

# CalArts

California Institute of the Arts  
24700 McBean Parkway  
Valencia, California 91355-2340  
calarts.edu

November 20, 2018

Dear Advance CTE,

As Director of Programs and Operations for the Community Arts Partnership (CAP) at the California Institute of the Arts (CalArts), I am pleased to submit this letter in strong support of the Dorsey Film Academy program for the Excellence in Action Award for CTE Education. The CalArts Community Arts Partnership has worked with Susan Miller Dorsey High School, mainly in collaboration with Robyn Charles, for the past three years to develop, produce and implement a 3-5 week long summer program teaching youth from LA County how to produce their own short films.

The CAP Program links CalArts students and alumni to community-based organizations and public schools throughout Los Angeles County, with a mission of providing young people from traditionally underserved areas with rigorous arts instruction that develops their unique creative potential. The Dorsey Film Academy model creates an opportunity for youth to choose a pathway in filmmaking (either screenwriting, production and cinematography, directing, acting for the screen, score composition, or editing) and work in concert with the other disciplines to create original short films,, through rigorous, highly technical coursework in these art forms.

The courses are taught by CalArts alumni and current BFA and MFA students, who attend a teacher training program at CalArts for four weeks, prior to stepping into the classroom at Dorsey High School. This training program educates the instructors on how to plan lessons for high school students that align with rigorous and relevant college and career-ready expectations. The instructors are taught how to build a syllabus with clear progression of knowledge and skills for learner transitions across secondary and postsecondary systems.

CalArts CAP is committed to the partnership with Dorsey High School and the Dorsey Film Academy for another 3+ years and will continue to use this program as a model for success in teacher training and film education. I hope this letter of support encourages serious consideration for the Excellence in Action Award.

Sincerely,



Bailey Cool  
Director of Programs and Operations  
CalArts Community Arts Partnership



*Los Angeles Unified School District*

**Susan Miller Dorsey High School**

3537 Farmdale Ave; Los Angeles, CA 90016  
Telephone: (323) 298.8400 FAX: (323) 298.8501

**Dr. Michelle King**  
*Superintendent of Schools*

**Cheryl Hildreth**  
*Superintendent, Local District West*

**Dr. Sean Gaston**  
*Principal*

September 22, 2017

SSP Review Committee:

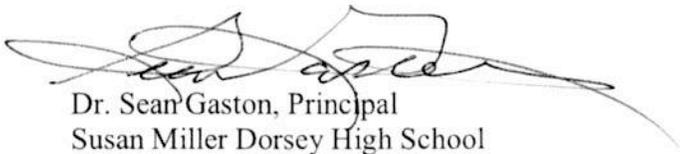
I am writing this letter on behalf students, teachers, and parents of Susan Miller Dorsey HS. Through this communication I would like to present our full support and agreement with the Specialized Secondary Programs application.

Dorsey HS intends to set a high standard for schools in the Media Industry Technician program by providing specialized knowledge in order for participants to be immediately competitive in the media and film industry. Additionally, our program has targeted traditionally underserved populations that find job attainment difficult after graduation.

The school shall bear the costs of maintaining high quality educators, industry technicians, community partners and career pathways that grant access to our selected population. The resulting team will be working closely to promote success and continuance of the career pathway post grant funding. We will work closely with Local District West, to guarantee as part of the graduation initiatives that the Local Control Funding Formula funds support the Media Industry Technician Program. I am committed to allocate "42,362.00" of the Local Control Funding Formula funds (LCFF) for the development of this program. I will work closely with Ms. Charles to determine what portion of the LCFF funds supports the implementation of the Media Industry Technician Program and as part of the graduation initiatives that we provide our students with this necessary resource.

The details mentioned in this letter are in agreement and full support of the application for funding.

Regards,



Dr. Sean Gaston, Principal  
Susan Miller Dorsey High School

*"You Just Can't Hide that Dorsey Pride"*

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**LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES**

333 South Beaudry Avenue, 24<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Los Angeles, California 90017  
Telephone: (213) 241-7000 | Fax: (213) 241-8442

**MICHELLE KING, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent of Schools

**CHERYL HILDRETH**  
Local District Superintendent, West

September 29, 2017

Robyn Charles  
Program Director | Career Technical Arts  
Dorsey High School of Digital Film & Theater Arts  
3537 Farmdale Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90016

Dear Ms. Charles,

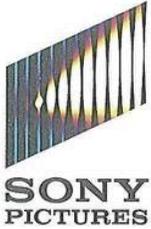
I am pleased and supportive of your efforts to establish the Specialized Secondary Program (SSP), Media Industry Technology Program, in order to reshape, refine and expand your CTE pathway. I am encouraged by your inclusion and consideration of the large number of foster youth who attend Dorsey and am supportive of your efforts to ensure that they enter the workforce as viable skilled labor in the face of aging out of foster care. This letter of support, per the guidelines of the SSP grant, offers a commitment from the Los Angeles Unified School District, Local District West leadership, to provide support and ensure sustainability of this much-needed resource, to the extent possible.

Dorsey HS Principal, Dr. Gaston, has expressed his committed to supporting the implementation of the Media Industry Technician Program to ensure that, as part of the graduation initiatives, students are provided with this necessary resource.

As we work together to review, enhance and promote the Media Industry Technician Program, I would like to congratulate you for your due diligence and efforts to enhance the post secondary career pathway for the students of Dorsey High School.

Sincerely,

Carmina Nacorda  
Director, Secondary Schools



**Janice Pober**  
Senior Vice President  
Global Corporate Social Responsibility

10202 West Washington Boulevard  
Culver City, California 90232-3195

Tel: +1 310 244 8293 Fax: +1 310 244 1737  
janice\_pober@spe.sony.com

September 27, 2017

Robyn Charles  
Program Director  
Dorsey High School of Digital Film & Theatre Arts  
3537 Farmdale Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90016

To Whom It May Concern:

Sony Pictures Entertainment is delighted to have an opportunity to write in support of Robyn Charles and Dorsey High School Digital Film & Theatre Arts.

Sony Pictures has been headquartered in Culver City on the westside of Los Angeles since 1990. As involved residents and active participants, we are proud investors in the vitality of the educational, cultural, business and non-profit enterprises in this and surrounding communities. We celebrate the relationships we have built within the public and private sectors and continue to work to address the interests and needs of residents and their families.

A key focus of ours has been to provide career pathways and workforce development opportunities to students in neighboring communities. As a creator of content and entertainment, and empowered by the Sony brand, we seek out collaborations to ensure that young people are being prepared for jobs in the Creative Economy, where one in eight of all private wage and salary workers in the LA Region work directly or indirectly. Preparing young people for these jobs is a responsibility we take to heart.

Having recently met Robyn Charles and now seen what she has been able to achieve in the short time she has been in her teaching position, we knew we could realize a connection to the school, one that we had been interested in building since 1995.

Taking a cue from the work we have done in Culver City and our investment in that district's arts and career pathway for students, we would like to help Robyn achieve her vision and look forward to collaborating along the path ahead.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Janice Pober", with a stylized flourish at the end.

