



Williamsburg County School District

Post Office Box 1067-Kingstree, SC 29556
Telephone: (843) 355-5571 Fax: (843) 355-3213
www.wcsd.k12.sc.us



Dr. Kelvin Wymbs, Superintendent

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SPOTLIGHT ON ARTFIELDS ARTIST MR. MALIK HAYWARD

Mr. Malik Hayward best known as Yung4LifesArt, was born in Atlanta, Ga but raised in Nesmith, SC. He is an educator, painter, and artist. In 2019 he became a member of the Eta Iota Chapter of Kappa Pi International Honorary Art Fraternity, Inc. He received a Bachelor of Arts in Studio Art Painting and Drawing from South Carolina State University in 2023. He has received many accolades for his artistry and participated in prestigious local and national exhibits such as the City Gallery Mojo Arts Festival Juried Art Exhibition, ArtFields, the Gibbs Museum of Art's Edwin Harleston and Kennard Kennedy HBCU Showcase, the Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture Noir: Studies and Black Portraiture, Georgetown Art and Wine Walk, Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago Black Creativity 2023 and Black Art in America. He serves as the Art Teacher at Greeleyville STEAM Academy in the Williamsburg County School District.

Everything started for him as a child, after he thought he would never have an interest in the Arts. He feels that it is a blessing to carry such a God-given gift. It took him a while to discover his true niche for creating Art. For him to get to this stage, it involved a lot of trial and error in the process of development. He would always doodle in class, then his work evolved from basic simple drawings to natural and simplistic artworks reflecting his own life experiences. He started to witness the growth after learning from many wonderful mentors and teachers from daycare / primary school to now. He attributes learning from their intellectuality helped him to become more knowledgeable and creative in his profession. They motivated and inspired him to be better as a consequence of their dedication. It wasn't until high school that he had an encounter with Art Teacher Chakaris Thomas of Hemingway High School, that he realized his passion for creating art. He found her artwork to be incredibly fascinating, amusing, and impressive, especially her penmanship. During breaks while in school, he would often be found in the Art room practicing drawing and painting while everyone else was outside having fun. He was always afraid of using colors, his drawings would always be black and white. Eventually the fear of coming out of the shell lifted from drawing in black and white to later unleashed into colorful paintings. Seeing the murals around school banners, props, and posters through the community and many other artworks produced by Mrs. Thomas, inspired his artwork wholeheartedly. Mrs. Thomas' overwhelming love for art and children encouraged him to seek higher education.

He is currently a studio artist at the new ArtFields Acline Studios in Lake City, SC. ArtFields is a competition and year-round festival that focuses on Southern Art. He has a studio space alongside other extraordinary artists such as: LaToya Thompson (who was one of his art Teachers in Elementary School and has been very helpful in his Art journey), Harry McFadden who is also a native of Williamsburg County, Daniela Arenas, Joe Dreher, Tiffany Thomas, Luke Sarmiento, Herman Keith Caleb, Braxton, and many others

Also, his artwork R.E.A.C.H. will be featured in the Beyond Time Exhibition February 1 - 28, 2025, with a closing reception on Friday, February 28th from 5 – 8 pm at the Park Circle Community Building located at 4800 Park Circle, North Charleston, SC. This exhibition is curated by Austin Reynolds and KELA.

