

Youth Programs Overview

Program Goals

- Encourage self-exploration and personal growth
 - Build leadership skills and enhance decision-making abilities
 - Support academic and career achievement
 - Empower youth to lead, create, and advocate
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Youth Advisory Council

The Youth Advisory Council (YAC) is a central leadership body that helps shape the direction of both the Inspire Program and the Young Visionaries Collective.

Youth serve as decision-makers, giving input on program content, trips, events, and community engagement. The YAC helps plan initiatives, lead peer discussions, and present monthly updates during Inspire sessions.

Youth learn governance, advocacy, and public speaking while playing a key role in ensuring both programs remain responsive to their needs and ideas.

Inspire Program

The Inspire Program equips young people (ages 11–22) with the tools they need to thrive in academics, leadership, and future careers. It creates a holistic space that blends academic support, leadership development, life skills, mental health, and experiential learning.

Program Objectives

1. Enhance Academic Confidence and Achievement
2. Develop Youth Leadership and Decision-Making Skills
3. Promote Mental and Emotional Wellness
4. Build Life Skills for Long-Term Success
5. Expand Worldview Through Experiences
6. Foster Youth Voice and Leadership in Program Design

Impact Measurement

- Academic Confidence and Achievement
 - Pre/post literacy and math assessments

- Homework completion tracking
- School report card check-ins
- Leadership & Decision-Making
 - Youth-led presentations and project planning rubrics
 - Participation in the Youth Advisory Council
 - Peer and facilitator feedback
- Mental & Emotional Wellness
 - Self-assessment wellness check-ins
 - Group participation and engagement logs
 - Referrals or sessions with social work interns
- Life Skills
 - Scenario-based learning reflections
 - Attendance and engagement during workshops
 - Youth-created action plans
- Experiences & Exposure
 - Reflections after field trips and college tours
 - Attendance logs
 - Expanded vocabulary or cultural awareness check-ins

Program Structure

Monday Weekly Sessions – Mental Health Focus (5PM – 8PM, Feb–May & Sept–Dec)

Mondays focus on building emotional wellness through interactive workshops and group conversations led by facilitators, social workers, and community partners.

Topics include:

- Emotional intelligence
- Stress and anxiety management
- Coping strategies and resilience
- Healthy relationships
- Mindfulness and self-care

Tuesday Weekly Sessions – Academic Support (6PM – 8PM, during the school year)

- Literacy & Math Focus:
Support for reading comprehension, writing, math skills, and homework help. Workshops on study habits, time management, and academic goal setting.

Thursday Weekly Sessions – Leadership & Life Skills (5PM – 8PM, Feb–May & Sept–Dec)

- Leadership Development:
Activities and group discussions that strengthen communication, critical thinking, decision-making, and teamwork skills.
- Academic Support (continued):
Literacy and math support integrated into leadership development.
- Life Skills Workshops:
Covers stress management, emotional regulation, conflict resolution, and healthy relationship-building.
- Dinner:
A nutritious meal is provided each week.

Typical Thursday Schedule:

- 5:00 PM – 5:30 PM: Relax + Check-In
- 5:30 PM – 6:00 PM: Dinner + Youth Advisory Council Presentation
- 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM: Literacy Hour
- 7:00 PM – 7:50 PM: Leadership Activity
- 7:50 PM – 8:00 PM: Shout Outs

Experience Week (4th Week of Each Month)

Hands-on guest-led workshops and enrichment experiences featuring partners like:

- S.O.W. Hope Farm
- Black Girls with Green Thumbs
- Dynamic Justice Collective
- The Community Curator
- Beyond the Bars
- And more...

Topics include nutrition, sustainability, music, and creative expression.

Summer Sessions (June–August)

- June: Explore Philly Month
Weekly field trips highlighting the educational, cultural, and fun sides of Philadelphia—giving youth new ways to see their city.
- July: Career Exploration Month
Meets every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday to focus on career readiness:
 - Interview skills
 - Resume development
 - Entrepreneurship
 - Career discovery
 - Guest speakers and hands-on experiences
- August: Relaxation & Mental Health Month
Focused on emotional wellness and preparing youth for a new school year:
 - Mindfulness
 - Self-care practices
 - Group reflection and fun outings
- College Tours (All Summer)
Two college visits per month—primarily HBCUs—to help youth explore future options and gain firsthand experience of college life.

Young Visionaries Collective (YVC)

The Young Visionaries Collective (YVC) empowers youth (ages 14–22) to explore their creative voice through film and photography, using storytelling to raise awareness, advocate for change, and shape their futures. YVC is a space where young people learn real-world creative skills while building confidence and purpose.

Program Objectives

1. Build Technical Skills in Photography and Filmmaking
2. Foster Creative Expression and Personal Narrative
3. Develop Entrepreneurial and Professional Readiness
4. Promote Social Awareness and Advocacy
5. Prepare Youth for Post-Secondary Success
6. Encourage Collaboration and Youth Leadership

Impact Measurement

- Creative Skill Development
 - Completed photo and film projects
 - Rubrics evaluating technical growth
 - Youth self-assessments of skills
- Creative Expression & Storytelling
 - Artist statements and project journals
 - Showcase audience feedback forms
- Entrepreneurial & Career Readiness
 - Business plan pitches
 - Attendance at workshops
 - Portfolio/resume review feedback
- Social Impact Awareness
 - Depth of topics chosen for film/photo projects
 - Community feedback on showcase events
- Post-Secondary Readiness
 - Completed FAFSA or college applications
 - College tour reflections
 - Follow-ups on post-program plans

Program Structure

Group Sessions (Bi-Weekly, 8 months)

- Photography & Filmmaking Skills:
Youth learn the fundamentals of both visual mediums—from camera operation and lighting to sound, editing, and storyboarding.
- Creative Direction & Concept Development:
Participants develop visual concepts that reflect their personal perspectives and lived experiences.
- Storytelling for Social Impact:
Youth use their creative work to highlight social justice issues, elevate community voices, and inspire action.

Project-Based Learning

- Youth Photography Exhibition:
Each participant curates a photo series based on a self-selected theme. The final showcase is a public event that allows youth to display their work and voice to the community.
- Social Impact Short Film Project:
Youth work in teams to produce original short films exploring real-world challenges (e.g.,

gun violence, mental health, racial justice). From script to screen, they're involved in every step of the process.

Monthly College & Creative Career Workshops

These monthly sessions provide exposure and preparation for creative futures, featuring dynamic guest speakers from the film, photography, and creative industries who share their journeys, offer mentorship, and introduce youth to real-world opportunities.

Topics include:

- College Pathways in Film & Media
- Creative Careers & Freelance Skills
- Financial Literacy for Creatives
- Portfolio Building & Resume Writing
- Networking & Self-Promotion in the Arts

Individualized Support

- Weekly Check-Ins (Flexible Scheduling)
Youth receive personalized coaching in photography, filmmaking, editing software (like Adobe Premiere or Lightroom), storytelling, and project planning.