

## Introducing Creativity Connections

The Creativity Connections program pairs young adult mentors from local art and design colleges with middle school students who have been identified by teachers as being academically at risk (low grades, discipline issues, low motivation, and low feelings of competence/confidence etc.).



Through its programming, some of the Creativity Connections goals are to help youth:

- Build confidence and motivation
- Gain exposure to a network of college students majoring in the arts
- Increase networking and soft skills
- Gain access to arts based cultural centers and spaces in their community

## Creativity Connections Match Support Needs and Challenges



Recently, the Creativity Connections Program shifted from an in person mentoring model to an online virtual program. Creativity Connections has existing match support practices, **but the program needs help providing more robust match support practices and transitioning some of their in-person activities into a virtual space.**

Mentors have also been asking about how they can connect with their mentee now that the program has moved online. And recently, several mentors began emailing program staff, stating that they didn't feel like they had the support or resources from the program.

Creativity Connections already has match support systems in place, but they need to transition those to an online space. So where should they start? The first priority for match support will be to focus on building out virtual communication systems with their mentors and mentees.