JANICE POBER

*a Sony Company*



**Janice Pober**  
Senior Vice President  
Global Corporate Social Responsibility

10202 West Washington Boulevard  
Culver City, California 90232-3195

**Tel: +1 310 244 8293 Fax: +1 310 244 1737**  
janice\_pober@spe.sony.com

July 26, 2017

Ms. Sarah Nelson  
Director, Corporate, Foundation & Government Giving  
California Institute of the Arts  
24700 McBean Parkway  
Valencia, CA 91355

Dear Sarah:

On behalf of Sony Pictures Entertainment, it gives me great pleasure to donate Sony equipment to the Dorsey High School Digital Film & Theatre Arts program. A complete list of equipment is attached to this letter.

Please note that the Internal Revenue Service requires specific acknowledgement of this contribution, thus our giving is contingent upon completion and return of the attached form.

We are pleased to be supporting Dorsey High School with this equipment contribution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janice Pober", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Janice Pober

Enclosure

*a Sony Company*  
[www.sonypictures.com](http://www.sonypictures.com)



**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION FROM**  
**SONY PICTURES ENTERTAINMENT**

**Name and address of donor:**

Sony Pictures Entertainment  
 10202 West Washington Boulevard  
 Culver City, CA 90232

**Name and address of recipient organization:**

California Institute of the Arts  
 24700 McBean Parkway  
 Valencia, CA 91355

**Amount of product contributed:**

Item	Quantity	Value	Total Value
Projector (VPL-HW65ES)	1	\$2999.99	\$2,999.99
Camera (ILCE-6300)	12	\$949.99	\$11,399.88
Shotgun Microphone (ECM-CG60)	12	\$249.99	\$2,999.88
Microphone Kit (XLROK2M)	12	\$599.99	\$7,199.88
Headphones (MDR-ZX310AP)	20	\$39.99	\$799.80
Tripod (VCT-R640)	12	\$59.99	\$719.88
Lens (SELP1650)	12	\$349.99	\$4,199.88
Lens (SEL18200LE)	4	\$849.99	\$3,399.96
Lens (SEL16F28)	4	\$249.99	\$999.96
Converter Lens (VCL0ECU2)	3	\$159.99	\$479.97
Battery Pack (NP-FW50)	12	\$79.99	\$959.88
Battery Charger (BC-TRW)	12	\$49.99	\$599.88
AC Adapter (AC-PW20)	12	\$119.99	\$1,439.88
		<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$38,198.72</b>

In accordance with the requirement of Internal Revenue Code Section 170 (f) (8), I hereby acknowledge as an authorized representative of the above named done organization, the described charitable contribution:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Name and Title

**Please complete form and return to:**  
**Sony Pictures Entertainment**  
**Attention: Janice Pober**  
**10202 W. Washington Boulevard**  
**Culver City, CA 90232-3195**

**FY18**

September 27, 2017



Robyn Charles  
Program Director | Career Technical Arts  
Dorsey High School of Digital Film & Theater Arts  
3537 Farmdale Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90016

E [info@hobmusicforward.org](mailto:info@hobmusicforward.org)

7060 Hollywood Blvd., Flr 2  
Los Angeles, California 90028

[HOBMUSICFORWARD.ORG](http://HOBMUSICFORWARD.ORG)

Dear Ms. Charles,

The House of Blues Music Forward Foundation is an independent nonprofit organization dedicated to accelerating career skills for youth using music as the bridge to success. Focusing on youth ages 12-22 in underserved communities, we set the stage for success by providing workshops and showcases to kick-start musical careers, and inspire the next generation of music industry leaders with hands-on career exploration.

We are pleased to offer support of the Media Industry Technician Program at Dorsey. It is exciting to us that your program, so unique in design, will offer training in the areas of grip, rigging, and set construction on-location including concert venues, production sound as well as sound system design and setup training for live performances.

The House of Blues Music Forward Foundation will sign this letter of commitment with the agreement to enter into a partnership to engage students from Dorsey High School of Digital Film and Theatre Arts. Music Forward will commit to supporting this vital Specialized Secondary Program by providing access to our menu of career exploration programming which includes exposure to careers within the music industry, back stage tours and access to industry experts, and workshops and resources that help youth prepare for future opportunities in the music industry. Music Forward will focus exploration opportunities within the areas of live performance sound and light engineering, and events management-

With strong partner support, our goal is to reach up to 100 Dorsey Media Industry Technician students during the 2017-2018 school year with program services that will help to equip youth with skills necessary to be successful in the Music Industry-



**ROCK YOUR ROLE**

In addition to tours, students will also participate in a series of industry panel discussions and workshops that include hands-on activities designed to allow students to explore opportunities, connect with industry professionals, and begin to prepare for future careers in the industry.

With this commitment Dorsey High School is agreeing to serve as a host site for Music Forward program facilitation and provide an adequate number of students for programming. Dorsey High School will have quarterly meetings to determine program collaboration and engagement opportunities. While the primary focus of partnership activities will target students within Dorsey Media Industry program, activities may be opened to all students of Dorsey High School.

The House of Blues Music Forward Foundation is excited about this partnership with Dorsey High School and is looking forward to engaging youth in the programmatic opportunities outlined above.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura Clark". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Laura Clark  
Director of Programs  
House of Blues Music Forward Foundation





September 28, 2017

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**Robyn Charles**  
Program Director | Career Technical Arts  
Dorsey High School of Digital Film & Theater Arts  
3537 Farmdale Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90016

Dear Ms. Charles,

LA Promise Fund is thrilled to continue its support of Dorsey High School's efforts in placing students in Media Industry Technician Program.

In partnership with 21st Century Fox, LA Promise Fund gives high school juniors and seniors, annually, the opportunity to receive one-on-one mentorship with Fox executives through its Fox Aspire to Achieve Mentorship Program.

At each mentorship session, students gain soft skills like networking, communication, and teamwork, as well as hard skills like resume building, personal statement coaching, and mock interviews. Students who are enrolled in this program also have the opportunity to shadow their mentors and attend special events that exposes them to the field of media and entertainment. At the end of their senior year, students also receive a college scholarship to be used in support of college enrollment.

Students in South Los Angeles face many barriers to succeeding in high school, applying and attending college, and having successful careers, which is why LA Promise Fund is supportive of Dorsey High School's Media Industry Technician Program.

Sincerely,

**Veronica Melvin**  
President & CEO  
LA Promise Fund

July 1, 2016

Ms. Robyn Charles,

On behalf of the the Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism ant the University of Southern California, it has been our pleasure to meet you and discuss potential collaborations between USC Annenberg and Dorsey High School.

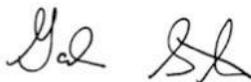
It has been very exciting to have our civic engagement and TechOps (technologies and facilities) to discuss our vision behind the Julie Chen/Leslie Moonves and CBS Media Center and how that might inspire your work at Dorsey.

We view these discussions as an exciting next step in Dorsey-Annenberg collaboration. In the last year our teams had the opportunity to meet your students via our service-learning program at Dorsey High School in the spring 2016 semester, we engaged your students in our High School Journalism Day in April 2016 and through our ASCJ 440: Engaging Urban Communities in the Digital Era course, our students learned from you and your students.

We are excited in your leadership for the Dorsey Digital Film & Theater Arts program and look forward to collaborate with you on this new proposed project. The USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism continues to seek opportunities to engage our local communities and we look forward to a fruitful collaboration effort between USC Annenberg and Dorsey High School for the 2016-2017 academic year and beyond.

Please let us know how we can be of any additional assistance as you move forward on the proposed project.

