Love the children, and they will love themselves.

The Global Girls curriculum includes lessons on adolescent and teen stress, depression and suicide. We penned a newsletter article on increasing African American youth suicide rates. Recently a young girl streamed her suicide live on Facebook.

We need you to help Global Girls, other youth orgs and healthcare professionals as we engage our youth, listen to them and help them become more resilient, self-aware and loving of themselves and their peers.

Global Girls is redoubling our efforts to embrace and empower as many youth as we can accommodate in our space.

As America undergoes a tumultuous time, let’s make our homes, youth centers, churches and schools safe havens where youth know they are loved and secure. All of us must support all of us as leaders traverse these next years of hateful, fear-based ideology and policy.

I’m inspired by a Take Six song: “Spread love, instead of spreading lies. Spread love, the truth needs no disguise. I’ve often said love could open any door. Oh, but I wish we had much more. More love is what we need.”

In this issue, youth write about “Self Talk,” how it works against and helps us. They’ve learned the difference and have started making a conscious effort to monitor and direct their “self talk.”

Now, if only we could teach the world… Okay, we’ll keep working on blocks, neighborhoods, communities and see where that road leads.

In the meantime, let’s all spread a lot more love, starting with loving ourselves unconditionally.

Girls and staff enjoyed “Hidden Figures” recently compliments of Pam Ward, a Friend of Global Girls. After she saw the movie, Pam donated tickets saying she wanted to help girls see a movie that honored brilliant, inspirational women. On behalf of the Global Girls family, thanks Pam!

You, too, can become a “Girl Who Codes”

Global Girls is partnering with Girls Who Code to bring computer science opportunities to neighborhood girls. We’ll host a Summer Immersion Program information and application session Saturday, February 25 from 2pm until 3:30pm at The Global Studio, 8151 S. South Chicago Ave.

In a FREE 7-week program, 10th & 11th grade girls will get 300+ hours of immersive instruction in web development and design, robotics, and mobile development with mentorship. Girls Who Code is a national non-profit working to close the gender gap in technology.

Register for the 2/25 session at info@globalgirlsinc.org.

Global Girls Theatre Collaborative

Ranging in age from 5 to 17, the Global Girls Theatre Collaborative Youth Company is rehearsing the 2017 show series. They’ll tackle cell phones, bullies, domestic violence, colorism and ethnic stereotypes.

The Adult Company’s first show this year is “Not Married, Yet.” Auditions for women and men are Saturday, 2/11 and 2/18, 2:30pm at The Global Studio.

We loved “Hidden Figures”!!

In the girls’ own words…

The women were brave, smart and knew how to speak up for themselves.

I learned so much about my history!

All the women took a stance, worked for what they desired, let it manifest and then watched it grow until they got what they wanted!

I thought that if I had to go through that, I would be sad, but they were not sad.

It was a very inspiring movie for girls like me and showed me that I can’t let being black become an excuse for me not pursuing my dreams til I make them come true.

I still really feel inspired!

Black History Movies @ The Global Studio

Thursdays @ 6:30pm
Discussions follow
Feb. 16 – “Birth of a Movement”
Feb. 23 – “13th”
March 2 – “The Black Panthers”
March 9 – “Circle Unbroken”
Donations Accepted
773.902.2359
Alumni, meet current Globes.

Ryonn Gloster is a Global Girls program alum who now works as a Program Specialist/Teaching Artist. A tireless worker and fulltime college student Ryonn orchestrated a semi miracle in over the holiday break. She called, sent texts, emailed, posted on Facebook and Instagram. She employed every means of communication, and it paid off.

Fifteen Global Girls Alumni, young women who grew up as program participants and are now college students and in the work world, attended our first annual Alumni Engagement Night, December 29th at The Global Studio.

Eighteen current Globes welcomed alums to an evening of fun, sharing, dance offs and acting games.

