

Inspire, Cultivate and Innovate Creative Genius...

I SAW! DCTM I SAW! The Experience of Learning in DC TM isawdc.org (202) 704-8461

2012 FISCAL YEAR ANNUAL REPORT

By

Quentina Johnson President & Creative Director of Curriculum/Academic Programs



2012 Youth Led Community Based Research Project:

"A History Beneath Us-Honoring Sacred Ground Across the River Creek"© LIVING IMAGES IN MY WORLD PROGRAM© 2010 I See A World & AssociatesTM.

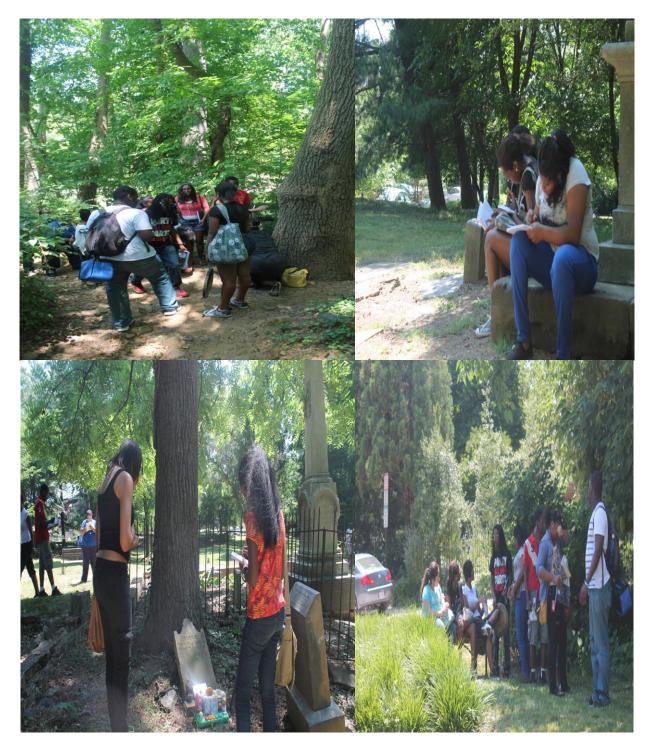
1 Page 2012 All Copyrights Reserved by I SAW! DC™

2012 FINAL ANNUAL REPORT FOR I SAW! DCTM COMMUNITY BASED EDUCATION PROGRAMS

PROJECT BASED CURRICULUM:

"A History Beneath Us-Honoring Sacred Ground Across the River Creek" is a community based project and an extension of the experiential learning curriculum of the LIVING IMAGES IN MY WORLD PROGRAM© I See A World & AssociatesTM.

Currently, the ongoing project is implemented by I SAW! DC[™] for inter-generational talent development and community education. For more information please contact (202) 704-8461.



2 Page 2012 All Copyrights Reserved by I SAW! DC™

2012 FINAL ANNUAL REPORT FOR I SAW! DC[™] COMMUNITY BASED EDUCATION PROGRAMS -Current Project-"A History Beneath Us-Honoring Sacred Ground Across the River Creek"©

ORGANIZATION

**I SAW! DCTM is the abbreviated name for I SAW! The Experience of Learning in DCTM

<u>Mission:</u> I SAW! DC^{TM} ignites youth leadership and fosters social empowerment through innovative intergenerational learning experiences that inspire and cultivate creative intellectual genius in The District of Columbia.

Purpose: We implement community based education research projects led by under-served DC teens to develop and promote their intellectual and artistic talents as scholars, historians, filmmakers, scientists and explorers in collaborative efforts with inter-generational mentors across disciplines in the field of humanities.

Goals: Empower young adults to emerge from a background of socio-economic challenges with real life work experience and a high level of academic enrichment programming that will ignite their creative intellectual abilities so they can aspire to succeed and make innovative valuable contributions to society as emerging leaders, ultimately achieving greater social advancement.