Sincerely,





November 27, 2017

Robyn Charles  
Program Director | Career Technical Arts  
Dorsey High School of Digital Film & Theater Arts  
3537 Farmdale Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90016

Dear Ms. Charles,

West Los Angeles is a strong advocate for the expansion of the Video Production Program at Dorsey High School to include a much-needed new production facility. Under the umbrella of the Video Production Program, West Los Angeles' dual enrollment courses will be offered to students in both cinema and film vocational training. Students will have the opportunity to take college film classes not only at West Los Angeles, but now also via satellite on Dorsey's campus. It becomes imperative that we support the design and construction of professional workspace to train competitive creatives for both articulation and career readiness.

We will be offering feedback into new curriculum as we co-develop a new SSP of vocational training with our Hollywood CPR program at Dorsey. We will also assist in building a symbiotic integration of functionality between the space and the equipment, as an essential program need. With our input and guidance on the design, we hope to take into account not only the requirements of our courses, such as the accommodation of a minimum number of workstations, but also to help develop a professional production space that serves as a creative think tank for 21<sup>st</sup> Century innovation.

The physical transformation cemented by the students' hard work and conditioning within a rigorous program, has already built the foundation. As we move forward with tremendous enthusiasm in providing these students with greater access, it is with immense pleasure that we serve as partners, collaborators and supporters as the program as evolves into a Magnet Film Academy at Dorsey.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Roberto Gonzalez", written over a white background.

Dr. Roberto Gonzalez  
Vice President, Student Services  
West Los Angeles College  
9000 Overland Avenue, Culver City, CA 90230  
T. (310) 287-4248

# ACADEMIC ACCOUNTABILITY

*High performing  
program on the  
college/career  
dashboard  
indicator.*

Teachers, counselors, coordinators and administrators work together to implement programs and curricula that support the pathways and student outcomes.



## CONTACT US

Robyn Charles  
Program Director  
Dorsey High School  
Digital Film & Theater Arts  
3537 Farmdale Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90016

323-298-8430



# DORSEY

DIGITAL FILM

# VIDEO DONS

2018

# ART NURTURES STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Through project based learning in the technical arts students achieve the highest educational training objectives of constructing, developing, designing, initiating and originating to exercise critical thinking, problem solving and creativity both independently and collaboratively.

## ALEX SANCHEZ (SENIOR)

*"I found who I am through this [film] program. I know what I want to do in life."*



In addition to starting his own production company with a few of his film cohorts, Alex is interning at the Underground Museum coordinating the film speaker series at Dorsey.



## CHRISTIAN DIXON (JUNIOR)

*"At first I didn't know what kind of lawyer I wanted to be... but now I know I want to stay in the entertainment field. I want to stay working with film."*

Christian is completing his first year in the program and his first film was chosen to screen at the BHERC Youth Film Festival at Raleigh Studios in May.

## JOY STEWART (SENIOR)

*"I know that this is what I want to do with my life. I'm not lost anymore. I know I want to be a screenwriter."*



Joy is interning at the Los Angeles Times High School Insider as she completes her final year in journalism. After three years in the film program, she is graduating with a full body of narrative and documentary work and will be attending Talladega College majoring in screenwriting.

# ABOUT US

## MISSION

# GROWING CREATIVE CAPITAL

through **model curriculum** comprised of sustained and continuous production of original student work, we nurture the growth of innovative critical thinkers that will serve as competent and competitive contributors to a global community.

## VISION

# COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

Dorsey Film recognizes that the world is rapidly changing. We envision a future that within five years transforms how we experience the world around us when automation, technology and visual communication dominate every aspect of our lives. With the future in mind, we no longer have the luxury of grouping media and film programs as "electives" allowing visual illiteracy to slowly deepen and widen economic barriers. With urgency, we recognize that literacy is multimodal and we are equipping students with the ability to interpret, decode, create and control visual information. Dorsey film and media students not only develop technical proficiency, but with visual literacy (understanding of how meanings are communicated through a visual language) they develop critical thinking and analysis of the arts.

# NARRATIVE FILMMAKING

## HONORS AUDIO/VISUAL FUNDAMENTALS & INTRO TO STORYTELLING - YEAR 1

This introductory course provides the basic language and technique of visual storytelling. Students create tutorials, silent films as well as a short narrative film their first year.

## HONORS SCREENWRITING & PRODUCTION: FEATURE - YEAR 2

This intermediate course provides the basic language and technique of screenwriting and production for feature films.

## HONORS WEB SERIES - YEAR 3

This advanced course provides the basic language and technique for television script writing, working in the Writer's Room and television production.

## ANIMATION

## DOCUMENTARY

## SPORTS & EVENT COVERAGE

## COLLEGE CREDIT THROUGH WEST LOS ANGELES COLLEGE

MAY 2018

VOLUME 1

# DORSEY VIDEO DON

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Susan Miller Dorsey High School Digital Film Program



## IN THIS ISSUE

Challenging the Narrative  
Enrichment Opportunities  
Industry Exposure  
Animation

**"ART NURTURES  
STUDENT  
ACHIEVEMENT."**

~ Robyn Charles

# DORSEY VIDEO DON

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# MODEL CURRICULUM

Narrative

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## **HONORS AUDIO/VISUAL FUNDAMENTALS & INTRO TO STORYTELLING - YEAR 1**

This introductory course provides the basic language and technique of visual storytelling. Students create tutorials, silent films as well as a short narrative film.

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This intermediate course provides the basic language and technique of screenwriting and production for feature films.

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This advanced course provides the basic language and technique for television script writing, working in the Writer's Room and television production.



**BONDING OVER  
SHARED  
INTERESTS,  
STUDENTS  
BUILD STRONG  
COHORTS**

---

**ANIMATION**

**DOCUMENTARY**

**SPORTS & EVENT COVERAGE**

# CHALLENGING THE NARRATIVE

with the USC Critical Media Studies Program



Dorsey Film students participate in critical dialogue centered around media representation. Identity, gender, institutionalism and intersectionality, etc., are examples of topics of discussion raised by our USC Annenberg Partner, the Critical Media Studies Program.

Throughout the course of the semester, students guided by graduates from the program, discussed how to look through a critical lens when consuming media developing an understanding of the importance of being critical of what we see in media. Students explored how identities are intersectional and socially constructed, and how certain identities can be stereotyped. Students also explored how privilege is tied to who gets to be visible and invisible on screen, as well as the institutions that have the power to make those decisions. The goal is to inspire students to not only advocate for diversity and visibility in media, but to think critically about the representations they create



*Dorsey film and media students not only develop technical proficiency, but with visual literacy (understanding of how meanings are communicated through a visual language) they develop critical thinking and analysis of the arts.*

Using what they have learned in the USC Critical Media Project Friday sessions, students created the opening sequences for the final film projects that illustrate concepts explored in class. They presented as part of their final project at USC's Annenberg School of Communication and Journalism on April 30th, 2018 and engaged in critical discussion centered around media that they created.

# CHALLENGING THE NARRATIVE

with the USC Critical Media Studies Program (cont.)



**Alison Trope** is the Director of The Critical Media Project, a web based media literacy resource focused on the politics of identity (gender, race, class, and sexuality). Trope is a Clinical Professor in the Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism and Director, Undergraduate Studies for the School of Communication.



