



Battle of the Drums, Art, Rap & Dance (BDARD)

Project Description

The Battle of the Drums, Art, Rap & Dance (BDARD) program is a youth-centered creative arts initiative designed to engage members of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Citrus and Marion Counties through music, visual arts, dance, rhythm, and cultural expression. The program provides students with hands-on opportunities to create rhythms, transform sponsored buckets into artistic instruments, write original rap lyrics, and develop dance choreography that brings the experience to life through drumming, movement, and performance.

Participants will engage in collaborative group drumming performances while exploring artistic self-expression, creativity, and confidence-building through interactive workshops and team-based activities. The BDARD program will take place across seven Boys & Girls Club locations throughout Citrus and Marion Counties during July 2026.

Youth participants will participate in structured workshops focused on rhythm development, visual art creation, lyric writing, dance choreography, teamwork, creativity, leadership, and performance preparation. The program culminates in energetic showcases that celebrate youth talent, diversity, cultural appreciation, and positive community engagement.

Anticipated Benefits in Ocala and Marion County

The BDARD program will provide meaningful cultural, educational, and social benefits to youth and families throughout Ocala and Marion County. The program creates positive opportunities for youth engagement through music, visual arts, dance, rhythm, and creative expression while promoting teamwork, leadership, and self-confidence.

BDARD will increase access to arts education and creative enrichment opportunities for youth who may not otherwise have exposure to performing arts programming. Through hands-on workshops and collaborative performances, participants will develop communication skills, discipline, creativity, problem-solving abilities, and cultural awareness in a safe and supportive environment.

The program will foster community connection by bringing together youth from multiple Boys & Girls Club locations to participate in positive, arts-based activities that celebrate diversity, inclusion, and artistic expression. Public showcases and performances will encourage family involvement and strengthen community pride by highlighting the talents and accomplishments of local youth.

Additionally, BDARD supports emotional wellness and mentorship by providing students with constructive outlets for self-expression, collaboration, and personal growth while enriching the artistic landscape of Ocala and Marion County.