

Eastwood Event Centre

October 17, 2026



The Creator's Ball

A Met Gala-Inspired Evening Honoring and Connecting All Creatives of Northeast Ohio

GOLDEN CARPET. FASHION SHOW. ART AUCTION. RAFFLES.

For personal invitation requests, contact us at eaayouth@gmail.com

A LETTER FROM OUR FOUNDER



Dear Community Leader,

It is with great excitement that we introduce The Creator's Ball, a bold and inspired black-tie gala designed to celebrate the power of creativity while directly supporting the future of local youth through Empowered Arts Academy. Taking place on October 17, 2026, this premier event blends red carpet glamor, artistic innovation, and cultural excellence into a night of impact and elegance.

The Creator's Ball is more than an evening of high fashion. It is a fully immersive experience where art and purpose meet. Guests will be treated to a runway-style fashion showcase featuring collaborative capsule collections by local designers, stylists, and visual artists, each interpreting the year's creative theme through couture. These one-of-a-kind pieces are not just for show—they reflect the bold imagination and brilliance of our creative community.

Adding depth and excitement to the evening, we will also host a curated local art silent auction where attendees may bid on original works by regional painters and visual artists. Proceeds from these pieces will directly benefit both the artists and our student programs. A selection of high-end raffles and prize packages will also be available throughout the night, offering exclusive experiences and products donated by community partners and sponsors.

As a guest or sponsor, you'll be stepping into a world of luxury with purpose, supporting Empowered arts academy students aged 12 through 18 as they receive elite-level training in HBCU-style drumline, step, and majorette performance, while also exploring careers in photography, media, set design, fashion, music production, content creation and entrepreneurship. Your contributions will help us provide uniforms, instruments, creative equipment, professional instruction, and real-world exposure.

With a runway show, golden carpet photo ops, art installations, live entertainment, collaborative competitions, and community honors, all set against an atmosphere of high culture and joy—The Creator's Ball will be one of the most anticipated events of the year. We welcome you to stand with us as a community partner or sponsor to make this evening and our mission come alive.

Support Empowered Arts Academy, a nonprofit organization committed to transforming the lives of young people through mentorship, training, and career development in the creative and performing arts. Our performance programs span HBCU-style majorette, step and drumline, as well as technical training in media, production, fashion, and entrepreneurship. We are proud to be cultivating the next generation of artistic professionals right here throughout the Valley.

Together, we can empower youth to explore their creative passions, build sustainable careers, and uplift their communities through the power of the arts. We thank you in advance for your support and hope to partner with you in making this event and our mission a resounding success.

We thank you for your time and consideration, and look forward to partnering with you to empower the next generation of artists, innovators, and leaders.

With much gratitude,
RISHANDA RAY

Founder & Executive Director, Empowered Arts Academy
Visionary, The Creator's Ball

The Creator's Ball

WHERE CREATIVITY MEETS LEGACY.



Art Ward

MASTER OF CEREMONIES



Omg It's Nice Finesse

GUEST PRESENTER

Featuring Honorees



JOSHUA TRIPLETT
KEYNOTE SPEAKER



KAREN CLARK-GREEN



EARL "DJ BANDCAMP" BARRON



LINDSAY RENEA BENTON



POSTHUMOUSLY
WM. ROSSELLE BURCH

OCTOBER 17, 2026

SECRET LOCATION-INVITE ONLY

The Creator's Ball Purpose

A Met Gala-Inspired Evening of Celebration, Creativity & Cause

The Creator's Ball is a luxury, black-tie, fashion-forward gala that mirrors the allure of the Met Gala while centering community impact. It is designed to honor, celebrate, and bring together the Valley's most dynamic creative professionals—DJs, choreographers, producers, content creators, performers, directors, and more.

Beyond the glitz and glam of the golden carpet, elegant décor, and curated entertainment, this event serves a powerful mission: To raise funds that support Empowered Arts Academy's operations, student scholarships, and hands-on programs that transform local youth's artistic passions into viable, thriving careers.