INTRODUCTION

The interdisciplinary community based education project, "A History Beneath Us-Honoring Sacred Ground Across the River Creek"© entered its second season in 2012 as it continued to focus on young DC residents uncovering the historical significance of a two hundred year old community buried in an aging endangered historical site at the African American burial grounds of Mt. Zion and Female Union Band Cemeteries in Georgetown. To preserve the legacy of a once thriving African American Georgetown community, youth led field research teams aimed to discover and document its history.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

During the summer of 2012, thirty DC high school teens and one 20 year old college student from diverse socio-economic communities in several wards in the District participated in a community based education research project named, "A History Beneath Us-Honoring Sacred Ground Across the River Creek." The young scholars worked in research teams to conduct fieldwork and archival investigations on the history of Mt. Zion Female Union Band Cemetery and the legacy of Black Georgetown's 19th century community.

I SAW! DCTM youths successfully engaged in the community based education research project. The project involved youth participants, residing in diverse wards across the city, impacted by a lack of vigorous programs that implement creative high level intellectual talent development.

Targeted youths were recruited from The DC Department of Summer Youth Employment Program as well as the local community representing under-served populations residing in Wards One, Two, Four, Five, Six, Seven and Eight historically facing academic and economic challenges in neighborhoods of under-performing schools enrolled with 95% of students meeting low income eligibility for reduced lunches. I SAW! DC's youth led project, "A History Beneath Us- Honoring Sacred Ground Across The River" @ was funded by The DC Department of Human Services and DC Humanities Council during June 2012 thru March 2013.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

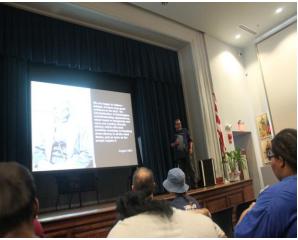
I SAW! DC[™] provided field learning opportunities for youth researchers at community based sites with affiliations of the DC Humanities Council, DC Heritage Project, DC Office of Planning, The DC Archives, Mt. Zion Church Heritage House, Mt. Zion and Female Union Band Cemeteries, Generations United, The African American Civil War Museum, Library of Congress Digital Division, National Park Service, DC Historical Society Conference, and The National Archives. Currently, the organization is in compliance with meeting all 2012 grant reporting deadlines and related fiscal duties required as evidenced in the performance statement by DC Department of Human Services and letters of support by the DC Humanities Council and Generations United. The Diverse City Fund has enlisted I SAW! DC to collaborate in its volunteer program, Enlace to provide I SAW! DC support staff. Also, The DC Fund invited I SAW! to serve on its fundraising board. The Washington Peace Center is our fiscal sponsor.



I SAW! DC Young Scholars conduct archival research with Library of Congress digital collections.



Mr. C.R Gibbs- DC Historian



Mr. Hari Jones- African Civil War Museum



I SAW! DC Youth Researchers engage in field investigations at African American Burial Grounds.

4 Page 2012 All Copyrights Reserved by I SAW! DC™

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

FINAL REPORT'S PROJECTED FUTURE OUTCOMES FOR 2012:

A) 2011 Projected Outcome-

Develop bios of names previously uncovered and identified by youth led research teams as African American Civil War Veterans buried in Mt. Zion Female Union Band Cemetery and digitize bios online.

B) 2011 Projected Outcome-

Identify descendants of the community buried in the 200 year old cemetery and record oral histories as shared stories.

C) 2011 Projected Outcome-

Uncover the names of more unknown identities of African Americans within the cemetery who were Civil War Veterans.

D) 2011 Projected Outcome-

Produce a video documenting research project.

E) 2011 Projected Outcome-

Youth will continue their research in creative expressions in public forums to inspire community awareness and discussions.

F) <u>2011 Projected Outcome-</u>

Project will gain funding to sustain itself as an ongoing youth led project with aim to educate a global community with an interactive website increasing followers.

G) 2011 Projected Outcome-

Community Partnerships with universities, historians and scholars will increase the identification of more Civil War Veterans and will ultimately get the Veteran Administration to create a memorial at the cemetery honoring its legacy.

