

## TRAC PARENTS GUIDE

# WHAT TO EXPECT

TO LEARN MORE VISIT  
[TEENS.ARTSCONNECTION.ORG](https://TEENS.ARTSCONNECTION.ORG)

OR EMAIL BRIANA, PROGRAM MANAGER AT  
[THOMASB@ARTSCONNECTION.ORG](mailto:THOMASB@ARTSCONNECTION.ORG)

## WHAT IS TRAC?

ArtsConnection's Teen Reviewers and Critics (TRaC) began in the early 2000s to give teens the opportunity to see professional art in New York City and platform their voices and opinions.

Each semester we take students to see NYC's most exciting art throughout the city. From Broadway shows to jazz concerts, from film festivals to galleries, we give teens the chance to see what NYC has to offer. Then we publish teen reviews and critiques in our blog *The Journal of Art and Reviews (JAR)*.

### TRAC RUNS FOR 10 WEEKS

OFFERED IN THE FALL (NOV-JAN), SPRING (MAR-MAY) AND SUMMER (JULY) AS MAP FREE CITY PROGRAM.

### YOUR TEEN CHOOSES A TRAC

EACH TRAC GROUP (MUSIC, THEATER, FILM, VISUAL ART, MULTI ARTS) MEETS FOR WORKSHOPS AT A DIFFERENT LOCATION FROM 4:30-6:30PM ON THEIR SCHEDULED DAYS.

### 5 FIELD TRIPS

ALL TRACS TAKE UP TO 5 ARTS FIELD TRIPS (EX: MUSEUMS, THEATERS, GALLERIES) THAT TAKE PLACE EITHER DURING (4:30-6:30) OR AFTER THEIR WORKSHOP TIME IN THE EVENING (7-9 OR 10).

### IMPORTANT PAPERWORK

WE ASK THAT YOU COMPLETE THE PARENT FORM :  
-PARENT/GUARDIAN AGREEMENT, HEALTH AND SAFETY & MEDIA RELEASE (IF YOUR TEEN IS UNDER THE AGE OF 18)

**YOUR TEEN WILL BE ASKED TO COMPLETE THE STUDENT FORM:**

-PROGRAM GOAL FORM, STUDENT PROGRAM AGREEMENT & MEDIA RELEASE (IF 18 OR OLDER)

## COMMUNICATION

**Ed Miller, Teen Programs Director**, will host a virtual Parents Orientation before each semester. [millere@artsconnection.org](mailto:millere@artsconnection.org)

**Briana Thomas, Teen Programs Manager**, will handle weekly teen communication. [thomasb@artsconnection.org](mailto:thomasb@artsconnection.org)

## PARENT FAQ

### Q: WHO RUNS TRAC?

**A:** A Program Manager (Briana) oversees all TRaC logistics, who is your main point of contact. Each TRaC is led by a trained teaching artist who guides the work that the teens do, as well as attends and facilitates all workshops and field trips.

### Q: WHEN AND WHERE DOES TRAC MEET?

**A:** Each TRaC meets on a designated day of the week at 4:30pm (Visual Arts: Tues., Theater/Dance: Wed., Film: Thurs., Multi-arts and Music: Fri.) for workshops at a home site (ex. ArtsConnection office, gallery, theater, recording studio) or field trip location. Your teen will receive a schedule at the start of the program and an email each Monday (subject line: "This Week in TRaC") with details for that week's workshop and/or field trip. Please note that last-minute changes may occur as we receive ticket offers. We will give as much advanced notice as possible and communicate with teens regularly.

### Q: HOW LATE DO FIELD TRIPS DISMISS?

**A:** Trips may END between 9 and 10 pm (Typically, Theater and Music run the latest). We make sure that the teens get to a transit route safely, encourage pairing up within the group to travel together, or work with parents/guardians to designate a PICKUP spot near the event venue.

### Q: HOW WILL MY TEEN TRAVEL DURING TRAC?

**A:** For early field trips, your teen will meet the group directly at the venue at 4:30. For later field trips, your teen will meet the group at their home site at 4:30, have dinner with the group, and then travel together to the venue on foot or by public transit. Meeting location will be specified in the weekly email."

### Q: WHAT IS THE ATTENDANCE POLICY?

**A:** 99% of success is showing up! It's important that every participant attends each workshop. However, we understand that, life happens. If needed, teens are allowed up to 2 absences, which they communicate as soon as possible to the Instructor and Program Manager.

### Q: WHAT ARE THE KICKOFF AND FINALE EVENTS?

**A:** The Kickoff is our teens-only meet and greet for TRaC participants and Instructors, with time for artmaking, snacks, and questions. The Finale is our closing event open to parents and families to celebrate the semester with refreshments and activities. Each TRaC group shares what they learned through a final project presentation, and each teen receives their certificate.

### Q: WILL PHOTOS BE TAKEN OF MY CHILD?

**A:** Photos may be taken for promotional purposes. We send out parent/guardian form that includes a Media Release for teens under 18 years old.

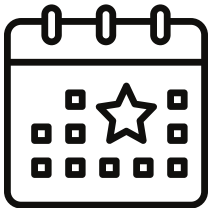
# A WEEK IN TRAC

Your teens will...



## RECEIVE AN EMAIL EACH MONDAY

(SUBJECT LINE: "THIS WEEK IN TRAC"). THIS EMAIL WILL INCLUDE THE TRAVEL INFORMATION AND DETAILS FOR THAT WEEK'S WORKSHOP AND/OR FIELD TRIP.



## MEET WEEKLY

FOR WORKSHOPS AT THEIR HOMESITE OR FIELD TRIP LOCATION FROM 4:30-6:30PM ON THEIR SCHEDULED DAYS.



## GET SNACKS

WE ALWAYS PROVIDE SNACKS AND WILL PROVIDE A MEAL IF A FIELD TRIP IS SCHEDULED AFTER 6:30PM.



## ATTEND FIELD TRIPS

EACH TRAC GOES ON 5 ARTS FIELD TRIPS (EX: MUSEUMS, THEATERS, GALLERIES) THAT TAKE PLACE EITHER DURING OR AFTER THEIR WORKSHOP TIME IN THE EVENING.



### PLEASE NOTE:

SOME TRIPS MAY END BETWEEN 9 AND 10 PM. WE MAKE SURE THAT THE TEENS GET TO A TRANSIT ROUTE SAFELY, ENCOURAGE PAIRING UP WITHIN THE GROUP TO TRAVEL TOGETHER, OR WORK WITH PARENTS/GUARDIANS TO DESIGNATE A PICKUP SPOT NEAR THE EVENT VENUE.