The Creator's Ball Vision

Guests will enjoy:

- A designer-inspired "Curators of Culture" dress code, encouraging earth tones
- A live red carpet-style golden carpet experience
- A curated program featuring keynote speakers and Creator honors
- Exclusive networking, media coverage, and elevated dining
- A celebration of art in every form: fashion, visuals, sound, and movement
- Auctions, raffles and exclusive features such as interviews.

Every dollar raised will help provide mentorship, job training, performance opportunities, creative resources, and educational programming for underserved youth pursuing artistic futures.

This is more than a gala.

It's a movement to uplift creativity, empower dreams, and invest in the next generation of culture-makers.

About Empowered Arts Academy

TURNING CREATIVE PASSIONS INTO CAREERS

At Empowered Arts Academy, we are committed to enriching the lives of students aged 12-18 in Northeast

Ohio through a diverse range of artistic opportunities. By making performance arts and creative extracurricular activities accessible and combining them with creative career mentoring, we are preparing children for a life where they can explore their artistic gifts and transform them into careers.

Our mission is to create a safe, affordable and encouraging environment where students can learn life skills while exploring their artistic passions and assist them in placement within respective fields. We believe in the power of arts education to transform lives and aim to equip our students with the skills and knowledge necessary for success in college and beyond. With our programs in music, dance, film, media, and entrepreneurship we are able to provide exclusive mentorship, job training, performance, and real-world experience to the underserved creative youth.

By combining academic excellence, professional mentorship, artistic exploration, community service, and holistic support, Empowered Arts Academy aims to inspire students to become well-rounded individuals who positively impact their communities.

An Unforgettable Evening Honoring and Connecting All Creatives Within The Valley

WHERE CREATIVITY MEETS LEGACY, CELEBRATING ART IN ALL FORMS.



A voice of the city and a champion of the arts, **Art Ward** is the connective thread between community, creativity, and conversation. As a longtime host, cultural influencer, and supporter of the arts in the Mahoning Valley, Art brings both charisma and class to every stage he graces. Known for his ability to engage, uplift, and entertain, he'll be leading the evening with purpose, poise, and signature style. There's no better guide for the Creator's Ball 2025 than a man who lives at the intersection of heart and hype.

With a voice that commands the room and a presence that transcends mediums, **Joshua Triplett** is a multi-hyphenate talent reshaping Black storytelling in film, television, and music. From his screen roles to his soul-stirring melodies, Joshua continues to elevate narratives that inspire and empower. His work is art with purpose—and we're thrilled to celebrate his brilliance at this year's Creator's Ball.



A master of mood and movement, **DJ Bandcamp** is a powerhouse behind the turntables. Known for blending classic soul with contemporary rhythm, his sound has amplified everything from celebrity parties to community movements. More than a DJ, he is a cultural architect who curates experiences that resonate long after the beat drops. At Creator's Ball 2025, we honor his creative legacy and cultural influence within and beyond the Valley.

A cornerstone of the region's creative education scene, **Karen Clark Green** has empowered generations through her dedication to youth, the arts, and cultural preservation. Her work bridges tradition and innovation, uplifting the next wave of leaders with passion and vision. We proudly honor Karen for her enduring legacy, community service, and the powerful impact of her mentorship.



Lindsay Renea Benton is more than a dancer—she's a living, breathing canvas of expression. Known for her innovative choreography and commanding stage presence, Lindsay uses movement to tell stories that are as bold as they are transformative. Her work blurs the line between fine art and performance, making her a true muse of motion and creativity. At the Creator's Ball, we honor her fearless artistry.

We proudly honor the legacy of **Mr. Wm. Rosselle Burch**, a man whose life was a masterclass in dignity, discipline, and dedication to the arts. As leader, talent show director, and mentor, Mr. Burch poured wisdom into generations of young minds, teaching not just technique—but character, pride, and Black excellence. Through his unwavering support of creative youth, Mr. Burch's influence echoes through every drumbeat, every performance, and every student he inspired. His legacy is stitched into the cultural fabric of our region, and at Creator's Ball 2025, we recognize him as a timeless symbol of service, brilliance, and Black creative resilience.



