

Ava's CHANGE4YOUTH

Ava's Change4Youth—a program by **Pride Action Tank (PAT)**, visually raises awareness of youth experiencing homelessness in Chicago while collecting small change in donation stations to make big differences in the lives of youth. This program also promotes community building through art and advocacy efforts.

How the Program Works

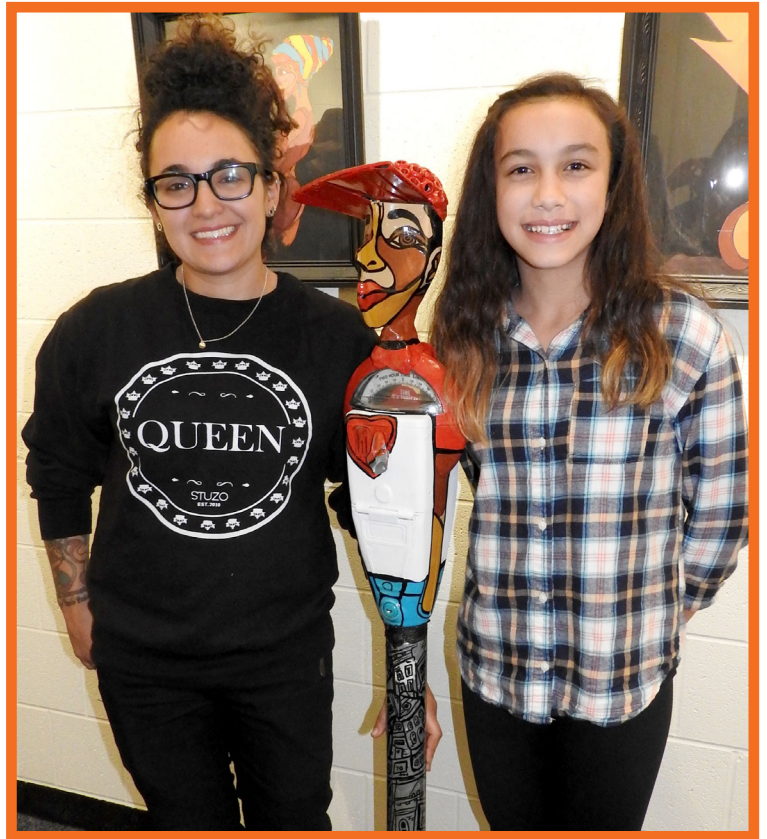
- Repurposed parking meters are transformed into captivating public art pieces by prominent artists, and artist mentors working with youth to help them create a personalized Art Meter.
- Installed in wards across the city, the Art Meters allow easy access to giving opportunities.
- Additional donation boxes, painted by youth and shaped like homes, will be at retail businesses.
- Donations go to the **AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC)**, a parent organization of **PAT**. Proceeds benefit nonprofit groups who provide services for youth experiencing homelessness and funds are split among these groups. **PAT** and **AFC** facilitate the dispersal of funds.
- Youth participants serve on an advisory board to decide how funds are allocated to applicants. When working in collaboration with **PAT** on decision-making, youth are empowered to be actively involved with solving a problem. They promote the program through sharing their stories, community building, and leadership.
- **Ava's Change4Youth** is a unique program because funds raised are directed towards impacting youth specifically, while actively engaging them to help with a problem affecting their lives.



Future Focus, art meter by Sam Kirk

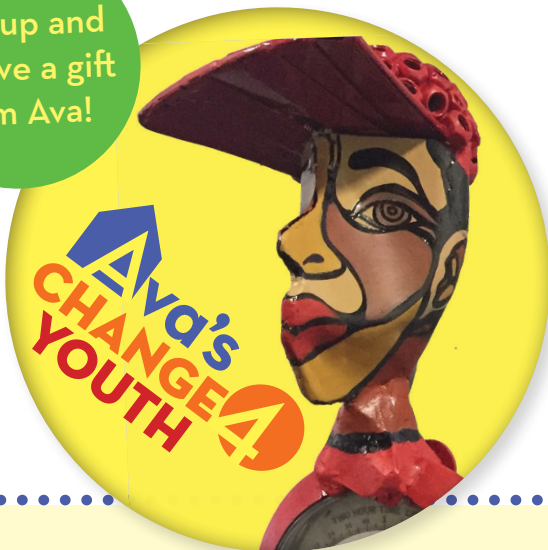
How to Be Involved

- **Alderspersons** can assist in installing Art Meters in prominent areas in your ward.
- **Businesses, groups, and individuals** can sponsor an Art Meter by funding the purchase, installation, and upkeep of a meter. They could support the program by installing a meter at their business or organization.
- **Artists** can donate their time to mentor a youth in the creation of an art meter(s).
- **Volunteers** can help impact lives and better the community by lending a hand.



Program Founder, Ava Santos-Volpe (r) and Artist, Sam Kirk

Sign up and receive a gift from Ava!



Ava Santos-Volpe is a 13-year old living in Chicago. Windy City Times newspaper publisher and LGBTQ+ rights advocate, Tracy Baim spoke to Ava's class two years ago about youth experiencing homelessness in the city she lives. Tracy's stories touched Ava. She wanted to help. While on a family trip, Ava spotted a parking meter collecting coins to donate to a homeless shelter. Ava asked her mom to send Tracy a photo of the meter, asking if it would be a good way to raise money to help youth.

Program Founder, Ava Santos-Volpe (r) and her brother Jaidon Santos-Volpe (l)



Ava Santos-Volpe with Art Meter



Art House Collection Bank



Ava and Sam Kirk working with a teen mom creating Art Houses.