catch because these gentlemen are always on the move. Most people don't realize that there is a strong male presence at ACH.

L-R Jevon Rushton-percussionist & music instructor; Allen Coleman-Transportation; Michael Talley—REACH Community Coordinator; Darnell Tate—Commission Security; Phil Thompson— Media instructor; David Strothers—Transportation; Mr. Rodney Solomon—Maintenance Tech; and Dom McDuffie— Art Instructor and videographer

**We're grateful for these men of positive influence that our boys can emulate!**

ACH CLEAR PATHWAYS   
Nurturing The Hearts of the Arts  
PRESENTS

# All that Jazz IN THE HILL DISTRICT

			
Kenny Blake	DeWayne Dolphin	Alton Merrell	Jessica Lee, Mark Strickland Rich Zabinski & Dave Braham
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>SUNDAY</b>
<b>APRIL 7</b>	<b>MAY 5</b>	<b>JUN 2</b>	<b>JUL 7</b>
2PM-4PM	2PM-4PM	2PM-4PM	2PM-4PM

**Elsie Hillman Auditorium 1825 Centre Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15219**

**Admission \$15**

*JaMe'Me's Mobile Bar with Complimentary Wine and Beer  
Beyond Blessed Catering LLC meals sold at additional cost*

**Donations Support Artistic Programing at the Kaufmann Center**

RSVP Call 412-815-0271 or email [dbattle@achep.org](mailto:dbattle@achep.org)