

YAC's Arts-for-Change Project

Youth Action Coalition promotes youth empowerment through creative expression and social action projects. YAC's core program, Arts-for-Change (AFC), is a series of distinct arts and media projects that pair intensive arts immersion with social justice education. We offer avenues for motivated participants to become peer leaders in their programs and/or board members of YAC. Read on for details ...

Get Up Get Down

Get Up Get Down (GUGD) empowers young people to speak their minds through public art. Since 2000, youth in the Amherst area have used a variety of art forms to get their messages out -- from murals to street puppets, metal sculpture to paper mache, sidewalk art to gallery work -- investigating issues that are relevant to them and their communities. Examples of their innovative projects include: multi-media murals in the community and in the high school, welded and black-smithed sculptures, and graffiti murals at Hampshire College. Open to youth in grades 8-12. Our community collaborators include PRISM at Amherst Regional High School and the Lemelson Center at Hampshire College. Contact Katie: katie@youthactioncoalition.org



Mural Unveiling - Amherst Cinema Bldg



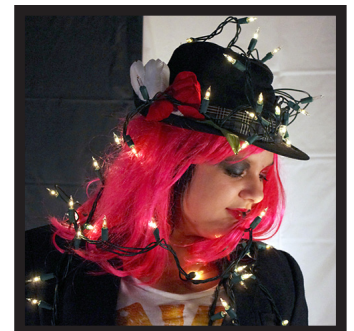
GirlsEyeView Amherst

GirlsEyeView (GEV) offers young women a safe space to explore who they are through photography and creative writing. We focus on self exploration, women's issues and community through black and white manual photography. Youth learn to process their film and print their images in the darkroom, host community exhibitions, and sell their photos. We are proud to continue our longstanding partnership with Amherst Regional Middle and High Schools and the PRISM program. GEV is open to girls in 7-9th grades, forming a bridge between middle and high school. Contact Synphany: synphany@youthactioncoalition.org

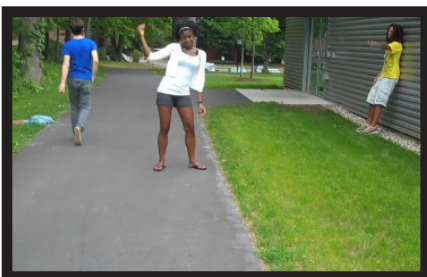
Preparing for the end-year installation

GirlsEyeView Ware

GirlsEyeView Ware is our longest running program, founded in 1997. GEV offers a supportive and creative space for young women to express themselves and their ideas through digital photography and creative writing. We partner with Ware High School, the Literacy Project, and the Ware Domestic Violence Task Force, helping to build bridges among youth both in and out of school and empower girls to take on important community issues with a photographic response. Youth work is exhibited in local restaurants, galleries, and on Ware Community Television. Open to middle and high school-aged year old girls. Contact Mim: mim@youthactioncoalition.org



"Cindy Sherman" Photo Shoot



Video still by JV

Video Vanguard

Video Vanguard (VV) works with youth of color and their allies integrating youth leadership, video production, media critique and social justice education. Youth use these skills to create video pieces that address issues that are overlooked by the mainstream media. They organize socially conscious screenings and events throughout the year and attend various trainings, conferences and workshops. Open to youth in grades 8-12. Our partners include: Amherst Media, Amherst Regional Middle and High Schools and the PRISM program, and Food For Thought Books. Contact Jova: jova@youthactioncoalition.org

E'town Rising: Voices of Youth

E'town Rising is a digital photography project for high school-aged youth in Easthampton. We learn the ins and outs of digital photography, cultivate ourselves as individual and collaborative artists engaged in issues that affect our communities, and share our perspectives about growing up and living in the city of Easthampton. We exhibit during Easthampton Art Walk and at cooperative events with YAC's other Arts-for-Change programs. Contact Barry for more info: barry@youthactioncoalition.org



