



spyhop
productions

empowering youth through multimedia

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Spy Hop Productions Receives \$50,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

SALT LAKE CITY, UT :: Spy Hop Productions, a local youth media arts and education center located in downtown Salt Lake City, Utah, is one of three organizations in the state of Utah recently selected to receive direct funding from the **National Endowment for the Arts** through the **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009** (ARRA), and one of only twenty-eight arts education centers in the country to receive funding from ARRA. The other two Utah nonprofits selected were Ballet West (\$50,000), and Bad Dog Rediscovered America (\$25,000). Spy Hop Development Director, Hilary Cline, stated that the funding will support administrative costs and salaries for the **Multimedia Apprenticeship Program (MAP): Film and Video**, and general outreach for MAP.

The Grant Program Description reads:

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009...recognizes that the nonprofit arts industry is an important sector of the economy. The National Endowment for the Arts is uniquely positioned to fund arts projects and activities that preserve jobs in the nonprofit arts sector threatened by declines in philanthropic and other support during the current economic downturn. As part of this important investment, the Arts Endowment has designed a plan to expedite distribution of critical funds for the national, regional, state, and local levels for projects that focus on the preservation of jobs in the arts.

This program will be carried out through one-time grants to eligible nonprofit organizations including arts organizations, local arts agencies, statewide assemblies of local arts agencies, arts service organizations, units of state or local government, and a wide range of other organizations that can help advance the goals of the Arts Endowment and this program.

Projects are limited to:

- Salary support, full or partial, for one or more positions that are critical to an organization's artistic mission and that are in jeopardy or have been eliminated as a result of the current economic climate (*source: <http://www.nea.gov/grants/apply/recovery/index.html>*).

It has long been the interest and mission of Spy Hop Productions to help young people enter the work force with arts education and training largely unavailable to them in today's public schools. MAP has become a nationally recognized opportunity for young people to further prepare themselves for the reality of the real world workplace. Since its inception, Spy Hop has helped hundreds of local youth prepare for the 21st Century via arts education and collaboration projects in an hands-on learning environment with professional mentors.

"The Multimedia Apprenticeship Program is a vital resource for Utah's creative economy" said Spy Hop Managing Director Kasandra VerBruggen. "It not only prepares youth for work in the media industry, but it also helps them further hone a creative lens through which they view their lives, their communities, and the world. We are extremely fortunate that NEA leadership recognizes the significance of this work."

Participants in Spy Hop programs including MAP recently reported significant gains in their knowledge of a complex set of technology, media and production skills, and 75% reported interest in and desire to participate in their local community increase as a result of their participation in Spy Hop programs (*source: http://spyhop.org/documents/SHP_Evaluation_Report.pdf*).

About the Multimedia Apprenticeship Program (MAP)

The MAP program provides hands-on education and real-world career application in three multimedia disciplines: film and video; sound engineering, music and radio; and digital design, animation and games. This pre-professional program offers youth, many who are at-risk of not reaching their potential and disenfranchised in the community, the unique opportunity to learn valuable creative, technical, and vocational skills in the media arts.

About Spy Hop Productions

Spy Hop Productions is a not-for-profit youth media arts and education center whose purpose is to empower youth to express their voice and with it create positive change in their lives, their community, and the world. Our mission is to encourage free expression, self-discovery, critical and inventive thinking, and skilled participation via the big screen, the airwaves, and the world-wide-web. Spy Hop is committed to the following organizational objectives:

- Providing safe after-school and summer time mentoring programs for diverse youth (K-12) in emerging digital technologies and the media arts
- Developing 21st century skills in youth: community and global awareness, critical thinking, problem solving, communication, collaboration, and media literacy
- Promoting positive youth development thru individuality, leadership, creativity and intellectual curiosity
- Increasing higher education and/or vocational opportunities

About the National Endowment for the Arts

The National Endowment for the Arts is a public agency dedicated to supporting excellence in the arts, both new and established; bringing the arts to all Americans; and providing leadership in

arts education. Established by Congress in 1965 as an independent agency of the federal government, the Arts Endowment is the largest annual national funder of the arts, bringing great art to all 50 states, including rural areas, inner cities, and military bases.

For a complete list of ARRA recipient organizations, please visit: <http://www.nea.gov/recovery/nea-recovery-act-grants.html>

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