

WIT's Community Partner Organizations

Armed Services Arts Partnership (ASAP)

ASAP helps veterans return to civilian life through engagement with the arts. WIT provides special introductory classes and free workshops for their community to give veterans a risk-free try at improv. In FY23, WIT offered two full classes to ASAP's community—one online and another in-person. WIT performer, teaching artist, and Navy veteran Clyde Thompson led the in-person course. More classes were slated to begin in April 2024.

ASAP Executive Director Brian Jenkins says:

“Partnering with WIT to offer improv classes to our community of veterans and military families has been a real gift. Improv requires being fully present in the moment, and it gives the performer a sense of agency that transfers into the uncertainties of daily life. Not only is improv a fun, and funny, artform, it's an impactful one, too.”



ASAP classes are taught for veterans, by veterans.

Calvary Women's Services

Calvary works with women to overcome homelessness and provide services and encouragement towards achieving independence. WIT currently provides one class per week to residents in an eight-week session. WIT works with Calvary to meet their programming demands, which currently stand at five to six sessions per year.

Calvary Women's Services Manager of Education and Programs Katie Gregson says:



“At Calvary Women's Services, we've seen firsthand the magic of improv and play in the lives of our residents. It's not just about laughter and fun. It's about creating moments of joy, building connections, and rediscovering the strength within. It helps pave the way for our residents to navigate challenges with creativity and resilience.”

Joy and discovery are key elements of WIT's community-based programs.

WIT Teaching Artist Caroline Howe echoes Katie Gregson's comments:

"I've had the pleasure of teaching [at Calvary Women's Services] with WIT... It is dramatically different from any other improv I've taught, full of so much discovery as a teacher and for the women in the group. It is magical! We have moments of absolute catharsis as we move through a huge range of emotions and find total release in laughter and silliness."

Capitol Hill Village (seniors)

Capitol Hill Village is a member-driven, volunteer-based local organization that engages neighbors to build a vibrant, inclusive and age-friendly community that empowers everyone to thrive and live meaningful, purposeful lives. WIT provides virtual improv classes to its community.

Participant Shirley Rosenfeld says:

"Improv just blows your mind. It opens up your mind. It challenges [you]. It's pure fun. It's a different way of looking at things. I've seen the creativity in all my neighbors, people I didn't know and people I knew. The Zoom sessions expanded my circle of knowing my neighbors in a way I never would have been able to during the pandemic."



Project Create

Project Create, which is located in Ward 8's Anacostia neighborhood, offers afterschool arts programs, serving students ages five to 24, with classes in different art mediums. They also host WIT's classes for adults.



WIT Instructor Dave Johnson teaches improv classes once a week to youths (ages eight to 13) at Project Create during the school year. WIT also offers free instruction in all five levels of our core curriculum to adults, who reside in Wards 7 and 8, and to members of the Project Create community. To date, we have received five grants from the National Endowment for the Arts to support this work.

In 2023, 59 adults took a WIT class at Project Create, with two groups graduating, having completed all five levels. Several alumni have gone on to perform with WIT and take advanced electives.

Teachers Eva Lewis (front left) and Tandra Turner (front center) pose with Project Create students.

Project Create Graduate and WIT Harold Team Member Aaron Harris says:

“WIT’s activities have had a profound effect on my social skills. I used to be super introverted and now I’m comfortable going to social events. I have had the pleasure of forming my own indie team and practicing with people who want to get better at improv. I can proudly call all of these people my friends.”



Aaron Harris (center) performs with fellow Project Create grads in 2023.

Project Create Executive Director Christie Walser says:

“The benefits of improvisational theater and performing arts for young people are powerful and transformational. With opportunities to learn creative new ways to communicate and express themselves, our students thrive. All they need is a stage!”