



Express Yourself! Sign up for Build for Better - LAB 2026

Locust Art Builders: Summer Art Intensive for Teens starts June 15!

Now in its 16th year, Locust Art Builders (LAB): Summer Art Intensive for Teens is a unique, five-week, hands-on pre-college program for high school students interested in art, design, and creative careers. Each year, up to 30 student artists from across Miami are selected through an open call process to participate in a fully funded program featuring hands-on builder workshops, field trips, and collaborative art making. Selected students will dive right into the creative and practical aspects of building a collaborative exhibition at Locust Projects!

LEARN MORE



APPLY NOW



2026 LAB THEME: **BUILD FOR BETTER**

EXPLORING CONTEMPORARY ART PRACTICES AT THE INTERSECTION OF ART, TECHNOLOGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT.

LAB 2026 goes back to our roots with a focus on process, skills-building working with tools and range of materials, and building a socially and environmentally conscious practice under the theme “Build for Better.” Students will have access to Locust Projects art-making tools and materials and a budget and space to collaboratively build experimental new work. The professional artist-led instruction at Locust Projects is complemented by behind-the-scenes visits to artists’ studios, as well as talks and workshops by visiting artists and arts professionals that provide insight into a range of practices and creative career paths. The program culminates in a public exhibition and opening reception, where students share the work they have made from scratch with family, friends, and the broader arts community.

LAB is FREE + EVERY STUDENT RECEIVES:

- **Free lunch and snacks daily.**
- **Transportation stipends.**
- **A Builder Bag with art supplies, builder essentials.**
- **An Artist-Edition T-Shirt.**
- **Community service hours.**

KEY DATES & INFO

LAB 2025 INTENSIVE DATES:

June 15 - July 17
Mondays – Thursdays
10am - 3pm (early dropoff available)

OPENING RECEPTION:

Saturday, July 18 | 5:30-7:30pm

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

May 27, 2026 - for early acceptance

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Students currently enrolled in public or private high schools in Miami-Dade County. Students must have completed at least one year of high school by June 2026. Rising 10th, 11th, and 12th graders as well as graduating 12th graders are all eligible to apply.

LAB is presented with support from Susan and Richard Arregui; Diane and Werner Grob; The Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners, The Children's Trust; The Kirk Foundation, and INCUBATORS Friends of the Next Generation.

