Social justice films produced by youth filmmakers ages 13-19 across the country.

Virtual Screening, June 6th 2020

communityartcenter.org
@diydsfilmfest  diyds.org  @diydsfilmfest
The Community Art Center, Inc.

Founded in 1937, the Community Art Center is a neighborhood institution committed to our mission: to cultivate an engaged community of youth whose powerful artistic voices transform their lives, their neighborhoods, and their worlds. Our programs promote our organizational values: we believe in the power of young people, we believe in the power of artistic expression, we believe in taking care of ourselves and each other and we believe in creating positive change in our neighborhood and beyond.

Core Programming

Youths ages 5-12 participate in the school age child care program where they become creative problem solvers through hands-on arts curriculum in visual, performing and media arts. SACC activities sequence up to a final interdisciplinary performance at the end of the school year, and an outdoor community event during the summer. Our approach to integrating arts and social services allows our youth to learn, grow and achieve their full potential.

Youth ages 13-19 enter our teen programs which include our public art programs and our teen media program. Media Foundations and Intro to Public Art classes introduce youth to the arts and media literacy. They hone their creative voice in Public art, video, and photography studios; and finally, they build concrete professional skill in advanced leadership groups including youth council, public art crew and DIYDS!! Crew which curates, coordinates and leads our DIYDS!! National youth film Festival.

For more information, please visit www.communityartcenter.org

ABOUT DIYDS

National and local communities come together for our annual Do It Your Damn Self!! National youth festival. The longest running youth curated film festival in the country.

DIYDS!! was curated in 1996 when six teens from Cambridge misrepresented in the media and decided to do something about it. DIYDS takes the responsibility to preserve a tradition of championing expression of contemporary youth seriously.

Curating process

The curation process for the 23rd Annual Do It Your Damn Self!! The National Youth Film Festival started in fall of 2019. The process was led by teen media program DIYDS crew members who chose the final reel at our annual retreat.

After watching over 80 entries, each film was given an overall numerical rating based on the viewers response to key components: clarity of message, integrity of message, meeting the mission of the festival, technical quality and entertainment value.

This complex decision making process included changeling discussions of all films which led us to the the most rewarding, yet most difficult, decision of all selection of the final 23rd annual DIYDS!! Reel.

DIYDS!! 2020 SCREENINGS

AFTER-SCHOOL SCREENING
MARCH 19, 2020 | 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Hibernian Hall, Roxbury

SCHOOL-DAY SCREENING
MARCH 20, 2020 | 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
ICA, Boston

PREMIERE SCREENING
6:00 PM - 11:00 PM | MARCH 21, 2020
MIT Media Lab, Cambridge
Nathan
I'm a freshman in college studying to hopefully one day run my own youth organization to teach kids like me about film. There's nothing more that I love than the free expression that is used while making films and other sorts of artwork. I joined DIYDS!! to extend my film knowledge and be more part of the art community in Massachusetts.

Heinz
Heyo my name's Heinz and I'm one of the youths in DIYDS. I was born and raised in Cambridge and I'm 17 years old and in the 11th grade, I attend CRLS now but from 6th to 9th I went to CCSC. My friends would describe me as funny, somewhat crazy, understanding, handsome genius. I like to play basketball and video games with my friend, crack jokes, watch movies and videos, etc. The once great Chowder said “You could be if u tried” so I'm gonna keep on trying. Um yeah the end.

Amarah
I am an aspiring speaker/advocate and making blankets for the homeless at city hall, and volunteer opportunities through the art center. This way i am able to interact with my community. Staying true to myself is what I value the most. I believe if we really want something then we can always work for it to achieve it.

Omar
Hello, my name is Omar and I love to make a lot of bad pun jokes. Yeah really bad ones. I joined DIYDS!! To be part of the organization that hosts one of the longest running film festivals. I went to the 22nd annual DIYDS!! film festival, as I watched the youth’s films I noticed how powerful each one was and excited to be part of the 23rd annual DIYDS!! youth film festival.

Nahla
Nahla is a current junior at Boston University Academy. Growing up, Nahla had loved films and wanted to learn more about what goes on behind the scenes. Nahla had been involved in visual arts and musicals in the past and is very excited to be involved in films now. Nahla's dream is to become a zoo keeper in New Zealand. She hopes everyone has a wonderful time at the film festival.
Jeanny
Jeanny is a member of the DIYDS crew at the community art center. She's in her second year of high school making her a sophomore. Jeanny enjoys watching films about conflicts that occur on a daily basis. Jeanny likes to listen to music in her free time or read. A goal I want to achieve while working at DIYDS is to be more flexible while working in groups, and taking other people’s thoughts and ideas into consideration, and learning from different points of views.