2012 HIGHLIGHTED ACHIEVED OUTCOMES OF YOUTH LED RESEARCH SCHOLARS:

As a result of our 2012 summer youth led community based education research program, our young scholars achieved the following 2011 projected outcomes:

- a) Identified and documented the lives of at least six old Black Georgetown residents buried over a century ago in the Mt. Zion Female Union Band Cemeteries.
- **b**) Youths conducted on air interviews with local media and had their 2012 research project highlighted and aired on: 1) DCTV during October 2012 on DC Humanities Council's channel; and 2) Appearance on UDC TV during April 2013.
- c) The teens were invited to present their documentary research video at the 2012 39th Historical Studies Conference on DC during October 21, 2012.
- **d**) Teen researchers participated with Generations United at Grandparent's Day White House event on September 13, 2012.
- e) Invited to give testimony to DC's city council by the D.C. Office of Planning and Historic Preservation about significance of historical research on May 4, 2012 and April 12, 2013.
- f) Engaged in discussion panel by the DC Historic Preservation Office on June 28, 2012.

- **g**) Screened documentary film documenting research project during Black History Month honoring African American history of Georgetown on February 2, 2013.
- h) Involved in historic community planning on March 18, 2013 coordinated with African American Civil War Museum's director, Dr. Frank Smith, members of the Afro-American Bicentennial Cooperation, original preservationist of the burial grounds of the cemetery in 1979 represented by Mr. Vincent Deforest and the Mt. Zion and Female Union Band Society descendants such as Elder Carter Bowman and Mr. Neville Waters with the Prince Hall Masons as sponsors for a proposed memorial and its historical preservation.
- Previous 2012 high school researchers who were recognized as "Outstanding Leaders & Outstanding Researcher" by I SAW! DC[™] during the 2012 summer project will direct five research youth teams in the 2013 project as five lead research interns.

2012 Youth Research Team Research Findings Exceeded 2011 Proposed Outcomes:

1. <u>TEAM A</u>

"Naming the Names and Claiming Their Legacy" by Fanta Kamara, Sade Hale and Betel Asfaha.

Focus:

Founding Mt. Zion Female Union Band Community Members of Black Georgetown.

-Research Findings-

- a) Artifact A- Contact list for primary sources.
- b) Artifact B-Biographical sketches of founding community members.
- c) Artifact C-Calendar recording Mt. Zion and Female Union Band Communities' births, deaths and historical events.
- d) **Artifact D-**1800's to early 1900's newspaper articles highlighting community members.
- e) Artifact E-PowerPoint presentation.

*Guest Judges' Panel Average Scores: 4.6

2. <u>TEAM B</u>

"In Search of Civil War Veterans at Mt. Zion Cemetery" by Imhotepa Holder, Haja Kamara and Keyana Turkvan.

Focus:

Discovering identities of possible African American Civil War Veterans from Mt. Zion Female Union Band Community.

-Research Findings-

- a) **Artifact A**-Brochure of historical sites in relating to possible African American Civil War Veterans in Georgetown.
- b) Artifact B-African American Civil War Identities.
- c) Artifact C-Records of Service.
- d) Artifact D- Copy of Wills.
- e) Artifact E- PowerPoint Presentation.

Guest Judges' Panel Scores: 4.4

2012 Youth Research Team Research Findings Exceeded 2011 Proposed Outcomes (Cont. 2):

3. TEAM C

"The Ties That Binds Us in the Past, Present and Future" by Bryana Williams and Avril Gray.

Focus:

Interviewing descendant to discuss roots of family tree 150 years back in Georgetown

-Research Findings-

- a) Artifact A- Family tree diagram.
- b) Artifact B- Video clip of Mr. Moore.
- c) Artifact C- Will of a Mt. Zion member in 1800's sharing the surname of Mr. Moore's ancestors.
- d) Artifact D- Multimedia PowerPoint Presentation of Family tree created by oral history interview.

Guest Judges' Panel Scores: 4.6

4. TEAM D

"The Black Book of Early Mt. Zion Female Union Band Communities in Georgetown" by Angelique Dove, Natalie Davis and Kendra Byrd.

Focus:

Mapping a view of African Americans during the 1800's in Georgetown by finding their addresses.

-Research Findings-

- a) Artifact A- 1800's Map of Georgetown.
- b) Artifact B- Current Map Locating Where 1800's Black Georgetown Community Members Lived.
- c) Artifact C- Directory with Names and Addresses of Black Georgetown Community Members.
- d) Artifact D- PowerPoint Presentation.

Guest Judges' Panel Average Scores: 3.8

2012 Youth Research Team Research Findings Exceeded 2011 Proposed Outcomes (Cont. 3):

5. <u>TEAM E</u>

"Honoring Sacred Ground in Troubled Waters"

by Azania Touré and Morgan Butler.