Nicole Jackson, a Globe since age 5 is now a 21-year-old junior at Spelman College in Atlanta. She said, “I almost didn’t make it, but I knew I couldn’t let Ryonn down. Now that I see all of my old Globes, I’m really happy to be here. I miss Global Girls!”

We’re already planning the 2017 Engagement Night. If you know a girl who once participated in our programs, ask her to contact us. We want to fill the Studio to the brim in December with Globes!
Board Notes: Spotlight on Marcia Thomas

Marcia Thomas has the honor of being Global Girls’ longest serving board member. She joined the board of directors in 2010 and has worked tirelessly to build Global Girls into a strong organization serving hundreds of girls annually. She has also spearheaded fundraising for a beautiful new dance studio floor.

We asked Marcia to reflect on her time with Global Girls, the highs the lows. Here’s a bit of what she shared.

Q: What are some of the most rewarding aspects of being on the board?

Marcia: My answer is twofold. I particularly enjoy watching the girls grow, mature, spread their wings and often come back to be leaders. The other personal joy is having been a part of that journey from the Chicago Park District location to attempting the purchase one of the most iconic dance studios in Chicago, Mayfair Studio, to our most recent location, the Global Studio, on South Chicago Ave.

Q: What about the challenges of being on the board?

Marcia: I had to understand that often you must step back, review and offer your best practice resolution regarding board policy, mission, personality differences and your own resolve.

Q: You’ve been a very effective board member bringing on additional members, soliciting donations, hosting a board member event at your home and serving as board president. What is the inspiration for your efforts?

Marcia: I believe I am a hands on, get the job done person. Having said that, I realized that over the years Marvinetta has done much more than most. She has dedicated her life to the expression of the arts through our youth. She has “Walked the Walk, rather than just Talked the Talk”. Once I was introduced to Global Girls and Marvinetta, I felt compelled to get on board.

Q: Can you give us two or three goals you’d like the board to accomplish in 2017?

Marcia: A new floor! Also, I want to find a funding source that would allow us to have a hefty reserve. We always have a need for grant writers so I hope to identify a resource this year as well.

Q: What advice would you give anyone interested in joining a non-profit board?

Marcia: First and foremost, having a passion for the goals and mission of the organization of your choice is paramount.

Q: Anything else you’d like to include?

Marcia: I’m very happy for all of the exposure Global Girls received a couple of years ago. I brought a young lady, Jessica Lawson, onto the board. She helped facilitate a WTTW interview with Marvinetta as an American Graduate Champion. The video featured the girls in our summer program and was seen by hundreds and generated fantastic recognition for the organization.

From participant to choreographer

By Kiara Jones, member since 2010 and 2016 Global Girl of the Year

As a new dance instructor at Global Girls and a Global Girls Theatre Collaborative Youth Company choreographer, I thought making up dances would be easy. NOT!

I love dancing, and I love teaching dance, but making up choreography is so hard! Making up dances is also very tricky. You have to think of the next set of moves and make sure it all looks right, add in transitions and make certain girls are fully executing all moves correctly. That’s the struggle I have for now. As time has gone on for me and I work diligently, I see that it’s not that hard. I look at videos online all the time for ideas and then my own ideas appear. Now, I understand and see why choreographers are so hard on their dancers. Girls, let’s dance!
Global Girl, Gisselle

My name is Gisselle Hernandez and I am a seventeen year old student attending Benito Juarez Community Academy High School. I am involved in many programs including the National Honor Society (NHS) at my school, Marwen and I am currently applying for the Chicago Scholars, Caddie for Riverside Golf Club, and to the Anti-Defamation League (ADL).

The one program that I have felt most connected to has been Global Girls. I learned about Global Girls during a session with the Global Youth Ambassadors Leadership Summit (GYALS). GYALS was a 1 week program at the campus of University of Illinois at Chicago where twenty-eight girls from around the world came together to engage in conversations and find solutions to the challenges women face around the globe.