**DORSEY FILM THANKS ALISON TROPE FOR HER COMMITMENT TO THE PROGRAM!!!**

The Critical Media Project is designed to serve high school instructors and other educators who seek to incorporate media literacy into the classroom. The Critical Media Project offers free online media database ([criticalmediaproject.org](http://criticalmediaproject.org)), and sample lesson plans to integrate critical media literacy into a range of courses. Graduate students work in the classrooms, provide presentations and bring students ongoing resources to encourage students to think critically about media representations of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and class—and to use media to create their own representations and tell their own stories.

# CHALLENGING THE NARRATIVE

with the USC Critical Media Studies Program (cont)



## LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

As we look forward to next year, the film program will be partnering the media curriculum with an English course. Together working with Trope, students will have more in depth research opportunities to enhance their CMS experience as well as prepare a more rigorous final culmination project that they will present at USC. The goal is to link the film courses with English courses to reinforce career technical content while career technical courses enhance and support academic coursework.

# USC ANNENBERG HIGH SCHOOL JOURNALISM DAY



Annenberg High School Day (AHSD) is a bi-annual program, which takes place at Wallis Annenberg Hall and brings together over 100 local youth from the communities surrounding USC's UPC and HSC campuses. Dorsey Film has participated in this bi-annual event since Spring 2015. Students receive a full day of hands-on immersive training in journalism, communication, media, and public relations. They also learn about Annenberg's undergraduate programs and services.



# ENRICHMENT

CalArts | Dorsey Film Partnership



## CALARTS

Summer Programs

Summer Bridge

Hip Hop Music Video  
& Dance

## FILM AND VAPA ACADEMIES

SUMMER PROGRAMS

Driven by a commitment to provide students in the South Los Angeles area with greater access to the arts, Dorsey Film has partnered with the CalArts Community Arts Partnership (CAP) to hold Summer Film, and now Visual and Performing Arts Programs (VAPA) intensive on campus. With the successful launch of the CAP Summer Film Intensive in 2017, together we were able expose over one hundred students from across LAUSD to the technical and creative aspects of filmmaking. The merging of the CAP Summer Film with VAPA provides arts enrichment training to over 400 students who live in the area. With 6% of the LAUSD student population being African American and 85% of them living within a 5-mile radius of Dorsey, it is imperative that we make every effort to reach the local under represented community to provide access to art enrichment programs.

CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF THE ARTS PRESENTS

# CAP SUMMER ARTS PROGRAM

2018

**APPLY NOW**  
www.calarts.edu/cap

**FREE Arts Program for 8th-12th Grade Students!**  
Animation \*Creative Writing \*Dance \*Film \*Music \*Theater \*Visual Art

# CALARTS | DORSEY PARTNERSHIP

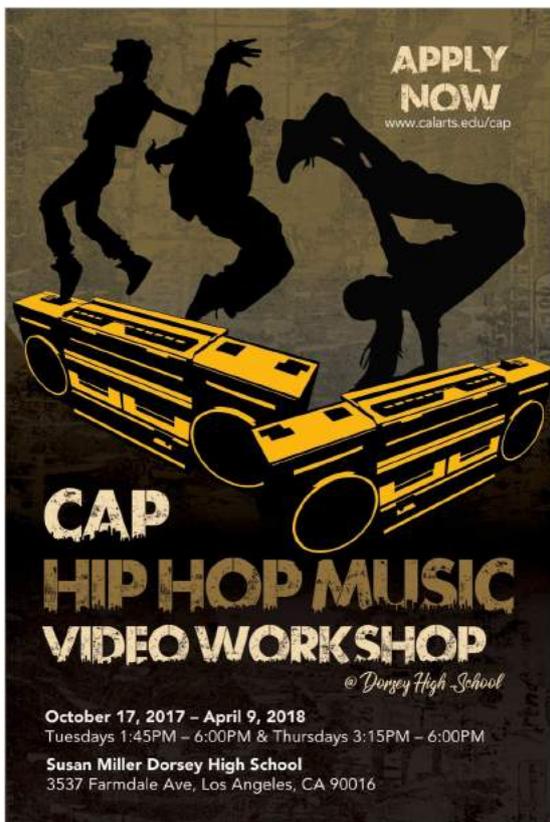
## SUMMER BRIDGE

### *A Pathway for Middle School*

The CAP Summer Programs have opened the doors for middle school students to participate in the enrichment opportunities at Dorsey. Audubon, Cochran and Muir Middle School students (7th going into 8th and 8th going into 9th) can pursue their arts interests while acclimating to the high school campus. Audubon and Dorsey will be working closely to continue their summer training by co-developing curriculum in preparation for students who enter into the Dorsey Film program their freshman year. We are excited to offer middle schools this amazing bridge to becoming the next Video Dons & Donnas.



# AFTER SCHOOL



## HIP HOP MUSIC VIDEOS

The Dorsey High School CAP Hip Hop Music Video Class is led by a team of CalArts teaching artists, including a professional Musician, Dancer, and a Spoken Word Actor and Poet. The curriculum includes the history and techniques of beat-making, sampling, breakdancing, and lyric-writing, and students will create original music and choreography for their own music videos. This past year's class met twice a week after-school on Tuesdays and Thursdays and ran from the second week of October for 20 weeks into mid-April (with holiday breaks). The program culminated on May 24, 2018, with a showing of the music videos the students have created.



## LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

CalArts | Dorsey All-Year Round

Together, and with a shared goal to position Dorsey as a positive and impactful site of public education, economic regeneration and cultural innovation, CalArts and Dorsey's Career Technical Arts Program Director hope to design and sustain an innovative learning environment based on a creative model in which new and original student work achieves the highest educational learning objectives of: constructing, developing, designing, initiating and originating. Dorsey will be working with CalArts to create a Workforce Development partnership (WDP) between CalArts and WestLA as well as our industry partner Sony in order to help Dorsey grow, recruit and retain student population, generate revenue opportunities, and invest in school infrastructure. We will be expanding into a year-round academy that offers a pathway for not only students uninterrupted access to the arts, but CalArts has been engaging in much discussion about creating a teaching certification/credential program where CalArts students would be able to earn their certification or licensure by teaching at Dorsey providing LAUSD a supply of highly trained instructors in the arts.



# The Underground Museum

## OFFERS INDUSTRY EXPOSURE

The Underground Museum Film Speaker Series features emerging filmmakers and industry professionals across the opportunity to share with Dorsey Film students valuable professional insights into the art and craft of film, television, and media-making. The Speaker Series provides students an intimate interaction between students and up-and-coming writers, producers and directors in the motion picture industry, television and other areas of the cinematic arts.

## Nye Littlejohn

STAFF WRITER, *BLACKISH*

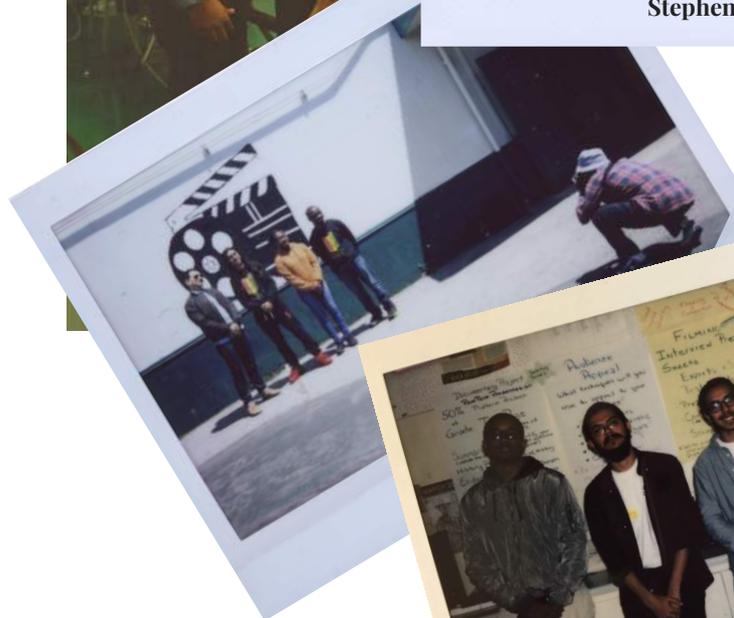
Nye Littlejohn is on the writers staff of the television show *Black-ish*. She has worked on the series for two seasons. She is an Writers Assistant, working her way up to becoming a staff writer in comedy. Nye graduated from USC with a B.A. in cinema television, writing.