Xavier
This is Xavier Montes, the original curly haired light skin. All other curly haired light skins are imposters and are not to be trusted. Xavier’s dream is to create, whether it be film, music, or anything in between. He pursues art in several forms under the name “Reivax”. You can follow Xavier on Instagram @setnomix, to witness his growth as an artist.
My Indian name is Badger Boy, I am a 15 year old grade 10 student from the Kainai First Nations of southern Alberta Canada. This is my first film I have made alongside Jayna Creighton.

Marlene Heavyshields (*Glowing in the Dark Woman*) is a Blackfoot Elder and survivor of Residential Schools. She shares her story of overcoming loss and trauma with a courageous heart and deep strength.

Run Time: 6:17
Program: Reel Youth
Bella Rothenflue is a filmmaker from Austin, Texas. As a member of the Youth Cinema Collective, she creates films with her peers, primarily working as a director of photography. Because of her father’s work in the film industry, she’s had opportunities to work on films and commercial sets since the age of 12, in the role of 2nd assistant camera and in the camera department. In early 2020, Bella hosted her first solo gallery, Seventeen, a collection of photographs representing her age and perspective. She is passionate about pursuing creative work after graduation this Spring. She spends her free time with friends, often exploring her other creative passions, photography and art journaling.

An experimental film that focuses on the effects that eating disorders can cause.

Run Time: 3:59
Program: Youth Cinema Collective
Angel Saenz
18, Austin, TX

Angel Saenz is a freshman at Austin Community College, she is currently majoring in Secondary Education with concentration in Natural Sciences. Angel has done film since her 8th grade year and participated in the Youth Cinema Collective for all four years of high school. Angel is a proud member of the LGBTQIA+ community and takes tremendous pride in her Mexican heritage.

Ruben is in one of the most transformative years of his life, high school. Questioning his feelings for his girlfriend, Ruben worries how is life will change, and how the world will treat him differently, if he accepts the feelings inside himself. Ruben must make a choice. Love the way society wants him to, or live out his truth.

Run Time: 5:12
Program: Youth Cinema Collective
Media representations of immigrants dehumanize the people they portray. *not Quite Here, not Quite There* is a visual companion to a poem written by Diana Peña, focusing on the undocumented experience. This film is one of three short social change documentaries created by female youth in the Women’s Voices Now Summer Training program, Girls Voices Now. The program teaches documentary filmmaking and community activism to young women from underrepresented communities across Los Angeles.

Run Time: 5:12
Program: Girls' Voices Now by Women's Voices Now
Calvin Mumm
17, Salt Lake City, UT

Calvin Mumm is currently a senior at West High School and is applying to colleges across the country. He hopes this film will help improve school district security policies.

Sown takes a look at the experience and secondary trauma high school students experience from school shootings throughout the different aspects of daily life.

Run Time: 12:43
Program: Spy Hop
Alex Casanas is an up-and-coming filmmaker based in Gainesville, Florida who strives to dream at twenty-four frames per second.

Perfect You was a program designed to purify one's self-image. When announced to the public, Perfect You spread like wildfire. Millions signed up, and millions more doubted its validity. However, less than a month after its inception, Perfect You disappeared. Every associated website was wiped from databases, leaving behind a trail of questions. Where did Perfect You go?
Sami Dowd is a Senior at Swampscott High School. She enjoys working in the TV/Film class at her high school and has been doing the program for 4 years. She would like to go to college for film and or psychology. She would like to be either a child psychologist or a TV producer.

This film is about my journey with ASD, and what I must go through on a daily basis. It demonstrates how I have overcome many obstacles and challenges that have come with my diagnosis. It was important for me to show a girl’s experience of having ASD, as the media’s depiction is often shown through a boy’s perspective.

Run Time: 6:46
Program: Swampscott High School Television
Miracle Espericueta has been producing video documentaries for 3 years. Her work centers on how people experience social media and how it impacts their real life experiences.

A video short about the impact of social media and border detention on Latino families.

Run Time: 4:21
Program: In Progress
MIT is proud to welcome the 23rd Annual Do It Your Damn Self!! National Youth Film Festival to our campus. We look forward to another successful Premiere Screening & After-Party with talented directors, thoughtful panelists, and captivated audience members.

We at MIT salute the Community Art Center for curating the festival and for cultivating the artistic talents of youth in our community.

The mission of MIT is to advance knowledge and educate in science, technology, and other areas of scholarship that will best serve the nation and the world in the 21st century.

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If you are interested in donating to the Community Art Center, please call 617-868-7100 ext 18 or send checks to Community Art Center, MA 119 Windsor Street, Cambridge MA 02139.

Your support is a critical investment in encouraging hope and determination in youth from Cambridge and beyond.