The Cultural Arts and Technology Center is developing a high-tech, state-of-the-art learning space, where youth and adults receive academic instruction and personalized attention from industry leaders, explore career pathways, and ready themselves for skilled positions in the high-growth fields of the arts and technology.

thechestercaatcenter@gmail.com
www.chestercaatcenter.org
(484) 766-3698
Welcome to the CAAT’s Quarter Publication: CAAT Beyond

We are overjoyed that we were able to create this quarterly publication that aims to bring members of the local community together, share experiences and information, and inform the public about regional artistic, humanities and business activities.

The Chester Cultural Arts and Technology Center (CAAT Center) is a Delaware County based community and youth serving organization situated in Chester, Pennsylvania. Our development and expansion programming directly result from our community’s demonstrable needs, attrition in out-of-school-time programs, and the city of Chester’s lack of a sustainable cultural arts and technology resource center.

Our purpose is to provide cultural arts and technological resources to residents of Chester and the surrounding areas in order to empower and equip them to overcome poverty. Despite its audacity, we feel that this objective can be accomplished. We also believe that exposing residents to the arts and humanities allows them to explore a world beyond the limitations imposed by poverty, race, class, and privilege. We hope to increase people’s understanding, expand their future prospects, and bridge cultural, geographical, and socioeconomic divisions by making the arts and humanities available to individuals who would not otherwise have access.

We work on building assets, skills, and knowledge to enhance the human experience as an arts and culture organization that predominantly serves low-income communities of color. We also use cultural inquiry as a teaching technique to encourage critical, creative thinking and to bring our society together by identifying commonalities and minimizing disparities.

The CAAT Center has sought to foster an appreciation for African-American heritage while also educating and empowering our community through cultural arts and humanities programming since its establishment in 2018. We have worked in the past to promote community togetherness, civic engagement, and leadership, as well as to provide chances for growth, learning, sharing, and healing.

The CAAT Center acts as a community hub for partner organizations allowing us to share space, knowledge and resources. Embodying the ideas of comprehensive service delivery, the CAAT Center works to coordinate efforts with its partners to ensure that youth and families receiving services are exposed to a menu of positive programming options.

Donate To The Chester CAAT Center Today: www.chestercaatcenter.org/support-us
Our “Sister We See You” conference went off without a hitch on November 13, 2021! In the spirit of partnership, we united with Making A Change Group and the Chester Upland School District to put on Chester’s annual Fall Family Summit. There, we were featured as the adult women workshop, with sessions centered around developing stronger leadership skills, learning how to properly manage one’s time, and dealing with mental health issues amongst other hot topics.

We would like to send a HUGE shout out to our workshop leaders: Roneisha Seaton, Chardae Davis, Tiffany Fuller, and Tara Jones and another TREMENDOUS shout out to our guest speaker, Michelle McIver, who didn’t leave a dry eye in the room!

We will be back bigger and better November 2022!

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Don’t forget to show up rocking our “saucing on ’em” apparel!

Become A CAAT Business Member: www.chestercaatcenter.org/membership-deals
“Showtime at The CAAT Center” Anniversary Show Recap

Thank you to everyone who came out to “Showtime at the CAAT”! On Saturday, December 18, 2021, our CAAT Family showed up and showed out to help us celebrate turning the BIG THREE! We had performances from some of the Tristate’s hottest artists, including Slay Mamas, Amino Gunz, and Ricky Taylor. Additionally, the show just would not have been complete without our open mic portion, where we discovered some of Chester’s very talented hidden gems! Fun was had by all as we played games, won prizes, and enjoyed the night’s entertainment.

TMP Awards 2021 Recap

The night we shined a light on Chester’s entrepreneurs, businesses and creative artist.

CONGRATS TO ALL THE WINNERS!

READ MORE: https://www.themissingplug.com/post/tmp-awards-2021-recap

2021 Fall Candidate Forum

The CAAT Center hosted a forum for the Chester City Council candidates on Thursday, October 28, 2021. The event was not open to the public, but was live-streamed by many on CMPradio.net. It was an awesome day for the community to learn about their City Council candidates, and get informed on and involved with the political landscape of our city!

BIG THANK YOU to the candidates who participated!
Kearni Warren, Stefan Roots, & Portia West

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Breaking free, Break through, and Achieve

Break free of the feelings inside that say you won’t make it,
    And of the people that put you down.
Break free of the talk behind your back,
    And keep your head forward.
Break free of the same old routine,
    And change for the good in your life.

Keep breaking through the storms of confusion,
    And piece yourself back together.
Keep breaking through the lies,
    For your mind is trying to deceive you.
Keep breaking through those goal that you set up,
    For you will soon make it.

I’ve made it through the storms and completed the puzzle,
For I now see what’s set for the future ahead of me.
I’ve made a difference of people talking behind me,
    For I now mark their lives with blessing.
I won’t let this place define me,
I will get out one day and earn the peace I can’t find in this place.

