

## RECvolution Conference

On May 23, Philadelphia Parks & Recreation hosted the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual RECvolution Conference, the culminating professional development event for the [REACH program](#) pilot locations. REACH is PPR's youth development system, housing after-school programs, summer day camps and youth workforce programs.

PPR leadership, including First Deputy Commissioner of Recreation & Program Susan Slawson, Deputy Commissioner of Programs Leo Dignam and Special Assistant to the Deputy Mayor Maryum Darby-Madison, welcomed the mix of department staff and partners with a list of impressive program stats from the past year, including:

- Program staff completed 2,000 training hours
- 883 children participated in REACH programming at the 21 pilot sites
- 70 children in after school programs learned to swim
- 300 children visited ice rinks
- 800 children participated in visual arts programs
- 236 children participated in performing arts programs

Dr. Randal Pinkett, the co-founder, chairman and CEO of BCT Partners, a multi-million dollar management, technology and policy consulting firm, as well as the Season 4 Winner of NBC's hit reality television show *The Apprentice* with Donald Trump, delivered the event's keynote speech.

The day also included sessions related to the industry of recreation and the importance of wellness activities in Out of School Time (OST) programming and ended with an awards ceremony for all of the REACH pilot location staff members. Next year, the program will extend to additional PPR sites.

*REACH is a wellness system designed to ensure youth have access to healthy physical, mental and emotional experiences focused of five program areas: (1) environmental awareness, (2) outdoor activities, (3) sports and athletics, (4) arts programming and (5) fitness & healthy habits.*



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