

# Alumni Spotlight: *Ty'lier Baker*

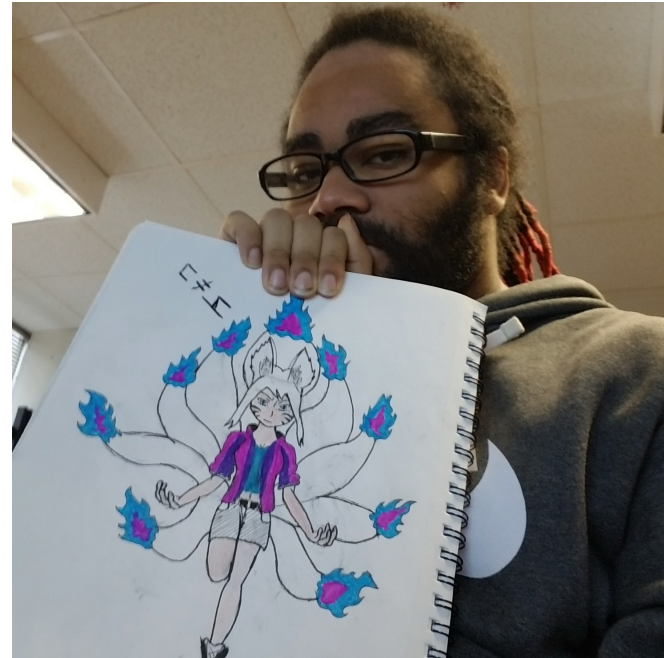


*Ty'lier is pictured second from left*

TY'LIER credits his love for the arts to West Park Cultural Center's Camp Ginkgo, a summer camp for Philadelphia youth to explore their artistic side and meet new friends. Ty'Lier's love for the arts has become a major part of his life--in fact, Ty'Lier is majoring in Film and Television Studies, while minoring in Japanese, at the University of Vermont. He spends much of his free time drawing, and even wrote a novel during National Novel Writing Month. Ty'Lier identifies as a dreamer, and thinks the world needs more people pursuing artistic passions.

For three years, Ty'Lier attended the camp as a participant, until he "aged-out." West Park Cultural Center was lucky that he kept his connection with Camp Ginkgo strong as an Assistant Counselor all the way until the pandemic. His favorite part of camp as a camper, in addition to the exposure to the arts, was meeting other children his age.

As an Assistant Counselor he enjoyed providing mentorship to younger artists-in-the-making. "Sometimes during free time...I would sit around the table with a bunch of campers and show them how I approach drawing." Ty'Lier is a big brother in his nuclear family, and to the West Park Cultural Center family as a whole, serving as a role model to many.



Camp Ginkgo is presently on pause because of the pandemic, but Ty'Lier still encourages people to maintain a relationship with West Park Cultural Center, whether by enrolling their children in one of its free, year-round virtual classes, or making a donation. As he says, "having an opportunity to be a part of a program that can help you mold your ideas about the world and show it in your own unique way, I think it's a wonderful thing to expose to younger people." We can't wait to see what Ty'Lier does in his career, and we suspect this won't be his last time in the spotlight!

**"West Park Cultural Center was the place where I began shaping my artistic expression, and how I began developing my outlook on the world"**