On February 15, 2018, Littlejohn implored students to think critically about story development. She shared insight into writing comedy, working in the writers room and her journey working both in front of and behind the camera.

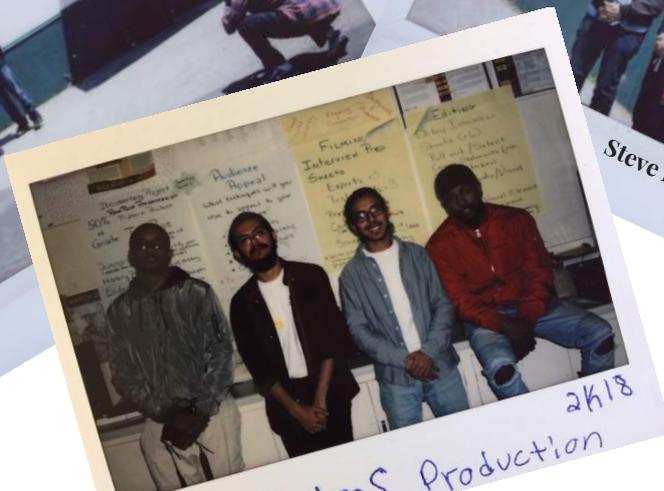
**Nye Littlejohn**



Stephen Love with Dorsey Film Crew.



Steve Priston w/Students



Production 2/18

## Editor Steve Priston

(BLACK PANTHER, 2018)

Steve Priston graduated from Wesleyan University with a BA in Psychology. Soon after graduating, he directed the documentary, *The Lions of New York* and eventually joined HBO Sports, where he helped produce two Emmy nominated feature length documentaries, *Ted Williams: There Goes the Greatest Hitter That Ever Lived* and *McEnroe/Borg: Fire & Ice*. Steve then went on to attend The American Film Institute as an Editing Fellow where the American Cinema Editors (A.C.E.) honored him with an EDDIE nomination for his work and his thesis film, *This Way Up*, received a Student Academy Award. Upon graduating he became a member of the Motion Pictures Editors Guild. Steve held a master class with a few hand-selected students working on advanced projects.



Steve Priston

## Producer Stephen Love

(THE LAND, 2016)

Stephen Love is from the rural towns of Filbert and Bennettsville, South Carolina. He graduated from Morehouse College with B.A. in Business Administration (with a concentration in Marketing). After Morehouse College, Stephen attended and graduated from the Peter Stark Producing Program at USC. In 2014, he was named the 21st Century Fox Film Fellow and a producing fellow in Film Independent's Project Involve Lab. Additionally, Stephen was honored with the Sundance Feature Film Creative Producing Fellowship for an upcoming project that he and his producing partner, Blake Pickens, will be shooting called *Bexar County*. Their first feature, *The Land* (2016), written and directed by newcomer Steven Caple Jr. (*Emmett Till* HBO Miniseries, *Creed 2*, etc.) premiered at the 2016 Sundance Film Festival and was theatrically released in July by IFC Films. Stephen advised students to value the connections and partnerships they are making now and implored them to continue to work collaboratively beyond the bell.



Stephen Love

## Writer Moises Zamora

(AMERICAN CRIME)



In Spring 2017, as a result of an exciting initiative with the WGA through the LAUSD Arts Media and Entertainment Division, staff writer on *American Crime* - Moises Zamora - shared with the web series students his experience writing for a television show. Students pitched their show concepts and Moises also shared his journey into becoming a writer for television inspiring students to overcome obstacles.

# Director AG Rojas

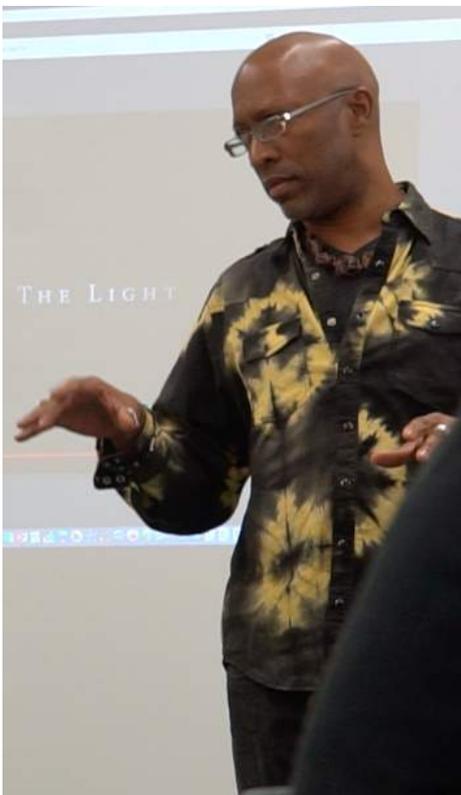
## MUSIC VIDEO & COMMERCIAL DIRECTOR

AG discovered his love of directing early in life. Born in Barcelona, Spain, he moved to Southern California to attend Art Center in Pasadena. With a sharp eye for visuals, mood, and sequence, AG started his career as a music video director, working with artists such as Jack White, Spiritualized, Purity Ring, Gil Scott-Heron and Emeli Sandé. AG's incredible ability to create stunning, poetic and cinematic imagery and his creative ability to construct unique narratives separates his work from his peers. Rojas appealed to the students' creativity and spoke to their right brain as well as valuing the creative instinct as an invaluable process when making all forms of media.

AG won Best New Director at the 2012 UKMVA's as well as Best Indie Rock video for Spiritualized's "Hey Jane." His video for Jack White was nominated for Best Rock Video at the 2012 MTV Video Music Awards. Since signing with Park Pictures, AG Rojas has directed spots for Apple, Gatorade, and the Duracell spot, "Trust Your Power" with Derrick Coleman, which became a viral sensation leading up to the 2014 Super Bowl, reaching over 22 million views on YouTube. Duracell also made the AICP Shortlist for best direction and picked up a Cannes Bronze Lion in 2014 for best celebrity endorsement. Since then, AG has helmed multiple spots for Apple, including a chapter of Apple's iPad "Verse" campaign with "Yao Band's Verse," and more recently directed the acclaimed video for Run The Jewels' track "Close Your Eyes," starring Shea Whigham (Boardwalk Empire) and Keith Stanfield (Short Term 12, Selma). In 2017, AG earned his first DGA nomination for S7 Airlines' "The Best Planet" for Wieden+Kennedy Amsterdam, and Samsung's "The Snail" out of Leo Burnett USA.



