



## ABOUT

In 2020, coinciding with a global pandemic, Community Art Center partnered with neighboring organizations, Tutoring Plus, and Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House to initiate a collaborative program to meet the top-tier needs of neighborhood families. Between the three organizations there are more than 260 years serving residents of the Port-neighborhood in Cambridge. After successfully graduating 4 cohorts of the program, Community Art Center assumed sole management over the program called Port ARISE. Seed funding for the program came from the City of Cambridge Community Benefits Fund. Funding is now provided through a variety of investors, including United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Liberty Mutual Foundation. Community Art Center continues to rely on these partnerships and others, and works with a network of trusted resources, including Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House and Tutoring Plus. Our Port Family Advocate connects families to community assets in order to advance family stabilization. Invoking the time-tested phrase “those closest to the problem are closest to the solution”



Being able to accomplish life-altering goals several times in less than a year is unheard of, yet here I am, at the end of this program, ready to set new goals

~ Port ARISE program participant

## Contact Us For More Info

- 617. 868.7100 x121
- Community Art Center, Inc.  
119 Windsor Street  
Cambridge, MA 02139
- [kosar@communityartcenter.org](mailto:kosar@communityartcenter.org)

# PORT ARISE



What began as collaborative program between three longstanding community agencies rooted in the Port-neighborhood of Cambridge, is now a Community Art Center based program that has re-focused, doubled-down, and committed itself to what it was all about in the first place...



COMMUNITY

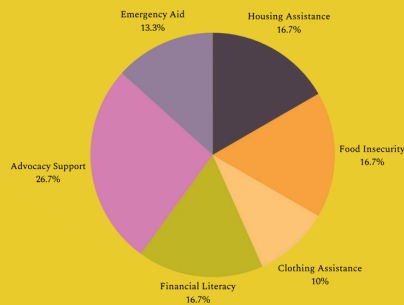


# taking care of each other since 1937.

Community Art Center takes a holistic approach to programming, it has done so since it began during the Great Depression. Core programming centers equitable access and exposure to artistic experiences and interdisciplinary arts enrichment activities. Programs support children, youth and families in the Port-neighborhood of Cambridge, understanding that the arts & creative expression contribute to human development and overall well-being. The creative spirit in all of us deserves to be nurtured. The organization has always understood how important its wrap-around supports would be to ensuring that the basic needs of neighborhood families are being met. For that reason, the Art Center offers accessible child care, a food and nutrition program, and a mental health counselor.

In this city of innovation, Community Art Center recognizes that sometimes the most human thing you can do is offer support in fundamental ways, drawing upon community, and reminding each other that we are at our best when we care of ourselves and each other.

The types of assistance participants receive ranges from housing to food stability; to workshops on financial literacy; and advocacy with a child's school administrators, state agencies, immigration offices, etc.



Participants ranked their satisfaction with the support they received

Using a scale of (1) - Not At All Helpful to (5) - Extremely Helpful

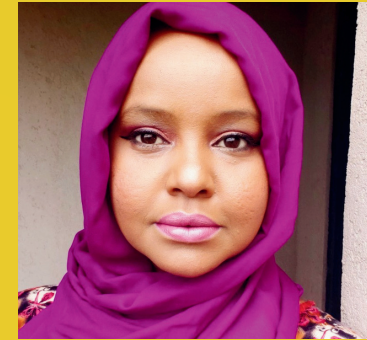
96% of those who received support, found it Extremely Helpful



## how it works

- 01 You will meet with the Port Family Advocate to establish your own goals for success!
- 02 Regular meetings with the Port Family Advocate over the course of 6-12 months will help you keep on track and streamline your connections to available resources
- 03 You participate in workshops given by Community Art Center & Port ARISE partners - these are skill-building, knowledge-sharing opportunities designed to help you meet your goals
- 04 You build a support network with fellow participants when you've completed participation

Most importantly *you* get to define what success looks like by setting your own goals - we're just here to help you get there!



## meet kosar: port family advocate

Kosar (she/her/hers) embodies empathy, accountability and a dedication to service. Originally from Somalia, she resettled in the U.S. in 2003 after 12 years in Kenyan refugee camps. Kosar holds an associate degree in Arts from Upstate New York and dual majors in psychology and political science from University of Massachusetts, Boston, with minors in Women & Gender Studies and Human Rights. Her career spans roles in case management, as a parent educator, and a family advocate in Minneapolis and Boston. Outside of work, Kosar enjoys crafts, cooking, and family time. Her journey is defined by resilience, continuous learning, and supporting others in various facets of life.



My advocate saw me every week and every time I needed help to support me, to go to school meetings and hospital with me to speak for me and my children. People generally ignore me because I don't speak english well...

- Port ARISE program participant