



Co-Publisher's Statement

The National Rites of Passage Institute (NROPI) is pleased to be a co-publisher of the BLACK CHILD JOURNAL. The BLACK CHILD JOURNAL through the creativity and brilliance of Useni Eugene Perkins has been a beacon in illuminating issues and practices through a variety of themes for the holistic development of black children.

Useni Perkins' lifelong work in the arts along with other featured artists, practitioners, and/or scholars in the Spring, 2014 edition of the BLACK CHILD JOURNAL will share their work and research which will highlight, document and celebrate the natural genius of black children. The relationship between the Summer, 2013, special edition of the BLACK CHILD JOURNAL, RITES OF PASSAGE FOUNDATION AND PRACTICES and the Spring 2014 edition, ARTS AND THE BLACK CHILD is the importance and impact of culture on human development. The relationship between the arts and culture is inseparable.

I welcome the opportunity to co-publish another edition of the BLACK CHILD JOURNAL. I am very excited about the publishing of this edition of the BLACK CHILD JOURNAL: ARTS AND THE BLACK CHILD.

NROPI defines but does not limit the arts to the following: painting; sculpting; writing poetry; playing an instrument; singing; dancing; acting; creating mixed media productions; digital storytelling; and filmmaking. Each of these arts holistically engages the learner - culturally, intelligently, socially, emotionally, and physically. Learning in, about, and through the arts involves active engagement that unites mind and body, emotion and intellect, object and subject.

The collection of papers in this edition will help answer the following questions: What is art? Why do the arts matter in the development of black children (especially the arts of Africa and the Diaspora)? and What kinds of roles are the arts playing in assisting black children's capacity to imagine a bright future for themselves and the world?

This edition is based on the premise that cultures are judged on the basis of their arts. Most cultures and historical eras have not doubted the importance of including the arts as part of every child's development (socialization and education). They are time-honored ways of learning, knowing, and expressing.

Finally, the papers in this edition will provide a variety of scholarly articles that have utility for parents, teachers, social practitioners, decision and policy-makers. The arts on the continent of Africa and throughout the Diaspora have contributed to the avenues and opportunities to develop imagination and creativity, and to experience joy, beauty and wonder.

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