

Contact: Joe Donovan
202-399-7703 or info@lifepieces.org

Life Pieces To Masterpieces Celebrates Black Brilliance



Brother Focus with his latest self-portrait

Washington, DC; 3 September 2014 - Life Pieces To Masterpieces is thrilled to invite you to **three upcoming events** celebrating the brilliance, growth, and creativity of the young men we serve.

Founded in 1996, Life Pieces To Masterpieces (LPTM/Life Pieces) uses artistic expression to develop character and leadership, unlock potential, and prepare African American males ages 3 – 25 to transform their lives and communities. We take our name from the unique style of art that our Apprentices (program participants) collectively create. Apprentices collaborate to decide on a life experience to make the topic of their

painting, and then create their piece together by painting, cutting, arranging, and sewing pieces of canvas. This process reflects our belief that however challenging individual “pieces” of our lives may be, we can respond to them in a way that makes our lives into masterpieces. For eighteen years, LPTM has made this transformation possible through an environment where young men receive unwavering love, where they know they are safe, and where they learn to express themselves fully while exploring their identities and goals. We invite you to help us celebrate the power of transformative change this Fall!

Courage on Canvas: Young Men, Big Dreams

Our annual Courage on Canvas exhibition displays the unique, vibrant paintings our Apprentices create through the Life Pieces To Masterpieces artistic process. Developed by LPTM Co-Founder Larry Quick, a professional artist born and raised in Washington, DC’s Ward 7, the quilt-like, layered and sewn style our young men learn is native to DC and represents some of the most powerful, raw, and moving youth-created artwork in the world.

In communities where outlets for positive expression are limited,

LPTM’s collective art process offers an alternative that allows our young boys and men to find their voice, speak their truth, and begin activating their life’s purpose. **Life Pieces art work has been selected for inclusion in The National Museum of African American History and Culture set to open in 2015.** In addition, Life Pieces To Masterpieces art work is currently on permanent exhibit at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, Marshall Heights Community Development, Children’s National Medical Center, and Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum.

The month long exhibition **features 50 major paintings** from Life Pieces’ catalog of over 1000 masterpieces, including the unveiling of several paintings created during this year’s *Connecting Communities Across the Globe* Summer Program. Most of these paintings will be available for purchase or lease on site or online through our **Art by Life Pieces** program (<http://www.lifepieces.org/art-life-pieces>). Also on display will be the 10 highest-rated photographs from the **2014 Colors of Life International Photo Contest** benefiting LPTM. Photojournalists from around the world submitted images for the contest under the theme *Young Men, Big Dreams* to match the emphasis of our work at Life Pieces.



Celebration! One of many masterpieces on display at Courage on Canvas



You are invited to attend the **red carpet gallery opening on Thursday, October 2nd**. This event will offer the opportunity to view our artwork, meet many of the brilliant young artists currently in our program, and support our mission by purchasing a masterpiece of your own.

We will close the exhibit with a night of music and cultural exchange through ***Songs in the Key of Life Pieces: International Youth Voices on Saturday, October 25th***. Honoring our commitment to *Connecting Communities Across the Globe* (LPTM's summer program), the event will feature performances by five international youth artists from around the world as well as by our very own Life Pieces Apprentices.

Color of Innovation Breakfast

Our signature fundraising event, the Color of Innovation Breakfast brings together all those who have touched our mission in the past year. Join us to celebrate the growth, development, and creative potential of the amazing young men we serve. During the breakfast, you will learn about the many transformations brought about by our work. Most importantly, you will have the chance to tap into our daily source of inspiration as the remarkable boys and young men who drive our work share their gifts, their talents, and their stories of resilience and compassion.



About the Pepco Edison Place Gallery:

The mission of Pepco's Edison Place Gallery is to work with nonprofit arts organizations to sponsor a series of diverse, high quality art exhibits on behalf of the community they serve. For over 5 years, the Pepco Edison Place Gallery has made it possible to bring the creativity and brilliance of LPTM's young men to the public by hosting our annual exhibit. The Gallery Place Chinatown Metro station servicing the green, red and yellow lines is within walking distance of the Gallery. Street parking and public parking garages are available nearby. Contact: pepcogallery@pepcoholdings.com

About Color of Life:

Colors of Life is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation based in Washington, DC, with a mission of combining the evocative power of art with philanthropic efforts, dedicated principally to improving the quality of life and conditions of less-fortunate children. The initial Colors of Life International Photo Contest took place during 2006/07 and has been held annually since then. It has provided a showcase for top-quality US and international photographers. Contact: info@colorsoflife.org

General Information on events:

Life Pieces To Masterpieces: Courage on Canvas

Pepco Edison Place Gallery

702 8th Street, NW, Washington DC; Accessible by the Gallery Place Chinatown Metro

- *Gallery Opening Event:* October 2, 2014 6:00 – 9:00 PM (RSVP to info@lifepieces.org)
- *Songs in the Key of Life Pieces:* October 25, 2014 6:00 – 8:00 PM (RSVP to info@lifepieces.org)
- *Regular Exhibition Hours:* October 3 – November 10, 2014; Tuesday – Friday, Noon – 4:00 PM

Color of Innovation Breakfast

Location TBA

Thursday, November 6th 2014 8:30 AM – 9:30 AM

RSVP to info@lifepieces.org