

Youth Visions

Media Arts Center San Diego presents its annual **Youth Visions** showcase, a collection of youth-produced shorts from young filmmakers. The filmmakers represent a growing population of young people who have found that their medium of expression lies in telling stories through visual media. This handpicked selection of shorts from around the country are a blend of narrative and documentary pieces, produced by filmmakers of varying experience levels, and addressing topics that range from health, social media, gentrification, and urban art, to education, prejudice, border issues, and U.S.-Cuban relations.



Special Thanks: Bay Area Video Coalition, Better Youth, Maysles Documentary Center, and South Side FYI

SET THE STAGE | THOUGHT-STARTERS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Youth media is any effort created, planned, implemented, and reflected upon by young people in the form of film, video, websites, newspapers, and radio. In the 1990s gained new expression in the United States in response to growing media bias against youth, particularly the sensationalization of youth violence i.e., "superpredators", the Columbine shootings. etc.) This movement features hundreds of individuals and organizations working across the United States to promote the roles of young people in society and in the media.

There are currently youth media programs and organizations around the world, including Central and South America, Africa, Europe, and Australia.

WORDS TO KNOW

- **Humanities:** the study of how people process and document the human experience.
- **Documentary:** a movie or a television or radio program that provides a factual record or report.

TALK ABOUT IT | DISCUSSION

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS AFTER THE FILM:

- Which film(s) spoke to you the most? Why?
- How did this showcase expand your understanding of the humanities?
- Which subjects and themes in the films are you able to relate to?
- Which subjects presented in the films were you previously unfamiliar with?
- How did some of the films convey the importance of living a healthy lifestyle?
- What perspectives were presented about San Diego neighborhoods such as City Heights, Barrio Logan, and North Park?
- Why should audience pay attention to movies made by today's youth?

- **Narrative film:** a film that tells a fictional or fictionalized story, event or narrative. In this style of film, believable narratives and characters help convince the audience that the unfolding fiction is real.
- **Social justice:** the fair and just relation between the individual and society. This is measured by the distribution of wealth, opportunities for personal activity such as health, leisure, and social privileges.
- **Citizen journalism:** the collection, dissemination, and analysis of news and information by the general public, especially by means of the Internet.
- **Gentrification:** a process of renovation and revival of deteriorated urban neighborhoods by means of influx of more affluent residents, which results in increased property values and the displacing of lower-income families and small businesses.
- **Embargo:** an official ban on trade or other commercial activity with a particular country.

SHOWCASE

Behind the Wall (5 min) by Kiara Ramirez

A short documentary on the lives of immigrant workers in Northern California vineyards.

Burnouts (5 min) by MACSD Teen Producers Project

In order to save their relationship, a puppet couple quits smoking, only to find out the withdrawal symptoms are stronger than they ever imagined.

Chicana Art Gallery (3 min) by MACSD Teen Producers Project

An inspiring interview with artist and gallery owner, Cesar Castaneda, founder of Chicana Art Gallery in Barrio Logan, about the connection between community, art, and culture.

CicloSDias (2 min) by MACSD Teen Producers Project

Take a ride into the heart of City Heights with TPP as they document CicloSDias, an open-road initiative that allows members of the community to roam the streets freely, inspiring active transportation such as walking, jogging, biking and cycling. This film highlights the importance of access to active transportation and the role such access plays in healthier living for all citizens.

Dear America (5 min) by Harvard-Westlake School

A dialogue has been opened between the U.S. and Cuba. Two U.S. teen journalists travel to Cuba and ask local Cubans, "What would you like Americans to know about you?"

Enrique Morones and Border Angels (4 min) by MACSD Teen Producers Project

Enrique Morones is a community activist saving the lives of immigrants who risk everything to cross the U.S.-Mexico border in search of better opportunities to support their families. Morones talks about his organization, Border Angels, and why he has an organization dedicated to advocating for and saving the lives of immigrants.

High Stakes (5 min) by MACSD Teen Producers Project

This short documentary takes a look at the statewide initiative Betting On Our Future (BOOF) and the students in the program who advocate for an increased awareness of problem gambling.

I Don't Want to Salsa with You (5 min) by Maysles Documentary Center

A profile of Melissa Minchala, a Latina CEO of a tech company.

Into Sergio (3 min) by Mt. Pleasant High School

Teenaged Sergio Conriquez is trying to accomplish his dream of becoming a software engineer, knowing that Latinos represent less than 3% of employees in Silicon Valley's technology industry. Sergio speaks about his parents' struggles, the history of his hometown, and how these things have helped to shape his life as a young Latino.

Kansas Street (2 min) by MACSD & High Tech High Interns

Learn about Vision Zero's mission to reduce traffic fatalities by installing a crosswalk at a busy intersection along El Cajon Boulevard.

