

DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO TELL?

HAVE YOU EVER WANTED TO BE A DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKER?



The Colorado Springs Youth Documentary Academy (YDA) is seeking young people from the ages of 14 to 18 to apply for an all-paid fellowship to learn documentary filmmaking this summer. Taught by a team of professional filmmakers and instructors at the Bemis School of Art, we are especially interested in finding young people from underserved communities around Southern Colorado who want to learn how to translate good storytelling into compelling filmmaking. What kinds of stories are ideal for exploring in the Youth Documentary Academy? The answer is: personal, family or social-issue stories that tell us something we don't know, especially something about diverse communities. It might be a story about coming from a first generation immigrant family or about growing up as an LGBT person or coming from foster care or from a less traditional family. It could be a story about living with a disability or living with a family member who has a disability. Or maybe it's a story about growing up with very few financial resources or feeling discriminated against because of your religion (or your family's religion) or the color of your skin, or because you are from a Native American community. Or even how a social or environmental issue may have affected you or your community.

YDA will be offering up to 12 fellowships this summer worth over \$3,500 per student in training, equipment and facilities. At the end of six weeks, you will learn to make a short documentary film, be exposed to professional filmmakers in the area, make connections with other young filmmakers, and visit local colleges and universities to learn more about careers in documentary filmmaking and storytelling. The program will be intensely fun but also very rigorous. We want people who are willing to share their stories with each other, who are deeply respectful of others' differences, and who will work very hard. If you think this might be you, and you are interested in spending time to learn the craft of documentary, please fill out the enclosed application. Thank you and good luck!

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- ✓ Application printed, completed and signed by both student and guardian. (See Enclosed)
- ✓ Student and Guardian Commitment form signed. (See Enclosed)
- ✓ One letter of recommendation completed by teacher or mentor. (See Enclosed two-page Recommender Form)
- ✓ (OPTIONAL) Sample of creative work (artwork, photograph, poem, story, video, etc.)

PLEASE MAIL COMPLETED APPLICATION TO:

ATTN: YOUTH DOCUMENTARY ACADEMY
Tom Shepard, Director
2104 North Cascade Ave.
Colorado Springs, CO 80907

DEADLINE FOR SUMMER SESSION APPLICATION: APRIL 1, 2015

The 2015 Youth Documentary Academy will meet June 1– July 17 at the Bemis School of Art.

Regular classes will be held Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 1pm-5pm. In addition, students will be required to attend two weekly tutorials outside of class (times TBD) and will need additional time during the week of June 29 to shoot their films. Finally, every Wednesday evenings, YDA students will be required to attend a documentary screening at the Fine Arts Center from 6:30 – 8:30pm.

For more information, please contact Tom Shepard at 415-786-1011 or email tomshep@comcast.net

STUDENT APPLICATION

Youth Documentary Academy ("YDA"): YDA is an intensive, six-week summer documentary filmmaking fellowship serving teenagers in Southern Colorado from ages 14-18. From initial concept to final edit, you will learn the process of documentary filmmaking, including hands-on training with digital cameras, sound recording, lighting and interviewing, and digital editing. Working in teams, you will produce your own short documentary on topics relevant to your life and/or the lives of your family and friends. A screening of your work will be organized in the Fall, 2015, at the Fine Arts Center in Colorado Springs.

In the YDA program, you will be asked to write about and share personal stories about your own life experiences and those of your family. YDA is a fun – but demanding – experience. You will get to meet professional filmmakers, screen award-winning documentary films, and work with other aspiring young filmmakers in the area. Teamwork and dedication will be essential to participation in the program.

If accepted into the program, your fellowship includes full tuition and access to state of the art digital filmmaking equipment (which will be available to you for teaching tutorials and to check out for your own film projects). The value of this fellowship exceeds \$3,500.

To help us know more about you, please fill out the following questions:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Email: _____

If you are currently attending school, which one: _____

Applicant Questions:

1. Explain in three to four sentences why you want to be a part of the Youth Documentary Academy this summer.

2. Do you have a personal or family issue or a social theme you would like to explore in the Youth Documentary Academy. Why do you think this issue is important to explore as a filmmaker?

3. Have you ever used a video camera or any digital editing equipment? If yes, please explain. (Please note you do not need to have any prior film experience to be accepted to YDA!)

