



# FACES

# PIPELINE

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Shuman Juvenile Detention Center was invited to exhibit resident artwork and poetry in the lobby of City Theatre in conjunction with the theater's production of "*Pipeline*" by Dominique Morisseau. The student exhibition titled "***Faces of the Pipeline***" was on display from October 27 – November 18, 2018. For those who have experience with the juvenile justice system, the story of *Pipeline* is hauntingly familiar. Young people wedged in a system that predictively surrenders youth to further failure, disgrace and inequity. This beautifully written and executed play addresses the issues of the 'school-to-prison pipeline' and challenges youth, families and communities to face the consequences of students being pushed out of schools because of progressively harsh school and municipal policies and introduced early to the criminal justice system.

Residents of Shuman Center were introduced to *Pipeline* and the collage techniques of costume designer Dominique Fawn Hill. They modeled their study on the explorative thought process Dominique used when designing the visual look of each character / cast member. The students were then asked to design a self-portrait by examining various roles in their life through different persona filters such as a son, brother, cousin, father, friend, etc. and to design a character removed from the current situations that shadow their self-worth. They were additionally given the option to design the character of an adversary using the same thought process and filters. Students used recycled materials such as wallpaper, old artwork and magazines to make their decorative identities. Portraying their character as an art form staged opportunities to understand themselves colorfully and multi-dimensionally. Designing an adversary challenged students to imagine opposing figures in their life as a "person" rather than an object of anger. The salvaged materials serve as a subliminal message of the "imperfect made beautiful" which parallels their current lives and serves as a subliminal reminder that integrating negative experiences in their self-understanding creates a valuable seasoned person, which sometimes is far more beautiful than the original. Students were permitted to use Dominique's collage format or to alter their project in the form of drawing, compositional writing or poetry to make their personal statements. The constant in the assignment was to create their statements with candor conveying what they discovered about themselves using images, colors, shapes, sizes, textures and words. The final product could either corroborate or dispel stereotypes associated with the character of youth in detention and placement centers. Some of the youth had very little exposure to art in their schools. What is important is through the process none of the students viewed themselves through their mistakes. This exhibit reflects their artistic self-discovery as well as how and what they chose to represent about themselves to you.

We hope the students' work awakens you to the stark reality of how the 'school-to-prison pipeline' burdens our society with youth who surrender their identities, self-esteems, hopes, opportunities, and beliefs to a complex judicial system thereby altering vital elements of their personas that are necessary to function as viable and productive members of their families, schools and communities. We are advocates in finding functional, less punitive avenues for youth to learn healthier coping skills in order to be better equipped to design attainable futures. We are honored and excited to exhibit our work and be part of this very important social justice mission. Thank you for viewing our many faces.

Gerry Florida

Artist Facilitator / Allegheny County Shuman Juvenile Detention Center

**Thanks to the Insight of The Honorable Judge Jennifer S. McCrady,  
This Powerful Exhibition is Invited to the Rotunda of The Allegheny County Family Division Courthouse**

**Thank You** Shuman Juvenile Detention Center, Allegheny County & Their Title 1 Staff for  
Standing Together in Support of Our Valuable Kids!

**Thank You** Pittsburgh Center for Creative Reuse for the Very Cool Re-Purposed Supplies!

**Thank You** John (Rocki) Oravik For Countless Hours of Behind the Scenes Contributions To Our Efforts.

**Thank You City Theatre**  
For Affording Our Residents the Opportunity to Share Their Realities in This Important Play

**"A Very Very" Special Thank You  
To the Talented Residents of Shuman Juvenile Detention Center  
Who Willingly Revealed Themselves Through Their Art!!!**

**"Change Them! Don't Charge Them" 2019 Shuman Campaign  
A Project of Florida Recycled and Allegheny County Shuman Juvenile Detention Center**