Focus:

Civil Action-Doing Something.

-Research Findings-

- a) Artifact A- Brochure with Brief Overview of Legal Issues.
- b) Artifact B- Business Proposal for Beautification.
- c) Artifact C- A Social Media Activism Plan.
- d) Artifact D-Blog.
- e) Artifact E- PowerPoint Presentation.

Guest Judges' Panel Average Scores: 4.6

6. <u>TEAM F</u>

"Visible Man"

by Airech Johnson, Rodger Woods and Tre Wise.

Focus:

Restoring Identity and Life of Issac Johnson.

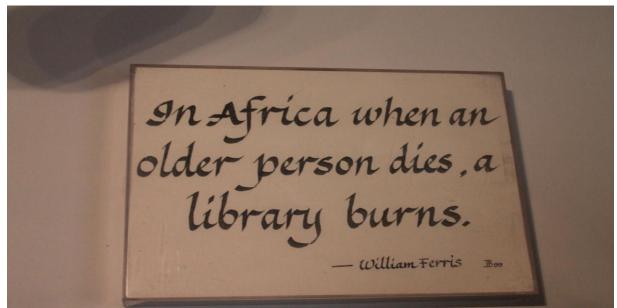
-Research Findings-

- a) Artifact A- Issac Johnson's name in 1800's Free Negro Registry.
- b) Artifact B- Will of Issac Johnson.

* Guest Judges' Panel Average Scores: 3.0*

2012 End Products Achieved 2011 Proposed Outcomes:

I. Experience DC- Youth Visions is an interactive online web based youth produced multimedia newsletterglobal community about their local history and social activism. DC teens demonstrate their achievements online with a monthly interactive web based newsletter by documenting and exhibiting their primary sources with artifacts, media and images from field research investigations. It emailed its first edition on March 15, 2013 to a contact list of 230 email addresses. The newsletter's first edition is also available on I SAW! DC's website's home page at <u>http://www.isawdc.org/</u>. I SAW! DCTM also invites community members to subscribe with a donation to support the youth programming for community based education research projects.



2012 Photo Taken by Khari Eyen Zame Johnson Courtesy of Mt. Zion Community Heritage House



2012 Youth Scholars Research Presentations

EVIDENCED BASED DATA AND MEASURABLE RESULTS

I. 2012 Panel Review & Portfolio Evaluation Summary: Research Presentations

At the conclusion of their summer field investigations, youth research teams presented their historical findings to panel judges composed of historians and professionals on August 2, 2012. Overall, the panel rated <u>teen research presentations an average score of 4.2 out of the rubric range of one to five, (five is the highest score = excellent and one is the lowest score = poor).</u>

We had a young participant, aged 14, who was on juvenile probation in DC's court system and she had experienced a pregnancy. Initially, she was very angry and despondent in becoming involved with the project. The young scholar became a dynamic researcher and team member who contributed greatly to mapping and finding the addresses of African Americans living during the 1800's in Georgetown. The youth presented her research with her team members and it was revealed that she had a gift for remembering numbers, in particularly dates and addresses, which the young scholar proudly discovered was a very good asset for a historian. The young scholar progressed from wearing an inappropriate attention getting outfit to closing out her final presentation with a formal professional appearance and attire.

DC youths in the summer project significantly demonstrated successful academic and social emotional outcomes in leadership, scholarship and community service. Overall, I SAW! DC's teens have demonstrated a high level of acquired knowledge and performance in their area of expertise as researchers. <u>Summer 2012 evidence of portfolio presentations</u> illustrate that youth completing our project achieved an <u>average 80% improvement</u> on the knowledge of DC History specific to project content aligned with DC Public Schools common core standards and I SAW! DC teens demonstrate leadership, creative intelligence & vigorous field research on <u>http://www.isawdc.org/</u>.

Their achievement can make us grow more acutely aware of our youth led community based education research project's potential outreach to a global audience and how our youth can simultaneously do local research to impact their DC neighborhoods as well as preserve and educate the world about the diverse history of our nations' capital using their creative talents across disciplines.

