



The Princeton Club of Rochester

The Team of Emani Diaz & Janelle Baker Juniors, School of the Arts

A team effort brought a Princeton Prize nominee tradition to the School of the Arts (SOTA) as Emani and Janelle teamed up to bring the MOSAICS Club on campus to improve race relations and promote racial harmony. SOTA Art Center Director Adele Fico says the duo saw the need and rewards that bringing MOSAICS to their school would provide:

“The girls felt students would benefit from having a safe environment where they could freely discuss the issues facing them and their peers. They believed that productive communication among students, teachers and faculty would strengthen and enhance the overall educational experience for the student body.”

By providing a comfortable atmosphere for students to discuss various topics surrounding race relations, Emani and Janelle offered students a voice and a forum via MOSAICS to speak out against social injustices. And their hard work is paying off. The club has already grown to become one of the largest at SOTA.

“Since we started the MOSAICS club, the change in our building had been tremendous and has even been said to be ‘one of the best things at SOTA’.”

In addition to meetings, Emani and Janelle are now using MOSAICS as a vehicle to spearhead planning and implementation of SOTA’s Black Lives Matter Day. The event features musical, dance and dramatic performances as well as classroom activities, specialized curriculum, poetry readings and a visual art exhibit.

Fico says these girls clearly have what it takes to foster positive race relations and diversity.

“Emani and Janelle are dedicated, organized, and passionate about building a better world by working with their peers to create a dialogue toward understanding and unity around the issues affecting Black lives in our society.”

And their work is nowhere near complete:

“We believe student voices to be a powerful tool that we plan to utilize frequently. Therefore, we are fighting for a women's empowerment club as well.”

With such a talented team, we think you’ve got the commitment to make any undertaking a huge success. Onward, Emani and Janelle!