AG Rojas



Christian Epps

# Gaffer Christian Epps

## SELMA & MIDDLE OF NOWHERE

Christian Epps attended the prestigious Howard University as an undergraduate where he earned his BFA in Technical Theatre, with a particular focus in Lighting and Scenery. From there, Christian was awarded a one-year scholarship to attend NYU's Tisch School Of The Arts - Graduate Design program. Christian's career as a lighting designer has spanned more than three decades covering the range from major motion pictures, broadcast television, live theater, dance, music videos and special events. Christian's passion for dramatic lighting has been put to use with notable Directors such as Ava Duvernay (Selma & Middle of Nowhere) Spike Lee (Clockers), Hype Williams (Belly), and David Lowery (Ain't Them Bodies Saints). Christian has also helped shoot countless music videos, collaborating with artists such as Ice Cube, Michael Jackson, P. Diddy, Biggie Smalls, Whitney Houston, Queen Latifah, TLC, and many, many more. His groundbreaking work as the gaffer on "Belly", directed by the seminal music video director Hype Williams, continues to inform how filmmakers and image-makers think about the aesthetic possibilities of filming/photographing Black subjects in new and exciting ways. Disney Imagineering selected Christian to participate in their very exclusive concept program known as 'Blue Sky'. Recent projects include Beck & Lincoln Automotive (commercial), The Door (a short film for fashion brand Prada), and Ain't Them Bodies Saints, (Sundance Cinematography Award winning movie)." Epps visited Dorsey Film Thursday, April 5th, to provide invaluable tips on lighting techniques that students could use on their projects.



(L-R, Yolanda Hester, Program Manager & Faith Childs-Davis, Director ETA LA)

## EXPLORING THE ARTS | TONY BENNETT ARTS EDUCATION PROGRAM

Rooted in a Positive Youth Development framework, Exploring The Art's (ETA) Arts Internship Program places 11th and 12th graders from ETA Partner Schools as paid interns in mentorship with professionals working in the arts. Students receive arts training, participate on arts management projects, attend shows, and practice setting and achieving realistic goals with the support of caring, trusted adults. This is the second year ETA has supported the film program finding Dorsey Video Don's much-needed hands on experience in industry.

## THE UNDERGROUND MUSEUM

The Underground Museum is a non-profit contemporary art exhibit space, garden and book store in Arlington Heights that provides art exhibits, a film series and garden free to the public. Alex Sanchez (Senior) interns at the Underground assisting staff with the creation, design and growth of the inaugural Professionals in Film Lecture Series at Dorsey High School and as well as with the launch of the first ever Dorsey Student Film Festival at The Underground Museum. In addition to starting his own production company with a few of his film cohorts, Alex has crewed on the "Warrior" music video shoot for Chloe produced for the film A Wrinkle in Time. Additionally, Alex has provided film coverage of the LAUSD Film Festival 2017 and is returning to screen his cinematography in the short film, "Through His Eyes" at the LAUSD Film Festival 2018

**WATCH ALEX'S FILM**



## THE LULA WASHINGTON DANCE THEATER



The Lula Washington Dance Theatre was founded in 1980 by Lula and Erwin Washington to provide a creative outlet for minority dance artists in South Los Angeles. The Foundation seeks to build bridges between people of different cultures and ethnic backgrounds through its inter-related parts: the professional dance company, Lula Washington Dance Theatre, the dance school the, the Youth Dance Ensemble, and the Dance Studio. Shania Malone interns at Lulu Washington Dance Theater providing videography and photography of the choreography. She was accepted into Clark Atlanta where she wants to pursue a film degree. She is graduating after two years in the Dorsey Film program. Her documentary, School to Prison Pipeline, screened as part of USC Critical Media Studies Program at Dorsey.

**WATCH SHANIA'S DOCUMENTARY**

## THE LOS ANGELES TIMES HIGH SCHOOL INSIDER

The Los Angeles Times | High School Insider empowers students to tell the stories that matter to them and their communities. Joy Stewart apprentices at the Insider supporting journalism and its connection to video and media arts. She work sdirectly with Project Lead, Kyle Finck, to develop their production, editing and planning skills around short and longer form videos. She also engages with faculty members, student groups, and others to help students participate in HS Insider. After three years in the Dorsey Film program, she is graduating with a full body of narrative and documentary work and will be attending Talladega College for Screenwriting.

**WATCH JOY'S FILM**



# The House of Blues Music Forward Foundation



## DEVELOPING SOFT SKILLS

The House of Blues Music Forward Program launched their Access Program this November, in which students participated in career readiness training and industry visits. The All Access program offers career exploration that exposes Dorsey Film students to careers within the music and entertainment industry. Each site visit requires a two-day commitment, the first day being the pre-visit which happens on site at the school. In the pre-visit, Program Coordinator, DeMarco White engage students in soft-skill exercises that prep them for the on-site tour that takes place within the same week. The students then toured entertainment venues and had the opportunity to talk to industry professionals about their career and pathway during panel discussions.



## BECORE EXPERIENTIAL MARKETING

FALL: On December 1, 2017, students visited BeCore experiential marketing agency to learn how professionals create and develop compelling marketing experiences for various brands by strategizing, planning, and executing on-site interactive campaigns at various venues.



# The House of Blues Music Forward Foundation (cont.)



## CBS RADIO | ENTERCOM LA

SPRING: On March 13, 2018, students visited CBS Radio (Entercom Los Angeles). Students participated in a career development workshop before taking a tour of the studios ending with a soft skills prep quick seminar for the final panel discussion with CBS Radio employees.



[CLICK HERE](#) to listen in as the Dorsey Video Dons give a shot out to Dorsey High School as they tour CBSRADIO of Entercom Communications!!!



# YOUTH FILM FESTIVAL

BLACK HOLLYWOOD EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTER



## DORSEY VIDEO DONS HONORED BY INDUSTRY

For the second year in a row, Dorsey student films were selected to screen at this year's Black Hollywood Education Resource Center (BHERC) Youth Film Festival!

Students, parents and teachers were invited to the Opening Night Program, April 27, 2017, 7:00pm, at the Nate Holden Performing Arts Center. Dorsey film students were called to the stage and were recognized for all of their hard work.

Christian Dixon, Kylah Williams, Anthony Walker, Debarrie Sealy, Joshan Fuqua, Keeshawn Johnson, Sarah Washington, Eric Wilson, Heanok Melese, Hunter Smith, Alex Sanchez, Joy Stewart, Shania Malone, Malaya Williams, Michael Turner, April Arterberry, Nicole Slack and Isaac Kismuna were all called to the stage to promote their films as well as few new Dorsey Video Dons with works in progress.

Saturday morning's Youth Festival at Raleigh Studios, 5300 Melrose Avenue, Hollywood, CA 90038, treated the students to breakfast before a Red-Carpet Event in which the students received awards and were honored for a job well done!

**DORSEY FILM THANKS BILLIE GREEN FOR HER COMMITMENT TO THE PROGRAM!!!**



# STUDENT FILM FESTIVAL

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



## DORSEY VIDEO DONS HONORED BY THE DISTRICT

Dorsey Video has been accepted into the 4th Annual LAUSD Film Festival for the second year in a row! Congratulations to our hard working video production student, Alex Sanchez, who completed the cinematography for the film, Through His Eyes, during the CalArts CAP Dorsey Summer Film Intensive! Over 90 films were submitted this year and it was very competitive!

