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OCTFME Sponsors Inaugural High School 48 Hour Film Project

Innovative program offers DC youth media education opportunity during innoMAYtion

Washington, DC – The DC Office Cable Television, Film, Music & Entertainment, in partnership with the 48 Hour Film Project, Straight, No Chaser Productions, District of Learning, DC Office of Planning, and the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities is proud to announce the launch of the inaugural High School 48 Hour Film Project, a media education program that will provide District youth an opportunity to merge creative arts, technology, and storytelling.

The High School 48 Hour Film Project, part of Mayor Muriel Bowser’s 2016 [innoMAYtion](#) initiative, uses the film competition model created by the original 48 Hour Film Project created in 2001. Today’s announcement represents the very first incarnation of the concept using high school age youth.

“The Office of Cable Television, Film, Music and Entertainment is committed to providing media education opportunities to District youth,” says OCTFME Director Angie M. Gates. “We feel it is important that our youth have the opportunity to narrate their own stories, and it is an honor for OCTFME to serve as a partner for this amazing project launch in the District of Columbia.”

The 48 Hour Film Project has become the world's largest timed filmmaking competition. More than 450,000 filmmakers from over 140 countries have participated, and several have had their films screened at some of the most renowned film festivals in the world, including the Cannes Film Festival and South By Southwest.

"We're excited about the launch of our very first High School 48 Film Project in Washington, D.C.," said Mark Ruppert, 48 Hour Film Project executive director. "The District is where the regular 48 Hour Film Project got its start, and we are excited to be able to offer this opportunity for local youth to express themselves creatively and tell



visual stories from their unique perspectives."

Each filmmaking team will consist of a minimum of five District residents aged 15 to 19. Seventeen youth teams have signed up to participate, with representation from all four quadrants of the District of Columbia.

"The High School 48 is the culmination of everything Straight, No Chaser Productions has been doing for over 10 years, and we're most proud of our effort to teach media arts to young people," says Charneice Fox Richardson, Straight No Chaser Productions creative director. "The High School 48 Hour Film Project allows our organization to encourage and mentor a new generation of filmmakers."

On Saturday, May 14, the teams received filmmaking training at OCTFME's broadcast facility. The goal of the workshop's curriculum was to teach the youth participants basic filmmaking skills, including storyboarding, plot and character development. The participants also received hands-on instruction in the technical aspects of filmmaking, including camera operating, videography, and audio recording.

A representative from the DC Office of Planning addressed the trainees during the workshop, sharing information on the Office of Planning's "Crossing the Street" initiative, a program focused on "building the District's inclusive future through creative placemaking." The trainees were encouraged to incorporate the District's diverse neighborhoods and creative spaces into the content and backdrops of their films.

The student workshop participants received a special "digital badge" provided by the [District of Learning](#) certifying their successful completion of the filmmaking training.

The 48 hour production weekend begins with a kick-off event today at Busboys & Poets (Langston Room, 14 and V Streets NW) where the teams will select a film genre, a character, a prop, and a line of dialogue that must be incorporated into their five minute short films. The teams will then have 48 hours to write, record, edit, and submit their completed films no later than 8:00pm Sunday, May 22.

The completed films will be judged by a group of local filmmaking professionals and community leaders. On Friday, June 4th, all of the completed films will be screened at the Historic Lincoln Theater. The winning team will receive \$1000 and the opportunity to create a public service announcement for a local organization. Awards will also be given to the second and third place teams.

For more information, please visit www.highschool48.com #HS48

If you are interested in interviewing the program organizers, sponsors, or participants, please contact the Office of Cable Television, Film, Music and Entertainment (OCTFME) at film@dc.gov.



About OCTFME

The District of Columbia Office of Cable Television, Film, Music & Entertainment (OCTFME) is responsible for implementing, managing, and administering programs, initiatives, and services that support media industry economic activity, growth, and employment in the District of Columbia. Washington, DC's instantly recognizable landmarks, diverse neighborhoods, cultural amenities, and first-class accommodations are just some of the many features that make the nation's capital a venue of choice for media production. For more information, contact the Office of Cable Television, Film, Music & Entertainment at (202) 727-6608, visit us on the web at <http://film.dc.gov>, join the DC Film community on <http://www.facebook.com/EntertainDC>, or follow us on <http://twitter.com/EntertainDC>.

About InnoMAYtion

The goals of Mayor Muriel Bowser's month-long DC Government initiative include:

- Fostering a collaborative environment among the District's government, residents, and entrepreneurs to improve the lives of its residents;
- Strengthening, showcasing, and supporting DC's innovation ecosystem, focusing on efforts promoting inclusion of underserved communities and entrepreneurs;
- Highlighting pathways for DC residents to have equitable opportunities in the innovation economy.

About 48 Hour Film Project (48HFP)

The 48HFP is the world's oldest and largest timed filmmaking competition during which teams make a movie – write, shoot, and edit it – in just 48 hours. For years, the 48HFP has been helping local creative people connect to make films in 130 cities around the world, on six continents. Its mission is to advance filmmaking and promote filmmakers.

About Straight, No Chaser Productions

Straight, No Chaser Productions is a community-minded filmmaking ensemble and creative media solutions firm that seeks to challenge ignorance, inspire thought, and open dialogue through a kaleidoscope of stimulating and entertaining film projects and workshops. We have presented workshops at high schools, colleges and universities throughout the country, for organizations including The National Museum for Women in the Arts, The National Cathedral, CentroNia, Schools Without Borders, and at conferences including NetRoots Nation, The JAG Unity Conference, Black Women's Roundtable, US Social Forum, The Institute for Policy Studies, Public Allies and Manifesto! in Toronto. Our work has been featured on CNN, The BBC, NBC, NPR, and in *The Washington Post*, and our film *The MLK Streets Project* currently airs on ASPIRE TV. www.sncfilms.com.

About District of Learning

District of Learning brings together all the learning opportunities in DC so young people can pursue their passions and take charge of their path to college and careers. Young people can discover how to engage in learning opportunities through our free mobile-

enabled [LRNG platform](#). Youth can establish secure accounts to plot and track their learning trajectory. Think of the LRNG platform as a combination GPS, digital backpack, and social media app for learning.

About the Office of Planning

Office of Planning's mission is to guide development of the District of Columbia, including the preservation and revitalization of our distinctive neighborhoods, by informing decisions, advancing strategic goals, encouraging the highest quality outcomes, and engaging all communities. For more information related to the DC Office of Planning, please visit planning.dc.gov.

About the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities

The DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities provides grants, professional opportunities, education enrichment, and other programs and services to individuals and nonprofit organizations in all communities within the District of Columbia. The Arts Commission is supported primarily by District government funds and in part by the National Endowment for the Arts.