Locally Grown Health Benefits at Farmer's Market (2 min) by MACSD Teen Producers Project

A true community piece, this short documentary visits the City Heights Farmer's Market, chronicling the intent of the local farmers and vendors. It highlights the importance of transcending socio-economic status to obtain access to healthy foods so that all people can maintain a healthier lifestyle.

Love and Music (5 min) by Harvard-Westlake School

Cuba is known for its expressive music, but how did the revolution affect musicians' freedom of speech through their music? Three American teen musicians delve into the matter through interviews with scholars and contemporary Cuban musical artists.

Miracle Baby (5 min) by Reel Voices

Sienna explores the love her family has for her, even though it's a family based on choice, not blood.

North Park Murals (4 min) by MACSD & High Tech High Interns

Highlights the positive impact of the colorful murals painted on the walls of businesses in North Park and their effect on the community.

On My Way for an Education (5 min) by MAAC Community Charter School

Created by students in the ACLU San Diego Youth Activists for Change program at MAAC Community Charter School, with guidance from local film artist Reynaldo Escoto, this stop-motion film chronicles the story of two fictional students as they confront the challenges of their daily commute to school, their binational experience, and their resistance to the racist and classist forces they face.

Robot Lives Matter (4 min) by MACSD Teen Producers Project

A group of robots and a group of humans prepare to play a boardgame in a world where both groups look down upon each other.

Sin Madre (3 min) by Bay Area Video Coalition

A loving tribute to a working mother who struggles to work, support her family, and be a mother.

Slide (5 min) by Jayden Gillespie

A film about racial prejudice and how family dynamics have changed in modern society.

Stealing Home (4 min) by Harvard-Westlake School

Baseball may be America's favorite past time, but to Cubans, it means even more. Three teen sports enthusiasts travel to Cuba and speak to scholars and fans to learn more about the legacy of baseball in Cuba.

Trust (12 min) by South Side FYI

A vulnerable teen is torn between trusting her best friend's advice or her boyfriend's desires. Despite Maria's doubts, she goes with her gut and does the unthinkable. Will risky choices lead to a devastating reality?

Undisputed (3 min) by MACSD Teen Producers Project & AJA Academy

Undisputed is a gym in City Heights that teaches boxing to local youth who need to let off some steam. The program has been incredibly successful in what they say provides an opportunity for fitness and empowers the bully not to be a bully. "I used to do a lot of street fights, because of my anger, but coming here, working out, fighting with your friends, hugging out at the end of the fight, it keeps you out of trouble."

Victor Ochoa: San Diego's Legendary Muralist (4 min) by MACSD Teen Producers Project

A founding Chicano Park muralist who continues to advocate for immigrant rights and representation through his art, Victor Ochoa has overcome countless barriers but is now a U.S. citizen highly recognized for his contributions to San Diego's art culture and as an arts educator working with youth in all corners of the city.

We All Can: Conchita's Story (6 min) by Harvard-Westlake School

An uplifting story about the hopes and dreams of a Mayan girl in Guatemala transforming her life through education.

"Welcome" to America (7 min) by Maysles Documentary Center

A young immigrant from the Dominican Republic talks about growing up in Washington Heights, a neighborhood in the New York City borough of Manhattan.

What a Woman's Supposed to Look Like (1 min) by Bay Area Video Coalition

A personal look at the stress surrounding body image and beauty standards.

GET CREATIVE | EXTENSION ACTIVITIES



LOCAL CONNECTIONS | ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

<http://mediaartscenter.org/>

Media Arts Center San Diego promotes access to film and video as tools for community self-expression and social change and supports the professional development of media artists.

Want to make your own movies? Sign up students for the MACSD Teen Producers Project or partner your school with a Youth Media Residency. Contact Larry Da Silveira at larry@mediaartscenter.org or (619) 230-1938 to learn more.

<http://digitalgym.org>

Operated by MACSD and located in North Park, the **Digital Gym Cinema** is a venue for art, foreign, and independent features that would, outside of home theatres, not be shown in San Diego. The Digital Gym is dedicated to engaging neighborhoods in community self-expression via new technologies through a store with digitized products, media experiences and hands-on media programs.

<http://outsidethelens.org/>

Outside the Lens is a San Diego-based organization that provides photography and digital media programming to youth and the community.

<http://ajaproject.org/>

The **AjA Project** is a nonprofit organization headquartered in San Diego. Utilizing participatory photography methods and an assets-based model, AjA's programs transform youth and communities. Since its founding, AjA has provided long-term, community-based programming for over 2000 individuals, and has shared visual narratives with over 1 million viewers through large-scale public exhibits.

