



HarlemLIVE Notes



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July / Aug The Award Winning Media, Technology, and Leadership Program in Harlem 2005

Revenue Increases but Capacity Dollars Elusive



Students at work in the Newsroom

Financially 2005 has been a great year for HarlemLIVE. Before the year's midpoint, we had exceeded last year's total funding revenue.

Since our last newsletter, NYC Councilman Robert Jackson, NY State Senator David Patterson, and Time Warner have pledged contributions.

Additionally, HL was awarded an equipment and training grant from Manhattan Neighborhood Network for a new half hour magazine show. Yet, much needed capacity-building support remains elusive.

HarlemLIVE began in 1996 as a volunteer-run organization and worked with 5 students. Last year, over 120 students participated, yet the organization continues as an all-volunteer effort. HL is able to survive due to the dedicated individuals who graciously donate their time to work with our youth.

Recently, early recruits to our program began graduating from college and have become active volunteers. These alumni are helping by organizing the video team, creating revenue streams, teaching classes, making presentations, mentoring new recruits and growing the Board of Directors.

Not only have our numbers increased, but also we have added new programs in response to the students' interests and needs, including: The **College Support Program**, (this summer being coordinated by alumna Tamara Leacock), which provides one-on-one mentoring for the college application process; and the **Video News Magazine**, now in the developmental stage. Additionally, the EIC Kevin Benoit has orchestrated several **Poetry Slams** to wide acclaim.

Our goal for our current **10th year** is to transit from an all volunteer-run organization, to being able to hire a staff, including key alumni. We're asking anyone who can to help achieve this goal.

Help HL continue providing youth with communication, leadership and resource-acquisition skills needed for success in school and life. Ensure HL continues to develop interests and encourage our teens to excel.

Editors & Alumni Get Summer Challenge Off to Flying Start

Buoyed by a strong alumni presence and solid support from veteran HarlemLIVE members, this year's **Summer Youth Media Challenge** got off to an incredible start.

Editor-in-Chief Kevin Benoit spent hours interviewing dozens of candidates and configuring the teams while Managing Editor Mera Beckford coordinated and scheduled journalism, public speaking, and web classes taught by alumni and career professionals.

The alumni participation is especially strong this summer. Chris Frierson, an early HL member from 1997 is now a communications graduate of **Long Island University** and has undertaken organizing the video team. Alumni Aisha Al-Muslim, Torin Amar, and Curtis Jackson, are assisting.

Shem Rajoon is teaching web classes, Melvin Johnson helps with orientation and motivating the new members, Katrina Shakirian is coordinating marketing efforts, and Justin Young contributes in various roles. There isn't room here to list all the alumni support but it is extensive.

After a week of orientation and another week of classes, the teams are gaining momentum as they compete to see who can produce the best stories, video, and web pages, plus make presentations that impress young and old alike.

This year, the teams are documenting their progress on daily **Blogs**. They are creating a health section, making a half hour news magazine broadcast, serving PodCasts and putting the clickable map online after years of development.

At least 30 teens a day are attending HL. The numbers were helped by the election year, which enhanced the budget for the **Summer Youth Employment Program**. Tara McAnuff, who is attending HL through that program, has helped tremendously serving as office manager to help coordinate the many summer activities.

The summer culminates with an awards ceremony, this year hosted at Bloomberg, on August 18th, 6-8:30 PM. Please RSVP by August 7th, either by phone: 212 222 4681; or email: harlemlive@aol.com.



James and Victor Bike in Harlem to scout for stories

HL's Poetry Slam Series Jumps Off

Thirty-two poets representing different sections of New York, New Jersey, Philadelphia and Connecticut competed in HarlemLIVE's Poetry Slam Series '05. They came with different levels of talent and with different goals in mind, but they all came hoping that HarlemLIVE's first Poetry Slam Series would help them reach their goals.

The judges ranged from author, Caroline McGill; to Newspaper Editor, Kari Michelle; radio personality for 91.9 FM Gary "Fence" Purdie; **Hot 97's** radio personality Raqiyah Mays; **Urban Word** director K-Swift; Published Poet, Ice; and organizer of the weekly poetry open mic at Harlem's own, The Sugar Shack, Brother Earl.

"I found it to be a pleasure and an honor being a judge in HarlemLIVE's Poetry Slam. I thought the overall talent of the individuals involved was incredible. I found myself moved and it was just a pleasure watching teens do something positive and just having something real to say. It smacks in the face of all teens that aren't involved in positive things. As a poet myself, I feel like the word is in good hands," Brother Earl said after being part of the semifinals.



By the time the final round came on June 25th it was down to just seven poets, Elizabeth Acevedo, 17; Kessed Ragin, 19; Naima Ince, 18; Marcus Wright, 15; Ayanna Jones, 15; Erica Buddington, 17; and Jaylene Clark, 17.

First prize went to Ms. Clark who is a soon to be senior at **Fredrick Douglas Academy**. Besides poetry she enjoys acting, singing and writing. She intends on pursuing a career as a professional actress. The key to a great poem she says "is making sure your feelings are creatively and uniquely expressed through your words." Jaylene hopes to continue competing and to get a book of poetry published.

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HarlemLIVE to Present at the Apple Store in SoHo



On Monday, August 22, HarlemLIVE will make a presentation at the **Apple Store in SoHo** as part of the "Made on a Mac" series.

"This will give HL increased visibility in the city, in a different community and give HL an opportunity to demonstrate how Apple products are being used to produce projects that are outside the mainstream educational system," said Alumnus Melvin Johnson.

The Apple Store, located at 103 Prince Street sports a 46-seat theater, where customers can watch demonstrations of Apple's latest innovations, take classes and attend "Made on a Mac" events.

"It's a privilege to be able to present a project created on Macs in front of the Apple community," said Alumnus Justin Young. Start time: 6pm.

RSVP asap to HarlemLive's 9th Annual Award Ceremony Thursday Aug 18th at Bloomberg 731 Lexington Ave (59th St) 6 - 830 PM