

### Invited Youth Speakers



**Lenox Thompson** is a homeschooled 6<sup>th</sup> grader in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. He has been homeschooled for most of his educational career. His favorite subjects are English Language Arts, Science, and PE. Lenox is an avid reader, devouring over 50 books a year. He is currently on the baseball team, an avid youth golfer with First Tee of Baltimore, and an enthusiastic drummer. Lenox also practices Taekwondo. As a member of his homeschool cooperative, Lenox is the Student Report and Section Editor of the Yearbook Club and a member of the Book, Lego Masters, Baking, and Creative Writing Clubs. During his free time, Lenox enjoys reading, playing sports and video games. His future goals are to become a Pastry Chef and Professional Baseball Player.



**Langston Thompson** is a homeschooled 8<sup>th</sup> grader in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. He has been homeschooled for most of his educational career. His favorite subjects are Music, Art, and English Language Arts. He is currently on the basketball team, middle school crew team at Baltimore Rowing Club, an avid youth golfer with First Tee of Baltimore, and experienced pianist. As a member of his homeschool cooperative, Langston is the Photo Editor of the Yearbook Club and a member of the Book, Lego Masters, Skateboarding, and Creative Writing Clubs. During his free time, Langston enjoys making music, drawing, playing sports, playing video games, coding, and learning more about architecture and technology. His future goals are to become an architect and music producer.



**Jevah Hubbard-Dance** is a 10th grade student who first started at Life Pieces To Masterpieces at 3 years old as a member of the "Tree House" class. Now, he is a Junior Mentor of the same 3–4-year-old Tree House class. Jevah sees his strength as a mentor in his patience and understanding, and how deeply he can relate to his younger peers. He works with them to understand that they can feel comfortable in their own self-expression. Jevah performed poetry in January 2024 for thousands of mentoring practitioners and advocates at the closing plenary of the National Mentoring Summit, and his artwork has been featured on the front page of the Washington Post's Metro section.



**Donyel Marbley:** "Your work is good, but I wish you had more of a process," said many of Donyel's graphic design college teachers. But despite winning the Elmer O. Aaron design award, a design citation, being in plenty of art publications, and graduating from the University of the Arts with a BFA in Graphic Design, he wondered what he was missing in his process. In his 5-6 years as a graphic designer working with corporate, non-profit, & musical clients, he grew and realized that design builds connections — an underlying human desire we all need to thrive. If the audience doesn't understand the brand visually then how will they connect? If a brand isn't visually clear on who they are then how do they expect to be understood? Through his marketing design, cover art design, design thinking, and branding work with his clients,

he has strived to give creative and clear messaging that best reflects what the brand stands for, an idea they are trying to visually convey, and/or strategically strikes an emotion in their audience. He still works with a passion to bridge the gap between audiences and brands knowing that connection can change lives for the better.

## PUBLIC SESSION - SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



**Issa Ouarid** is a 10th grade student at Calvin Coolidge High School, and has been attending Life Pieces To Masterpieces' afterschool program since pre-K. Issa is a Junior Mentor working with the Legacy class, ages 10-13, and he is a national Afterschool Youth Ambassador with the Afterschool Alliance, where he works with nine other students from around the country to uplift the field of afterschool. Issa defines Life Pieces as the place: "where I learned about myself; it is a home for me where I met friends and a second family for me; and it is a loving environment for boys and young men growing up in Washington, DC. It is a learning space for Black and Brown boys to learn that they are not problems, but that we are in fact problem-solvers who deserve to be heard in making our country a better place." Issa was recently featured on the homepage of the Washington Post Metro section for his artwork and storytelling, for a story that ran on January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024: "We're Speaking Out."



My name is **Kayleen Diaz Perez**. I was born in the U.S. but I'm from Guatemala. I will be graduating in the class of 2027. I'm very determined on being a lawyer, politician/president of the United States, and entrepreneur in the future. I have always been hardworking, dedicated, and passionate about my education. Outside of school, I am a soccer player, an older sister to one younger brother, and a daughter to my parents. I'm so thankful for my family and loved ones.

### Facilitator



**Eve Dowdell** is a passionate, gregarious college student from California. As a Communication Studies major, Eve is currently working towards her Associates Degree for Transfer at Modesto Junior College (MJC). Eve is active with her college's extracurricular and campus life activities, spending her time competing on MJC's Intercollegiate Speech and Debate Team and participating in MJC Clubs. Aside from academics, Eve is active in the 4-H Youth Development Program. Eve was a 4-H youth member for 10 years, serving as a club officer, project teen leader, County Ambassador, State committee member, and even CA 4-H State Ambassador in her final years. Her time in 4-H developed her civic engagement, communication, and time-management skills, which Eve now employs as an 4-H adult leader and college student. Additionally, Eve's 4-H career cultivated her passion, or spark, for expression through American Sign Language (ASL) and various dance projects, which she eventually led. Eve continues her spark today, working towards her ASL interpreting certificate and dance training to teach praise dance to Deaf children. When Eve has finished her homework and clocked out from her internship with the CA 4-H office, she is dancing, reading her Bible, or spending time with her loved ones.