Fashion Roadmap

Theme: curators of culture

Inspired by the organic richness of the earth and the essence of natural tones, the fashion aesthetic embraces a palette of browns, golds, coppers, nudes, and terracottas. Attire should be Black Tie or Fashion Forward with a creative twist that speaks to each guest's unique artistry. Tribal and cultural prints are also encouraged.

Mocha | Caramel | Espresso
Burnt Sienna | Cinnamon | Clay
Rose Gold | Metallic Copper | Antique Gold
Deep Olive | Sandstone | Taupe
Emerald | Cultural Prints

Earth tones. Elevated elegance. Power in every pigment.

The Creator's Ball

OCTOBER 17 2026 SECRET LOCATION-INVITE ONLY

Press and Media Passes
available for purchase

Single, Couple and
Table Tickets

General Admission
and VIP options
available



October 17, 2026

Secret Location- Invite Only

The Creator's Ball

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**GOLDEN CARPET. FASHION SHOW. INTERVIEWS.
CURATED MENU AND DRINKS. ART AUCTION.
LIVE PERFORMANCE. RAFFLES.**

WHY PARTNER WITH THE CREATOR'S BALL?

SUPPORT CREATIVE CAREER PATHWAYS

ENGAGE WITH SUCCESSFUL CREATORS & INFLUENCERS

AMPLIFY SOCIAL IMPACT AND BRAND ALIGNMENT

GOLDEN CARPET EXPOSURE, PROGRAM BOOK PLACEMENT, AND MORE

AS A MAJOR SPONSOR OF THE CREATOR'S BALL, YOUR BRAND WILL RECEIVE:

LOGO PLACEMENT ON EVENT SIGNAGE AND ALL DIGITAL MARKETING

INCLUSION IN OUR OFFICIAL PROGRAM BOOK AND EVENT TRAILER

PRODUCT PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN SWAG BAGS AND DECOR

RECOGNITION IN OUR PRESS RELEASES AND MEDIA COVERAGE

ON-STAGE ACKNOWLEDGMENT DURING THE CEREMONY

VIP TICKETS AND EXCLUSIVE ACCESS TO CREATORS AND SPECIAL GUESTS

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OUR DEMOGRAPHIC & POTENTIAL REACH

OUR ATTENDEES AND AUDIENCE INCLUDE:

- **Local, regional and virtual creatives (ages 21–40)**
- **Community leaders, entrepreneurs, and HBCU/Performance Arts alumni**
- **Students and families involved in arts and media**

DIGITAL AMPLIFICATION:

- **Honorees and featured creatives have collective followings totaling over 5 million across Instagram, Tik Tok, and YouTube**
- **Targeted media outreach, livestreamed segments, and post-event recap content will extend reach to 500,000+ impressions**
- **Partnership with influencers and press/media ensures cross-platform visibility throughout the Trumbull, Mahoning, and Columbiana counties**



The Creator's Ball

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

PROGRAM SPONSORSHIP

- EMPOWERMENT AMBASSADOR TIER - \$15,000**
Provides program scholarship for 15 students. Sponsors team equipment, apparel and performance uniforms. Granted opportunity to collaborate on special projects or events. Thank you basket and exclusive merchandise. VIP seating at performances. Discounted tickets for year's events. Recognized as a Empowerment Ambassador on our merchandise, promotional material, website and social media, logo included.
- COMMUNITY CHAMPION TIER- \$10,000**
Provides program scholarship for 10 students. Sponsors team equipment and apparel. Granted opportunity to collaborate on special projects or events. Thank you note and exclusive merchandise. Discounted tickets for year's events. Recognized as a Community Champion on our merchandise, promotional material, website and social media, logo included.
- CREATIVITY CATALYST TIER- \$5,000**
Provides program scholarship for 6 students. Sponsors team equipment and apparel. Granted opportunity to collaborate on special projects or events. Thank you note and exclusive merchandise. Recognized as a Creativity Catalyst on our merchandise, promotional material, website and social media, logo included.
- VISIONARY VANGUARD TIER - \$1,200**
Provides program scholarship for 4 students. Thank you note and exclusive merchandise. Recognized as a Visionary Vanguard on our merchandise, promotional material and social media, logo included.
- HARMONY PATRON TIER - \$600**
Provides program scholarship for two students. Recognized as a Harmony Patron on our merchandise, promotional material and social media
- LEGACY BUILDER TIER - \$300**
Provides full year program scholarship for one student. Recognized as a Legacy Builder on our social media.