I’ll achieve my dream,
The business shall bloom.
I’ll build it from nothing,
And make a living space for me.
I’ll expand my territory,
As for the word says to do so.

For I will work hard for what I want and will have,
    No one shall hold me back.
For I bring the fire from within,
    To keep things going.
For I’ll stand steadfast to the creator,
For he shall guide me from beginning to the end.

I will be more than Victorious.

By: Markayla H.
STEM High School

“Chester”

Chester is known for the city of attraction
    A place for peace and unity
All we do is express our passion
    Showing love throughout the community
Although we have our ups and downs
    We will always love each other
And we could never hate our town
Were as loving as sister and brothers
I’m proud to say that I’m from Chester
    Even born and raised
I don’t think there’s any place better
Because Chester always keeps me amazed

By: Hassan
School

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Artist Spotlight

Kween Kriss- Who is Tori?
Ms. Sophisticated - Tori is Ms. Sophisticated. I'm laid back, chill, in my own zone. That's all. Always been.

Kween Kriss- What would you say your style of music is?
Ms. Sophisticated- “I would say I'm an R&B Singer. But don't get me wrong, I love all types of music. Especially gospel. If you know me, then you know I love me some gospel music. Okay? I start my day off with gospel music. But yeah, I would say myself, my genre of music, would definitely be R&B.

Kween Kriss- Give me three people that you feel like are the holy grail in music?
Ms. Sophisticated - “My all time favorite, my idol, is Mariah. I love Mariah Carey, like I said I grew up on Mariah. I love me some Whitney. And, don't laugh, but my sisters used to call me the female version of Ginuwine. Because not only as a child was I in love with the man, but his music! I loved his music, he was a great performer, and I literally studied every single one of his rhymes. So it got to the point where my sisters would tell me 'you sound just like him, like why do you sound like that?' Because it was all I would listen to. But yeah, that would be my top three.

Kween Kriss- Has there been a time where you've known that your singing has touched someone?
Ms. Sophisticated - Oh yeah, definitely. It's been times where people have told me, just from doing little covers on social media, they'll reach out and inbox me like 'you spoke to my spirit, keep going!' They'll start to encourage me. I encourage them with my voice, but then they'll encourage me to keep going. Yeah, that's a blessing and it's an awesome feeling too.

Kween Kriss- Do you think that your culture and your community influence the type of music you make?
Ms. Sophisticated - The type of music? Hmmm, not really. Well, culture, of course. But you can take stories from the people you talk to, you know like your friends and associates, and listen to what they're going through. Whether it be happy, sad, whatever type of mood. You can take what they're saying, literally write it down, and it becomes a song. You know what I mean? So definitely, yeah. I would say it plays a part in the music.

Kween Kriss- What would your career be if you weren't a singer?
Ms. Sophisticated - It would still be music. Like I said, I have a passion for other voices as well, not just my own. So if I wasn't going to be a singer, my dream was to create a platform for other people. Hence, why I have “The Singer's Circle.”
Kween Kriss- Oh wow! We never brought up “The Singer’s Circle”! Yes, talk to me about “The Singer’s Circle.”
Ms. Sophisticated- I want to bring it back so badly! But you know with Covid, it's kind of hard to. But it was inspired by open mics. But I wanted to give it a different feel, just a more sophisticated feel. There is a plan for “The Singer's Circle” a little later on in the future that I won't talk about right now. But just being able to create something like “The Singer's Circle,” for me, it's like I'm right at home. And there are people who are just like me who want to have a place to go to that's more laid back and where they can express how they feel through music. So why not create something for them to do that? I want to be able to create that platform for people who just want to sing. You could be going through something that day, and you just want to get it out. Come sing.

Kween Kriss- For someone who is just starting off their music career, what are some things you would suggest or encourage them to do? Besides come to “The Singer's Circle”?
Ms. Sophisticated- Not only come to “The Singer’s Circle”! But, it's easy to give up. Especially when you're going through things, it's easy to just say “oh this is too hard. I don't want to do it anymore.” But all I can say is keep pushing and keep going. I have someone in my life that encourages me everyday to keep going. So if I can be that encouragement to somebody out there, keep going! Don't give up. Sing! There's been many times that I wanted to give up and quit, just say forget it. But, I have a gift for a reason and someone needs to hear this gift. And if it touches people, why not? I love making people feel good! If my music can make you smile, or if you can tell me when you heard my voice- that it made you feel some type of way. Like that really makes you feel good on the inside. So I would just say keep pushing, keep going. Don't give up.

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Thank You To Our Funders

To say 2021 has been an extraordinary year for the CAAT would be an understatement! We’ve hosted several community events including the 2021 Fall Chester Candidate Forum, sustained our CAAT programming like the Legacy Art Club and the Purpose Performers, and even hired some new faces. However, none of this would be possible without the support and the generous donations from our CAAT Sponsors. On behalf of not only ourselves but the community, we thank you!