E'town Studio Shoot

New Initiatives

YAC Unity Events

Whether you are a youth participant in an AFC project, a staff member, intern, volunteer or board member, you are invited to participate in our monthly series of YAC Unity events. These include: Community Day, ArtShares, social justice workshops, youth-led SkillShares, field trip to MassMOCA, AFC exhibits, and our fabulous year-end BBQ. Contact Patrick for more info: patrick@youthactioncoalition.org

Many Paths

Many Paths (MP) is a college prep program currently under development that supports youth in preparing for life after high school. Serving first generation, immigrant and underserved youth in the Amherst community, MP will include workshops and college student mentoring. Collaborators include YAC, Amherst College Office of Admissions, Amherst Regional High School and Reader to Reader. Contact us for more info.

Ready to get involved?

Visit our website, call our office or email us for details!
www.youthactioncoalition.org 413.253.2158 info@youthactioncoalition.org



of the volunteers and interns that give to YAC through their dedication and service, and all the new people we have yet to meet ...
 Chemistry, UMACC, the Literacy Project-Ware, Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts, YAC's INCREDIBLY GENEROUS INDIVIDUAL DONORS, all
 Impact Board Fellows, Newcastle Foundation, Pierce Brothers Coffee Roasters, Rigali and Walder Orthodontics, Sanctuary for Writing Practice, Sprint
 Easthampton, Leverett, Pelham, Shutesbury and Ware, Massachusetts Cultural Council Investment Portfolio and YouthReach Program, Net
 Fund, Henton Bakery, the Law Offices of Lawrence J. Farber, Loose Goose Cafe, Massachusetts Cultural Council - Local Cultural Councils: Amherst,
 Savings Bank, Hadley Family Practice, Hampshire College--Lemelson Center and Community Partnerships for Social Change, Haymarket People's
 Girls, Food For Thought Books Collective, Gone Giving -anonymous donor advised fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, Greenfield
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 Bresnahan Insurance, Collective Copies, COMECC, Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts: Credit Data Services, Inc. Fund and Rachel O.
 Human Service Network, Amherst Regional Middle and High Schools/PRISM, Amherst Media, Art Angels, Susan A. and Donald P. Babson Foundation,
 21st Century Community Learning Centers High School Innovation Grant, Amherst Club, Amherst College Center for Community Engagement, Amherst

YAC wishes to thank our collaborators and supporters:



Youth Action Coalition

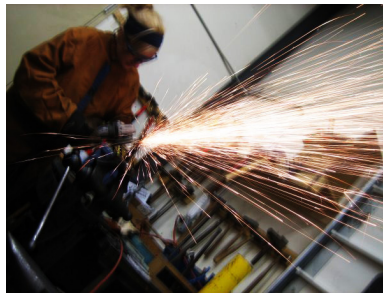
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Goals

- Engage young people in activities that help them strengthen their sense of self and identity.
- Empower young people as leaders in our communities.
- Guide young people through their skill development as artists and media makers.
- Take a stand on issues of social justice and equality.
- Create a space where young people feel valued by and valuable to their community.
- Encourage young people to use their art and media productions as tools for social change.



Vision

Youth Action Coalition (YAC) engages young people in a process of self-expression and artistic skill-building, leadership and community-building, empowerment and social action.

We actively bring diverse youth together to join in dialogue and art-making that arises from their own issues and concerns as young people of the world. YAC operates on the belief that all young people have a voice and must be encouraged to express it, shape it, and propel it.

YAC projects give young people the stepping stones to pursue their own visions and dreams for the world.

Youth on Board

One of the strongest ways we commit ourselves to youth power is by giving young people decision-making and leadership positions within the organization. Our intergenerational Board of Directors - 50% youth/adult - works collaboratively to: determine YAC's needs and priorities, set goals, raise funds, and iron out solutions and action plans. The YAC Board is co-Chaired by a youth and adult team.

Promoting youth empowerment through progressive arts and social change initiatives