II. 2012 Project Evaluation Summary: Pre and Post Surveys

Approximately 31 youths residing in The District of Columbia, ages 14-20 years old, were recruited as research scholars and creative artists by I SAW! DC[™] to engage in the community based education research project, A History Beneath Us-Honoring Sacred Ground Across the River Creek.©"

As a result of the summer 2012 project--- pre and post surveys using quantitative and qualitative assessments indicated an estimated **70% percent of the program's audience demonstrated at least an 80% percent increased in their knowledge** of Georgetown's Black history on the survey from not knowing anything about DC's African American community's origin in Georgetown to being aware of the African American history of Georgetown's community. The surveys reflected a program audience inclusive of youth participants, community members and those in attendance at the teens' multimedia documentary film screening during February 2013.

Overall, I SAW! DC's teens have demonstrated a high level of acquired knowledge and performance in their area of expertise as researchers. I SAW! DC's <u>2012 and 2011 survey data</u> illustrate that youth completing our project achieved an average <u>80% improvement on the knowledge of DC History specific to project content aligned with DC Public Schools common core standards.</u>

III. 2012 Project Evaluation Summary: Feedback Scores & Criticisms

DC's local community members, mentors, professionals and I SAW's youth participants rated the project an <u>average of 4.4 on evaluation surveys with one being the lowest rating</u> <u>indicating a poor job and five being highest indicating an excellent rating</u> on feedback forms.

Mr. C.R. Gibbs, our project historian and <u>mentor rated the project four</u> on the evaluation survey with one being the lowest and five the highest rating. He stated on the feedback survey, "...I was very favorably impressed by the initiative and enthusiasm of students" and also, "...the questions and comments of the students revealed their high levels of interest and motivation."

The Department of DC Summer Youth Employment **program monitor, Deena Whitlow rated the project five.** She stated on her feedback survey that by observing the project she learned, **"Interaction between youth brings change"** and enjoyed most "**the historic fieldtrips, great insight on black history.**"

A community member attending the youth video documentary premiere, Kathryn Howell stated on her feedback survey that she enjoyed most, "the perspective of youth; the fact that it changed the way they see the city; the great DC history" and she learned about... "the network of churches, the fact the freed blacks and enslaved interacted so much in the church in the community."

Emil Rudicell, another community member attending the premiere also stated on her feedback survey that she learned.... " everything-I didn't know about anything covered...I loved the way the poetry, music dance and how that was brought into the research overall project...made the connection to history/ancestors more powerful."

Youth researchers gave evidence of enthusiasm in conducting research and doing fieldwork investigations. The majority of youths gave favorable responses relating to their own personal learning experience regarding the project.

For example youth participant, Hadja had stated on her feedback survey, "I learned about African American history I didn't previously didn't know...I enjoyed the field research."

Also, an anonymous youth participant stated on their feedback survey, "Despite the political and economic status of African American in the U.S., African Americans in Georgetown were able to succeed and thrive...." And she enjoyed most ... "learning about Black Georgetown and the impact that African Americans had in D.C. as well as meeting new people."

Another youth participant, Roger had also stated on his feedback survey, "...I learned about African American history that I didn't know about" and that he enjoyed most... "I liked going on the field trips to the nation archives, Mt. Zion Cemetery and Library of Congress."

Betel, a youth participant stated on her feedback survey, "...I learned a lot about the historical aspect of Georgetown and how there were lots of blacks that were living well off. That was most interesting...I enjoyed going to GW University and doing various teambuilding activities."

"It's great for anyone...to be a history," stated Airech on his feedback survey and that..."I enjoyed most the outdoor activities."

Youth participant, Imhotepa stated on her feedback survey she enjoyed most..."The field trips and learning how to conduct research," and that she learned... "about blacks in Georgetown, their input and the Mount Zion Cemetery."

Criticisms:

- A. Using a qualitative assessment on the survey, <u>the results of all youth program</u> <u>participants</u>, suggested the following changes to:
 - 1) construct a more concise schedule and start team building workshops earlier;
 - 2) allow youth researchers more time on their group projects;
 - 3) give the students more flexible amount of individual field research time;
 - 4) have shorter lectures with more spontaneous peer to peer activity.
- B. Using a quantitative and a qualitative assessment on the survey, the results of all community members, professionals and participating mentors, suggested the following changes to:
 - 1) have a space where sound production and amplification are not issues;
 - 2) expand the program to recruit more youth who can benefit in partnership with DC public schools to a larger outreach of students;
 - 3) extend the program longer for youth to do more field research;
 - 4) Recruit more younger mentors (college students or recent college grads) for the project who can also relate to the youths' current generation.