What I enjoyed most about my experiences with Global Girls were the sessions that connected and intrigued me knowing that there motif is for girls and boys to learn dance, acting, and story crafting skills to gain skills like communication, presentation, and leadership.

I want to start a Global Girls group in my neighborhood to expose my experiences with this program to other ethnicities, by inviting the girls from Chicago who participated in the GYALS. There first reactions to the Global Girls was ‘amazed.’ If eight girls got amazed with one experience, imagine if a whole community experienced it as well.

College 2017 Blues

-Amanda (Panda) Walker
18 year old senior, CVS High School

My mind is totally blown!
I just learned about student loans.
Thought I had it all together, Thought that I’d finally be grown.
Now, we hit up Chase Bank, and Start asking for private loans.
I’m so ready to graduate,
But I can’t get low interest rates.
Wait, hold up get up out my way.
Saw an Ad for Part time at Subway.
Yeah, I’m Sick of wearing khaki pants,
But need them Benjamins in my hands.
I really don’t mean to rant,
But I gotta get that Pell Grant.
You fight like its cute, but that’s not success.
You ain’t even done with the verification process!
Couple of scholarships so I guess I’m lucky.
But, I’m sure I’ll probably need work study.
Best believe I’ll be independent.
Education’s my right, better defend it.
And all of this… is just the cost of college attendance.
Imagine walking into what you think is a nice, but typical three bedroom apartment for a business meeting, a small gathering with friends or a stimulating conversation with intellectuals. You appreciate the interesting art work adorning the halls as you make your way up the stairs to the second floor. Upon stepping inside, you are overwhelmed by an art gallery/image garden/historical time capsule/visual buffet for the spirit.

That was my first experience at Patric McCoy’s Hyde Park/Bronzeville home. Every wall, some ceilings, window, corner, shelf, door, closet, countertop, cabinet door – everything is adorned with beautiful, meaningful art.

I’ve taken friends, acquaintances, businesses partners and, yes, Global Girls youth to Patric’s home, and all have been amazed and delighted. I took four of our GENTS for a cultural outing in January. Two of them shared their comments.

**Gabe Hawkins:** The experience at Mr. Patric’s house was just great. I felt positive energy all throughout every room, and I learned a great deal of information about his hundreds, maybe thousands of pictures. It felt like every picture had a deep meaning behind it. There seemed like the pictures had some type of significant background in them. And the fact that Patric lives in that house full of art all around him is totally amazing.

Also, I saw one of my grandfather’s pieces on the wall. Knowing that my own grandfather’s art was part of his collection, and that others considered him a legend in the art world was a huge motivation to me. I want to better my craft and talent in acting just like my grandfather perfected his craft.

**Emanuel Lewis:** During the gallery visit, I felt that I was getting an important lesson in African and African American history. More youth like us should see the place so that they can remember who we really are and our origin. It was like walking through chapters of our history.

Now, an overview from the collector himself, Patric McCoy.

**Q:** What was the first piece you bought?

**Patrick:** The first piece that I bought was from my roommate in college in 1968. He was an art major, and I was majoring in chemistry. I liked the lithograph that he did and asked to buy it. I grew up in an environment of art, design and photography in my small family apartment on the South side of Chicago, so I already had an appreciation for art and had initially wanted to be an artist because my father painted.

**Q:** What do you call your home of art?

**Patric:**: Patric McCoy Collection but it is not a gallery - more like a home museum.

**Q:** How many pieces of art do you have here?

**Patric:** Over 400 different artists in my collection -most from the Chicago area.

**Q:** What countries are represented in your collection?

**Patric:** Canada, Zambia, Netherlands, Haiti, Morocco, Egypt but the overwhelming amount is from USA

**Q:** What is Diasporal Rhythms?

**Patric:** I co-founded the organization *(Diasporal Rhythms)* to promote the importance of art collecting in our communities because we have to be the first to say that art created in and about our community is good.