4. Working cooperatively in a production team is an essential requirement for making documentaries. What skills and qualities do you have that would make you an excellent member of a YDA production team? Please list any examples of how you've shown respect for others' differences.

5. Documentary filmmaking is about telling stories in creative and compelling ways. In four sentences, or more, please describe your favorite creative endeavor (writing, drawing, photography, dance, painting, music, filmmaking, acting, etc). Why do you like to express yourself through this creative medium?

6. (Optional)

Using extra paper if necessary, please attach a sample of some of your creative work (could be artwork, writing, video, photography, etc) If you'd prefer to provide an online link to your work, please do so via email at tomshep@comcast.net. Please be sure to include your name in the email.

7. How did you hear about the Youth Documentary Academy?

STUDENT AND GUARDIAN COMMITMENT FORM

IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO APPLICANTS AND THEIR GUARDIANS ABOUT THE YOUTH DOCUMENTARY ACADEMY – PLEASE READ AND SIGN BELOW

Students who have submitted completed applications before April 1, 2015, will be contacted for interviews on a rolling basis. If selected for a fellowship, participants and their families will be asked to attend an orientation in mid May to meet the Director and staff and to learn more about the summer program.

The 2015 Summer Youth Documentary Academy will meet from **1pm-5pm, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays beginning on June 1 and ending on July 17.** (Additional tutorials outside of class and time to shoot films will be scheduled. Lab time will be available for participants to work individually on their own projects outside of class during the session.) All classes and tutorials will be held in production studios at Bemis School of Art at 50 Dale Street in Colorado Springs, CO, behind the Fine Arts Center.

In addition to working on specific exercises throughout the Academy, participants will produce short documentary films in teams and will depend on one another to successfully complete their projects in the time allotted. For this reason, a strict attendance policy will be enforced for participants admitted to the program. Participants are responsible for attending ALL classes. Failure to maintain attendance (barring unusual personal circumstances) will result in dismissal from the Academy.

Video production and editing equipment will be available during class and outside of class time. All equipment signed out under the care of a student participant will be his or her responsibility. Participants will be held liable for any lost or damaged equipment.

The work of participants will be screened in the Fall of 2014 at the Fine Arts Center. The copyrights of all work produced in the Academy will be shared between Participant and the Youth Documentary Academy. (A release form will be provided for signature during orientation before the Summer session begins.) If selected for the Youth Documentary Academy, costs will be waived. The value of this fellowship exceeds \$3,500. Upon completion, students will receive a certificate and an on-line badge detailing the skills they've garnered from the program and a copy of their completed film.

I have filled out the application and read the above information with my parent(s)/guardian. If selected, I am ready to take on the responsibilities of a filmmaker and join the Youth Documentary Academy.

STUDENT SIGNATURE

DATE

PARENT OR GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

DATE

TEACHER OR MENTOR RECOMMENDATION FORM

The Colorado Springs Youth Documentary Academy (YDA) is an intensive documentary filmmaking program subsidized by the Russell Grinnell Family Trust. The program seeks qualified participants, particularly those from underserved communities in Southern Colorado. Ideal age range is from 14-18. In addition to learning all aspects of documentary filmmaking, selected participants will produce their own short documentary film addressing one or more social themes relevant to their lives or the lives of their family and community. Finally, participants will be exposed to university faculty and will also have a chance to visit and interview university staff over the course of the Academy. The program will emphasize college preparedness in many of the teaching exercises.

Because of the rigor of the program, each applicant has been asked to provide at least one recommendation by a teacher or mentor, someone other than the applicant's parent(s) or guardian(s). Thank you for your time and for providing this information.

Name of applicant for which you are recommending: _____

Name of recommender: _____

Recommender Position and Relationship to Applicant: _____

1. How long have you known this applicant and in what capacity do you work with them?

2. YDA participation is worth over \$3,500. Why do you think this applicant deserves a fellowship and why do you recommend him or her?

3. YDA requires participants to work closely and collaboratively in production teams of three or four people. What are some of the qualities that will enable this applicant to work effectively in a team?

4. While YDA participants do not need prior experience in video production, we are looking for students who will be extremely responsible with high-end video equipment and who can meet with their teammates outside of class to complete projects. Do you feel this applicant will be able to meet these requirements? Please explain.

5. Is there anything else we should know about this applicant and why they would make an important contribution to the Youth Documentary Academy?

RECOMMENDER SIGNATURE

DATE