



Grand Street Community Arts

68 Grand Street | Albany NY | 12202

www.grandarts.org | hello@grandarts.org | p: (518) 463-2222

P R E S S R E L E A S E

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For further information, contact:

Bhawin Suchak, Founder-Director of YouthFX
bhawin74@gmail.com
518-526-5586

Alexis Bhagat, Board Member-Grand Street Community Arts
lex@grandarts.org
646-351-9859

Albany's YouthFX is graduating.

Youth FX is an intensive hands-on program designed to introduce young people aged 14-19 to the technical and creative aspects of digital film making by offering a thorough overview of the production process from script to screen. Since the first “Youth Film Experience” class in 2008 with 15 students, YouthFX has grown steadily year by year, and now serves over 300 young people in Albany annually. In addition to YouthFX's flagship six-week summer intensive, YouthFX now includes after school programs at Albany High School and the Albany Public Library, and offers video production services for small businesses and non-profits.

For the past 8 years, YouthFX has been a program of Grand Street Community Arts. GSCA and YouthFX are excited to announce that beginning on January 1st, 2016, this will no longer be the case. YouthFX has begun forming their own independent organization to support and advance their mission, which is **to inspire and empower youth in Albany through hands-on exploration of the creative and technical aspects of film-making and digital media production.** YouthFX aims to foster and nourish a community of young people who have a voice in shaping the destiny of their personal lives and their communities by telling their stories. YouthFX primarily serves Black, Latino and refugee youth in under-resourced neighborhoods of Albany, NY. These are communities that have historically been unable to access skills and tools of digital media production.

GSCA is proud to provide fiscal-sponsorship for an independent YouthFX for the next year, while YouthFX builds a foundation for their organization. YouthFX plans to continue expanding in the coming year, growing their educational programs, creating a full-fledged production company staffed by alumni of the program, and expanding distribution of Youth FX short films through **Third World Newsreel**, a film distribution company based in New York City. Youth FX has helped to increase the visibility of Albany nationally, winning awards for films by local youth at major film festivals across the country including the Los Angeles Film Festival, San Francisco Film Festival, Harlem Film Festival and Woodstock Film Festival. Several YouthFX alumni have turned their passion for film making at Youth FX to begin careers in film and digital media production. These individuals provide a foundation of committed personnel for the success of the new organization.

YouthFX will continue to run their summer intensive at The Free School in Albany. The Free School have been great supporters of Youth FX since its inception.

"Grand Street Community Arts has been proud to support Youth FX for almost a decade. We are excited to see what big things they will do over the next decade! As a result of this program we have seen young people grow into seasoned filmmakers making their own feature films and being hired by local companies to produce commercials. We can only imagine what will come next for Youth FX producers once they establish their own organization!" - Victoria Kereszi, Board President, GSCA

"GSCA has been such an incredible support in incubating the Youth FX program and we will continue to have a strong relationship as we strike out on our own." - Bhawin Suchak, Founder-Director of YouthFX

"It will open up new avenues for us, and help us grow our audiences." - Majestic Tillman, Youth Founding Member and current Program Assistant of YouthFX

"I'm just excited, excited for the future, and to see what possibilities open up to us. I feel like the future is really bright and that we have endless potential!" - Darian Henry, Youth Founding Member and current Program Assistant of YouthFX

"We have been proud supporters of Youth FX for the past three years and have watched the program grow exponentially in scope and recognition. Seeing them expand into their own organization is an exciting development, not only for young people in Albany, but the entire art community of city." - [Keith Pickard](#), Co-Founder of Spectrum 8 Theaters and YouthFX Supporter

LINKS:

YouthFX
<http://youthfx.org>

Images:
<http://grandarts.org/about-gsca/press-room/>