**Q:** Why is it important to expose young people to art?

**Patric:** Young people have to be exposed early and often to the arts to teach them to think and act critically. They should be asked what they see instead of telling them what to see in order to build their observational and analytical skills.

For more information or to book your own tour, contact Patric by visiting www.diasporalrhythms.org. You can learn how you can become a collector, see other collectors and support art by making a contribution.
Global Girls participants not only say what’s in their hearts, they also write what’s on their minds. 21st Century Learning skills are reinforced in our curriculum. Our girls love writing, sharing, editing and presenting. This is there section of the newsletter. For girls, by girls, in our own words...

Self-talk is when you say good things about yourself and you don’t put yourself down. For example saying you’re beautiful every morning instead of saying, “Ewww, I need my hair done.” Doing this everyday can help you out a lot. Global Girls introduced me to it and ever since I feel great about myself. I was going through a rough patch in my life and I didn’t feel very good about myself and I doubted myself. But now, I wake up every morning and say good things about myself and I feel good all day. Victoria

Saturday was awesome. When I got on that stage, we were awesome! But I know we could have done better. We can always be better if we work hard. Nykelle

Today is Saturday, my favorite day of the week. I am at my favorite place, Global Girls. I am here because I love to sing, act and dance. But, I get scared in front of people I have what you call “fright of the spotlight.” I don’t like people staring at me. When they do, my stomach gets queasy and my mouth gets dry and I can no longer move. That is why I lie to go here. They embrace who they are and that inspires me to sing, act and dance in front of people. I love Global Girls – Brook

Manifestation is bringing something into your life through positive thought and hard work. What you put out, you get back, so always think positive. A couple of months ago, I went through some personal things, but when I came to Global Girls, we started talking about knowing ourselves and working hard. And one thing and subject that stood out to me was manifestation. I learned that if I do my hardest, I can achieve anything. So I started thinking positive more and believing in myself and working harder. Soon I felt better about myself and about my life. I gave myself a better outlook on the world, and even if I got upset, I tried not to let it out on others. At Global Girls, I learned how to love and forgive myself. The moral of this story is you really can do anything or accomplish anything you put your mind to as long as you believe you can do it and work hard towards it. Mariama

I really feel good about being back because I have missed everybody. Also, I have missed doing all of the dances and all of the different activities. Also, I missed my friends. I’m really happy to be back! – Taylor

I love Global Girls because they have taught me a lot like dancing, how to articulate, acting and so much more. I love how we are like family, sisters. I don’t feel like that in other places. – Antonia

One day, my cousin came to my house and she called me weird. I told her that I don’t like being called that. Just because I have a wild imagination, does not make me weird. “Weird” is just a label and I don’t like labels because most people think that labels tell you who you are in life, but they don’t. That’s why I love being at Global Girls because they don’t judge you no matter what and if somebody does do that, they will get in trouble. I feel like I can express myself here because the girls are my sisters and they won’t judge me if I act wild. No matter what, they will always be on my side. – Mya

In Global Girls, I’ve learned to act, dance and sing, and I’ve learned about my culture. I’ve been in Global Girls for four years. In Global Girls, we learned how to believe in ourselves. No matter what we should believe in ourselves even if someone talks about you. If they do, that doesn’t mean you should talk about them. Just try to be friends. If you fall, don’t just wait until someone helps you. Get up on your own. No matter what, don’t tell yourself that you can’t do something. – Kayla

Friends of all ages invited to a day of Global Girls FUN

Enjoy a Global Girls Saturday session designed specifically with you in mind

You’ll see why we LOVE what we do. And, we know you will love it too!

Saturday, 2/18/2017
2:30PM til 4:30PM
The Global Studio
8151 S. South Chicago Ave.
773.902.2359
Once a Global Girl, always a Global Girl

For 17 years now Global Girls has engaged thousand of girls and a several hundred boys of color in our programs and activities.

Most of those in our school programs go to high school, and we rarely hear from them again. Occasionally, thanks to the internet, they find us. One young lady reached out recently and attended a Saturday session. She’ll join us as a volunteer and possibly work in our summer program.

