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# Program redirects youth to the arts



**Ernie Kerrison with some of the Community Arts Network WA program participants.**

CO-ORDINATORS of a program in Midland that aimed to decrease the number of unaccompanied young people engaging in antisocial behaviour in Northbridge on Friday and Saturday nights have claimed success.

Community Arts Network WA has led an arts-based pilot program for young people aged 10 to 16 on Wednesdays and Fridays at the Midland PCYC and Swan Park Leisure Centre, as well as in Armadale, since February.

About 125 young people in Midland participated.

Sessions taught skills such as circus, drumming and break dancing to help improve participants' artistic and social skills.

CAN WA also produced a Beat, Breaks and Skills documentary to evaluate the program.

It captured interviews with participants, leaders, youth workers and co-ordinators and called for ongoing programs of a similar kind in Midland and Armadale.

Co-ordinators said statistics showed there had been a 30 per cent drop in the number of children taken from the streets under WA's curfew laws and a 10 per cent drop in non-domestic assaults in the Northbridge area for the 2009-10 financial year.