### **WATCH THROUGH HIS EYES**

The 4th Annual LAUSD Student Film Festival will take place on May 24, 2018, at The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in Beverly Hills (where the Oscars are held). Hundreds of students from across Los Angeles will come together to share their short films and support their peers. The hour-long showcase features student-produced animations, thrillers, music videos, documentaries and more!



## FROM 2017 TO 2018

Reginald Hall Armstrong's film, The Watcher, a film in which he wore almost all hats except acting screened at the LAUSD Film Festival Spring 2017, and also aired on KCLS on 12/2, 1/2, 1/30, and 2/27 at 6:30am and 6:30pm. This was one of six of Dorsey films that were selected to screen at the African American Film Market BHERC Youth Diversity Short Film Festival January 14, 2017.

### **WATCH THE WATCHER**

Reggie also participated in the first annual CAP | Dorsey Summer Film Intensive where he transition from wearing all hats to learning how to work with a crew. He directed the short film, Lisa's Hayday, a story about A teenager learns a hard lesson about ditching school and trespassing.

### **WATCH LISA'S HAY DAY**

# LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

## Dorsey Film Sets its Sights on Expansion



Exploring the Arts provides the funding for our animation instructor who we have received through our partnership with CalArts. Yasmine Joyner, a CalArts alum is a freelance Los Angeles based Animator, Filmmaker, Designer, Fine Artist and Animation Teacher with 19 years of animation experience. She graduated from the CalArts Character Animation and Film/Video Department. Yasmin has dedicated her craft to striving to help clients and students represent their unique style.

### Dorsey and CalArts Partner to Bring Animation Program



CalArts's CAP Trains the Next Generation of Filmmakers and Animators in Underserved LA Communities

VARIETY.COM

## EXPLORING THE ARTS Funds Dorsey's Animation Teaching Artist



Joyner teaches art through forms students identify. She is always looking to establish ways for talented art students to earn a living by doing artwork in their own community, while helping them establish a positive and legal artistic reputation. She is expanding her curriculum to include Urban Art and Street Art Culture because it is familiar and speaks to the students rather than a museum setting.

# Looking to the Future *(cont.)*

Over the next three years, the goal of the Susan Miller Dorsey High School Video Production Program is to mirror a state-of-the-art film production and post-production facility that is demand-driven and continuously responsive to the ever-changing industry needs. We are currently designing a district-approved 5-million dollar facility that meets the needs of our programs, the industry and union specifications. Dorsey Film is deeply committed to fostering socially conscious creative innovators through rigorous and authentic instructional programs, critical dialogue and career technical arts-based curriculum.



**Growing Creative Capital** through model curriculum comprised of sustained and continuous production of original student work, we nurture the growth of innovative critical thinkers that will serve as competent and competitive contributors to a global community.

## **Our Vision**

Dorsey Film recognizes that the world is rapidly changing. We envision a future that within five years transforms how we experience the world around us when automation, technology and visual communication dominate every aspect of our lives.

With the future in mind, we no longer have the luxury of grouping media and film programs as “electives” allowing visual illiteracy to slowly deepen and widen economic barriers. With urgency, we recognize that literacy is multimodal and we are equipping students with the ability to interpret, decode, create and control visual information. Dorsey film and media students not only develop technical proficiency, but with visual literacy (understanding of how meanings are communicated through a visual language) they develop critical thinking and analysis of the arts.

Robyn Charles | Program Director  
Dorsey High School  
Digital Film & Theater Arts  
3537 Farmdale Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90016



[www.dorseyvideodons.com](http://www.dorseyvideodons.com)

[robyn.charles@lausd.net](mailto:robyn.charles@lausd.net)  
323-298-8430 - Direct



## PHILOSOPHY

EVERYTHING IN SERVICE TO "YOUR" STORY

As an independent filmmaker, educator and advocate for educational equity, it is my passion to ignite young minds and give them the tools to explore who they are as individuals in order to develop their unique voice. Through film, students investigate how an individual's passions, identity and unique point of view manifest in the art, which inspires them to explore who they are and the types of stories they are motivated to tell.

Whether I am teaching film theory or film production, my own passion for filmmaking intensifies as student understanding evolves from learning what films communicate to how films communicate. The only one requirement to be in my program is that students create works that would otherwise not exist had they not created them. We engage in a visual conversation that empowers students with the tools to speak. Although, my students become highly technically proficient, we do not become tech savvy for tech sake, but learn the skills necessary to help students tell "their" stories.

- ROBYN CHARLES  
PROGRAM DIRECTOR

## SPECIAL THANKS

JANICE POBER, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT  
GLOBAL CORPORATE SOCIAL  
RESPONSIBILITY | SONY PICTURES  
ENTERTAINMENT OF SONY STUDIOS

Sony's relationship with Dorsey began with mapping of Dorsey and Crenshaw when Magic Johnson theaters opened..., but over time a partnership never evolved. Janice Pober, Senior Vice President Global Corporate Social Responsibility | Sony Pictures Entertainment of Sony Studios refused to close the door. Fifteen years later after connecting to Dorsey Film through CalArts, Pober has reinforced her commitment to establish a permanent long term partnership with Dorsey Film. With her generous donations of 12 Sony DSLRs and all the sound accouterment, Janice furnished both the summer and academic year productions with the necessary film equipment to ensure the program's success.

DORSEY FILM THANKS JANICE FOR HER  
COMMITMENT TO THE PROGRAM!!!



SUSAN MILLER DORSEY HIGH SCHOOL

# DORSEY WEST

FILM & SATELLITE CAMPUS

PROSPECTUS  
2018





## MISSION STATEMENT

# GROWING CREATIVE CAPITAL

through model curriculum comprised of sustained and continuous production of original student work, we nurture the growth of innovative critical thinkers that will serve as competent and competitive contributors to a global community.





## ENGAGEMENT

# ART PROGRAMS NURTURE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Through project based learning in the technical arts students achieve the highest educational learning objectives of constructing, developing, designing, initiating and originating to exercise critical thinking, problem solving and creativity both independently and collaboratively.



"I would just come to class and put my head down, maybe take a nap. But, Ms. Charles put a camera in my hand."

~ ALEX SANCHEZ (SENIOR)

In addition to starting his own production company with a few of his film cohorts, Alex is interning at the Underground Museum coordinating the film speaker series at Dorsey. After two years in the film program he is attending Columbia College Hollywood, Fall 2018.





## ENTREPRENEURS

"I found who I am through this [film] program. I know what I want to do in life."

~ ALEX SANCHEZ (SENIOR)

STUDENTS FIND, DEVELOP AND EXPRESS THEIR VOICE

## **HONORS CURRICULUM**

# **STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT THROUGH HIGH EXPECTATIONS AND RIGOROUS COURSEWORK**

The Video Production Program currently offers concentrations in Honors Narrative and Documentary filmmaking, Sports & Event Coverage, Broadcast Journalism, and Animation.

All core academic classes and technical certification classes are taught on site, which provides students the skills necessary for graphic design, flash animation, television, documentary, broadcast journalism, narrative film production, as well as music production for film and media.

**DUAL ENROLLMENT COLLEGE CREDIT WITH WEST LOS ANGELES COLLEGE**



WEST LOS ANGELES COLLEGE

# SATELLITE CAMPUS

Students earn college credit in film courses,  
as well as enrichment opportunities in core classes.