With permission, I’ve reprinted her letter here.

My name is Ariana Jordan and I am interested in volunteering and being a mentor to girls in Global Girls, Inc. A proud native of Chicago, around 2004. I became a member of Global Girls Inc. along with my sister Bry’anna Hopkins.

From what I remember when I was a young girl, Global Girls Inc. provided a safe space where I was able to interact with other participants and mentors who arranged activities and programs that were structured for us to become aware of the world around us.

Since then, I have received my Bachelor’s degree in Communications at Grand Valley State University. While an undergraduate, I was the president of iPromise, a student organization providing a communal space for women to tell their individual stories and seek personal growth. Our focus was on self-confidence and career development. We produced creative activities that inspired them to utilize the campus resources.

Being president of iPromise allowed me to obtain fundraising skills, time management, event planning, and decision-making - skills that I believe would be an asset to each member of Global Girls Inc. as they embark on their life journeys.

Again, I am excited and would be honored to volunteer and be a mentor at Global Girls Inc. where I would be able to continue to better my skills with the organization and city that encouraged me to pursue my dreams.

Global Girls chapter will blossom all over the country in 2017! Our first partnership to bear fruit is in East St. Louis, IL.

January 23, Global Girls ED, Marvinetta Penn, began a collaborative theatre initiative with Mason/Clark Middle School and the Ladies of Distinction program under the direction of Najiwah S. Walden. Working with 14 ambitious and energetic 8th grade girls, Mrs. Penn, during a three hour workshop, taught the girls The Global Girls Law, icebreakers, dance warmups, Global Girls staple performances and ways to monitor their “self talk”.

What did the girls think about the day?

“I didn’t know people made plays like that.”

“I liked it. It was so fun even though I felt a little weird at first.”

“When is she coming back? I want to go see her if she’s not coming here.”

“I know our play is going to be bomb if she helps us with our moves.”

“Next time we need to meet for longer. I’d rather do that than just sit in class.”

Global Girls will help the girls stage a play for parents, peers the community. Technology, facetime, video conferencing and Facebook live will facilitate long distance directing.

The Mason/Clark Ladies of Distinction are fundraising to visit Chicago in April. They’ll spend the day learning dance routines in our studio, further developing their show, participating in a Global Girls session and having fun being a girl in the safe space of The Global Studio.

Ladies Of Distinction is an academic and social support group for 7th and 8th grade girls at Mason/Clark Middle School developed and facilitated by a Washington University graduate student who is also an HBCU alum. With an intent to empower and develop strengths, the program focuses on restorative justice, social engagement, artistic expression and skill building in math.

Contact Global Girls to arrange a workshop for girls in a community near you.

The girls willingly participated in all session activities. The dance lesson was everyone’s favorite. Although none of them had any formal dance training, all were fully engaged, worked very hard to get the steps and performed brilliantly! All students would benefit from an arts program in East St. Louis. Global Girls is taking the first step. We need your support to take another.
92% of every dollar goes towards our programs. Your contributions help us help more girls.

Name

Address

City, State/Zip

Phone/Email

Yes! I want to support courageous, talented girls who will change our world.
Enclosed is my gift:  ___$10  ___$25  ___$50  ___$100  ___Other $ _____
Please use my contribution for:
   ___ General operating expenses
   ___ The Global Studio Capital Campaign (your name on the Builders’ Plaque)
   ___ Global Girls performance support (Get free tickets to shows)
   ___ Bi annual trips abroad (Mombasa and Grenada were our 2016 trips)

Global Girls Sickle Cell Disease Dance-a-thon
Saturday, March 11, 2017
Dance for the fun of it and help us raise awareness of the disease and raise funds to support research!
10am until 6pm  (The dancing doesn't stop!)
Global Studio  8151 S. South Chicago Ave.  773.902.2359
For more info visit www.globalgirlsinc.org.