ACTION YOUTH MEDIA'S

ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023

SI SE PUEDE
YES, YOU CAN
VISION

Our vision is a world where young people shape communities of respect and diversity.

OUR MISSION

To provide inclusive spaces where young people find their unique voices, gain self-confidence, and learn the media skills they need to be thriving community members.

ACTION YOUTH MEDIA

Films with a focus

ACTIVITIES

Action Youth Media promotes filmmaking to middle and high school students, as a life-giving creative activity and a path to rewarding and sustainable careers. 225 students learned new skills and created short films in our studio in this past program year.
Our vision is a world where young people shape communities of respect and diversity.

All of our classes are free to everyone. Other relevant arts and filmmaking programs in our Silver Spring area charge fees for their classes, workshops, and summer camps. We are an arts organization that makes a public commitment and succeeds in providing an inclusive, safe, creative space for teens. As an entity that is smaller than a middle or high school and especially than a school system, we have the power to respond to our community’s needs more quickly and more personally. Parent Susan Matubia has this to say:

“For someone who was never interested in art before, my middle schooler has thoroughly enjoyed each class and activity that he has participated in. I observed the youth’s ability to express themselves through videos that they created and drawings that they made under the guidance of GB Youth Media staff that captured their view of the world we live in. As a parent, I can confidently state that my son’s artistic instinct has been picked and I have seen a positive change in my young son and his willingness to express himself through art in various ways.” - Susan Matubia, February 24, 2023
EARLY HISTORY

A group of teen students made the first Action Youth Media films together in a church fellowship hall in 2005 with the help of local volunteers such as Richard Jaeggi. The organization was incorporated as a nonprofit in 2008 under Mr. Jaeggi’s direction. Early participants such as Hawa Toure and early teachers such as Ellen Daniels and Heather Bradley continued to expand the after-school and weekend activities through 2014 when Mr. Jaeggi died very suddenly of a brain tumor. Across the County and DC, area students, alumni, activists, teachers, parents, legislators, and filmmakers rallied together to save Action Youth Media’s important work.

SINCE 2014

Students’ documentary films such Juvenile Justice and We Are Now have won numerous awards across the country. Films have featured community members, local artists, pioneers and veterans such as Brigadier General McGee and Congressman John Lewis. Evan Glass was the second executive director and Anna MacLachlan joined in 2018 as the third director when the organization was building its’ first permanent studio space. Over the last 4 years the Board has become actively anti-racist and continued to build equity and inclusion internally.

OUR HOME

Action Youth Media students, parents, and teachers are now building community and collaboration at 900 Wayne Ave thanks to a twenty-year occupancy donated by Montgomery County.

Over the years, hundreds of students and their families have made new friends, learned digital skills, built confidence, and published artworks and films, and new students continue to join the creative journey every week.
Production goals:
- 145 class dates over 48 weeks
- At least 10 short films: Produced, published, screened, and sent to festivals

Inclusive, creative, safe space for teens to thrive

Outcomes (These goals are based on prior internal surveys and evaluations over the past 5 years of the program).
- 260 students will learn filmmaking skills, increase confidence and teamwork skills, and report feeling socially and emotionally heard and safe in our space.
- 260 students will create short films together
- 75% of students responding to our survey report an increase by at least one point (out of 5) in their filmmaking skills (such as the use of specific software)
- 75% of those responding to our survey report an increase by at least one point (out of 5) in confidence, teamwork, or social-emotional well-being in our space.
- 100% Parent satisfaction with their family's experience in our space

Action Youth Media
Films with a focus
Local parents need more, free after-school programs and students need a place to go where they are accepted and heard unconditionally.

“...what speaks to us in our current cultural moment is the power of institutional listening. When teens are immersed in non-school, arts-based programming, they feel they are listened to. The value of being heard is unquantifiable—and perhaps immeasurable.” - Isabel Beavers, Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston, Measured Impacts: Teen Arts Programs are Invaluable, Apr 6, 2018

According to numerous interviews with our students and qualified reports, students struggle to find wellbeing in the school environment or anywhere due to the many different pressures they face, whether it’s legacy trauma, generational health concerns, hunger, ongoing prejudice and racism, or untreated mental illness.