EVENT SPONSORSHIP

- GENERAL EVENT SPONSORSHIP - \$1,200-\$10,000**
All tickets will be held at the door. Name/Logo displayed on merchandise, programs, and social media pages, two reserved premium tables of 8 seats. early admission, exclusive swag bag, VIP cocktail hour, exclusive meet & greet, golden carpet pictures.
Name for group reservation _____ \$ Amount _____
- TABLE RESERVATION- (8 TICKETS) - \$650**
All tickets will be held at the door. Name/Logo displayed social media pages, one reserved table of six seats, golden carpet pictures.
Name for group reservation _____
- INDIVIDUAL TICKET- VIP EXPERIENCE- \$100**
All tickets will be held at the door. Early admission & expedited check-in, swag bag, VIP cocktail hour, reserved premium seating near the runway/showcase, exclusive meet & greet, carpet interview, name included in the event program under "Patrons of the Arts"
#of tickets _____ \$ Amount _____
- INDIVIDUAL TICKET- GENERAL ADMISSION ATTENDEE - \$85**
All tickets will be held at the door. #of tickets _____ \$Amount _____
- DONATION**
Feel free to make a donation of any amount towards educating and enriching our creative youth. \$ Amount _____

COMPLETE, SCAN AND EMAIL THIS COMPLETED FORM BY SEPT 15, 2026 TO:

EmpowerED Arts Academy
eeayouth@gmail.com • Phone: 234.224.2651
Please make all checks and money orders payable to Empowered Arts Academy

Company Name: _____ Date: _____
How To List Your Name In Print: _____
Contact Name: _____ Phone: _____
Email: _____

Method of payment: ___Cash ___Check ___Money Order

The Creator's Ball

PROGRAM ADS & MARKETING

PROGRAM ADS

NOTE: PLEASE SEND SPONSOR LOGOS AS VECTOR FILES (.AI, .EPS OR .PDF) TO EAAYOUTH@GMAIL.COM FOR USE IN MATERIALS BY SEPTEMBER 15, 2026

FULL PAGE AD COLOR- \$175
4.5" wide x 7.5" tall

HALF PAGE AD- \$100
Black and white; 4.5" wide x 3.6875" tall

FULL PAGE AD- \$150
Black and white; 4.5" wide x 7.5" tall

QUARTER PAGE AD COLOR- \$65
2.1875" wide x 3.6875" tall

HALF PAGE AD COLOR- \$125
4.5" wide x 3.6875" tall

QUARTER PAGE AD- \$50
Black and white; 2.1875" wide x 3.6875" tall

**Email a high-res PDF ad to eaayouth@gmail.com.
Mail an ad, picture or business card to the address below.
Write your message on the lines provided below.**

COMPLETE, SCAN AND EMAIL THIS COMPLETED FORM BY SEPT 15, 2026 TO:

EmpowerED Arts Academy
 eaayouth@gmail.com • Phone: 234.224.2651
 Please make all checks and money orders payable to Empowered Arts Academy

Company Name: _____
 How To List Your Name In Print: _____
 Contact Name: _____
 Email: _____

Date: _____
 Phone: _____

Method of payment: ___ Cash ___ Check ___ Money Order

FELICITAS, INTEGRITAS ET SAPIENTIA

Thank You ²⁰²⁵

EST. 2024

Contact

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