RIGOR

# REAL WORLD

Academic courses linked to and reinforce career technical content while career technical courses enhance and support academic coursework.



2018

**VERTICAL ALIGNMENT**

# COHORTS

COHORTS MAINTAIN A GPA OF 3.0 TO 4.0



## INNOVATIVE LEADERS OF TOMORROW

"At first I didn't know what kind of lawyer I wanted to be... but now I know I want to stay in the entertainment field. I want to stay working with film."

~ CHRISTIAN DIXON (JUNIOR)  
4.1 GPA

Christian is completing his first year in the program and his first film was chosen to screen at the HBERC Youth Film Festival at Raleigh Studios in May.

## SELF DIRECTED PASSIONATE LEARNERS

"I know that this is what I want to do with my life. I'm not lost anymore. I know I want to be a screenwriter."

~ JOY STEWART (SENIOR)  
3.3 GPA

Joy is interning at the Los Angeles Times High School Insider as she completes her final year in journalism. After three years in the film program, she is graduating with a full body of narrative and documentary work and so far has been accepted to three universities.





## INNOVATIVE AND CREATIVE PROBLEM SOLVERS

"When I do become successful, I want to come back and work with more black and brown people."

~ SHANIA MALONE (SENIOR)  
3.5 GPA

Shania is interning at Lulu Washington Dance Theater. She was accepted into Clark Atlanta where she wants to pursue a film degree. She is graduating after two years in the program. Her documentary screened as part of USC Critical Media Studies Program at Dorsey.

## ACADEMIC ACCOUNTABILITY

# HIGH PERFORMING PROGRAM ON THE COLLEGE/CAREER DASHBOARD INDICATOR

Teachers, counselors, coordinators and administrators work together to implement programs and curricula that support the pathways and student outcomes.



3.5 GPA

3.0 GPA

3.8 GPA

3.5 GPA

2018

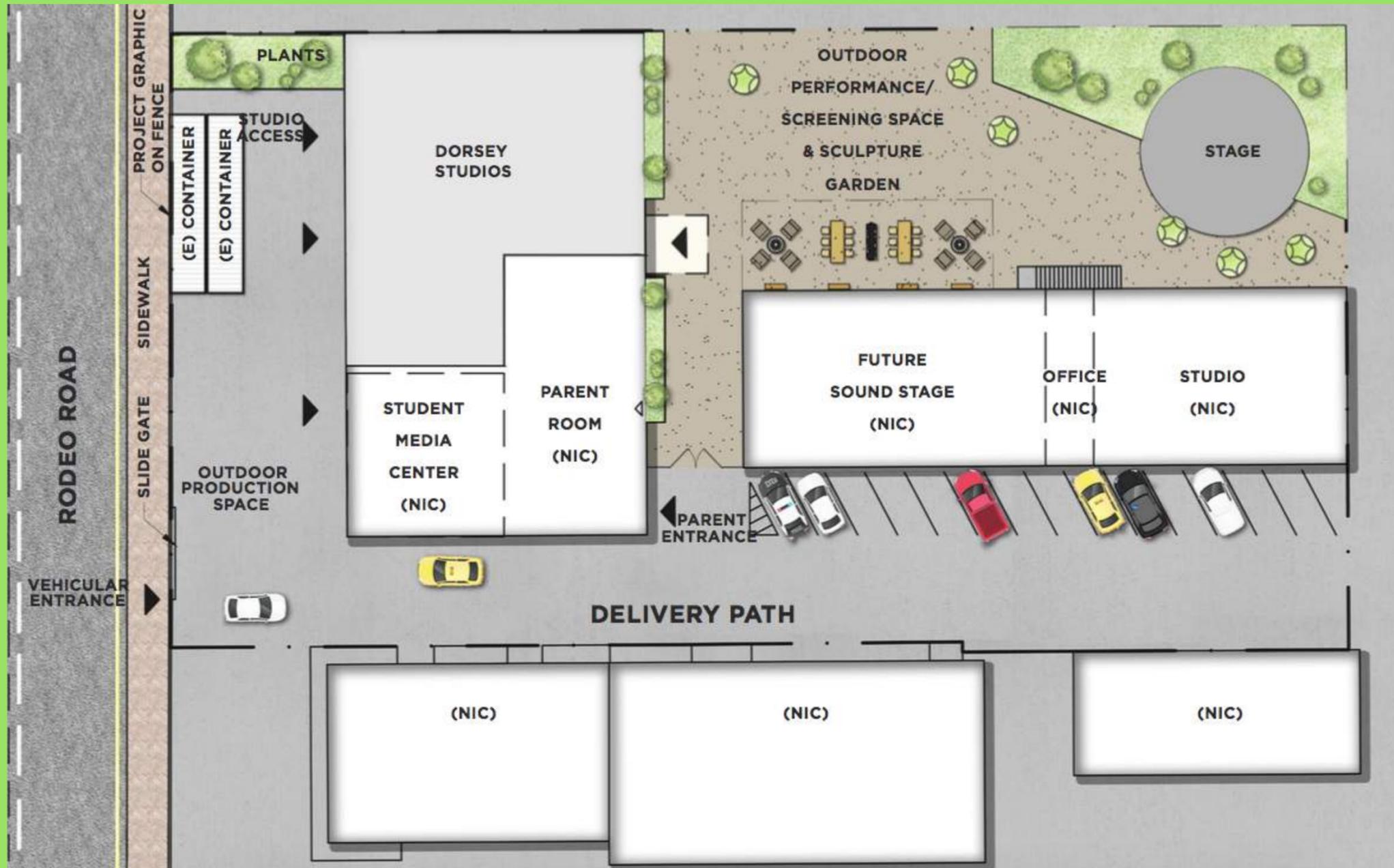
THE NEW CROP FALL 2018

# INCOMING 10TH GRADE CLASS

DORSEYWEST ATTRACTS STUDENTS  
FROM COMPETITIVE SCHOOLS IN THE AREA.

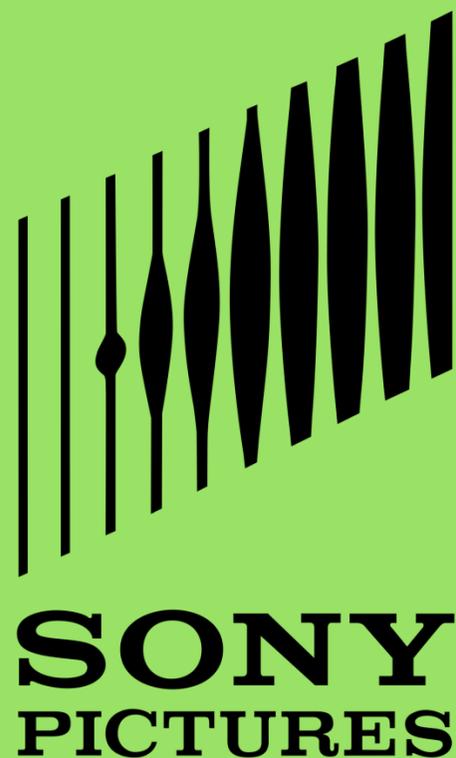
# DORSEYWEST

## ENRICHMENT



Located on the west end of Dorsey High School with its own entrance, DorseyWest has created an academic environment for enrichment centered around career technical arts programs offered in the areas of digital media and animation. We are now expanding the visual and performing arts components.





FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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[website](#)



**THE UNDERGROUND MUSEUM**