“Today, 17 million U.S. children struggle with hunger—about 6 million more than before the pandemic. On top of that, recent years have reinforced how much this nation still struggles with racism and antiLGBTQ+ hatred....In the past year, even as the nation has returned to “normal” life, the latest research shows that many students are still living in a state of mental health crisis.” -’Mental Health in Schools: The Kids Are Not All Right’ -By: Mary Ellen Flannery, Senior Writer Published: 07/20/2022
In the past year, 225 students learned arts and filmmaking skills and created new works in our classes and events.

In December 2022, 48 students responded to a survey evaluating the fall semester program and their progress:

- 100% reported a positive experience overall
- 52% reported an increase in confidence
- 60% reported an increase in accuracy and attention to detail
- 47% reported an increase in knowledge of career options in design and media
- 41% reported an increase in research skills

Responding parents are reporting 100% satisfaction.

**SUCCESSES AND IMPACT**

- 52% of responding students reported an increase in confidence
- 100% reported a positive experience overall

**Action Youth Media**
*Films with a focus*
The bulk of our funding comes from County and State agencies. It is urgent that we increase and diversify our foundation funding but it has been a struggle in the highly competitive funding context three years into the pandemic.

Financial notes

Each year our audit and 990 present a major deficit. This deficit dates to 2017 when Montgomery County donated a long-term lease to Action Youth Media and we registered the entire cash value of the lease at that time in that fiscal year. Each year we register the full rent cost but can't show new income to match, hence the deceptive deficits the last several years.

Unplanned expenses: In response to the pandemic lockdowns, we purchased 100 new laptops and gave them to young families struggling with the digital gap. This campaign is just now ending as we give the last 9 computers to youth at the MoCo Reconnect drop-in center this month. We are gradually recovering financially from that major expenditure that we considered necessary during the crisis stages of the pandemic.

Historically, our smallest income area is individual donations. Based on our assessment, this is due to low awareness of our presence and understanding of what we offer. We have overhauled our communications to increase awareness and trust in our local area.

Action Youth Media
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FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Expenses and sources of income

PARTICIPATION IN OUR PROGRAMS

Annual participation is recovering after the COVID19 disruption
FINANCIALS OVER 6 YEARS

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN HISTORY

Income spiked in 2017 and in 2019 when the organization received major gifts for the organization’s lease and build-out of a longterm home at 900 Wayne Avenue. Primary sources were Montgomery County, the State of Maryland, and an anonymous foundation grant.

ANNUAL FUNDING

Our organization is making the transition from relying on the founder’s friends’ donations to a broader scope of support including parents, the video and media industry, diverse foundations, and new earned-income streams.
THE TEAM

Teaching artists
- Mar Cox
- Paolo de Guzman
- Kendall Stokes
- Frida Larios
- Jade Drakes
- Shir Nagari
- Syllia Newstead
- David Berg
- Dre Comiskey
- Betancourt
- Graham Holford
- Xhep Xhepa
- Phillip Bouknight
- Bala Mah’moud
- Miles Blunt
- Treasure Doberson

Staff
- Anna MacLachlan
- Shereka Mosley
- Lisa Middleton
- Vanessa Kubick
- Ines Cubillas
- Ta’Jion Jeanty

Volunteers
- Hawa Toure
- Juanita Bailey
- Miles Sedgewick
- Ellis Chung
- Joey
- Francesca Rios

Board of Trustees
- Rejjia Camphor
- Binta Ceesay
- Bruno Falcon, Chair
- Marisa Harriston, Secretary
- Melanie McGee, Secretary
- Gabrielle Koeppel, Vice Chair
- Maurice Johnson, Vice Chair
- Susan Matubia
- Joyce Segarra, Treasurer
- Jennifer Thomas
GANDHI BRIGADE IS NOW
ACTION YOUTH MEDIA

Same film studio, bigger dreams
www.youthmediamdm.org