Methodology:

We use action research methods involved with collecting quantitative data and the qualitative study of evidence based outcomes such as: a) participant portfolio presentations b) experiential learning workshop portfolio rubrics; c) development of products; d) field notes in journals; e) pre & post surveys; f) panel judge scores and assessment based on rubrics criteria; g) completion of project work goals; h) open ended responses; i) and narratives.



FINAL RESULTS

In 2012, as a result of their research and community outreach, DC youths emerged as leaders and scholars to educate a global community about their local history by developing their intellectual talents and creative genius as researchers to engage in a social good using a diverse public forum. Also, the youth produced interactive online newsletter increasing an awareness of the historical significance of the endangered 200 year African American burial site of Mt. Zion Female Union Band Cemetery.

12 | Page 2012 All Copyrights Reserved by I SAW! DC™

2012 FISCAL YEAR FUNDING SOURCES FOR MARCH 1, 2012 THRU APRIL 1, 2013

Summary:

<u>I SAW! DC began its 2012 fiscal season on March 1, 2012 thru April 1, 2013. In report of the fiscal year's completion:</u>

- a) Four organizations awarded mini grants to I SAW DC's programming;
- b) I SAW! DC's staff provided personal cash contributions and private donations to meet any budget shortfall associated with funding video equipment, metro cards, renting private bus transportation to field learning sites as well as paying consultant fees for workshop presenters and awarding outstanding youth lead researchers stipends for their valuable input;
- c) We also purchased supplies needed for promotional materials and paid youth film consultants to do final post production editing on the video documentary project; and
- d) Refreshments were provided by personal cash contributions of staff.

Funding Grant Sources Total = \$25,500 (Not including I SAW! staff cash donations):

- 1) \$20,000 *DC Department of Human Services*
- 2) \$2,500 *Humanities Council of Washington DC*
- 3) \$2,000 *The DC Diversity Fund*
- 4) \$1,000 *Generations United*

In Kind Services Total=\$9,100:

- 5) \$7,800 *Donated volunteered hours of in kind service hours by project director (\$4,800); youth development director (\$2,400); and music consultant (\$600) *
- 6) \$1,200 *In kind serviced discounted by contracted AAA Bus Company*
- 7) \$100 *In kind services by Base Camp Printing*

Line Item Budget is available at request with attached supporting documents

2012 FISCAL YEAR EXPENDITURES:

LINE ITEM #	CATEGORIES	DC HUMANITIES COUNCIL	DIVERSITY FUND	DC HUMAN SERVICES	UNITED	DONOR/ VOLUN.
<u>BUDGETED</u> EXPENSE	<u>DISBURSEMENTS</u>	<u>CASH</u>	<u>CASH</u>	<u>CASH</u>	<u>CASH</u>	<u>IN-KIND</u>
1	HONORARIA	\$350	\$0	\$0	\$220	\$0
2	SALARY/WAGES	\$1,100 Program planning	\$O	\$14,350 Historians/ Consultants/ Filming Prod.		\$7,800
3	<u>TRAVEL</u>	\$6.51 Taxi fare to Mt. Zion Site	\$370 Taxi fare & Metro Fares	\$1,285 Bus rental for fieldwor	\$0	\$1,200
4	<u>SUPPLIES</u>	\$174.7 4	\$ 0	\$1,660 Camera equip. computer	\$O	\$O
5	PUBLICITY	\$0	\$120	\$0	\$0	\$0
6	PRINTING	\$0	\$180	\$0	\$0	\$100
7	PROMOTION	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
8	COPYING	\$ 0	\$200	\$ 0	\$0	\$0
9	<u>POSTAGE</u>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
10	<u>TELEPHONE</u> /internet/ <u>Research fees</u>		\$399 one/Internet search fees	\$0	\$0	\$0
11	<u>EQUIPMENT</u> <u>FACILITIES</u> <u>RENTAL</u>	\$450 insurance	\$0	\$2,000 Rental fees	Ş 0	\$0
12	EVALUATION	\$0	\$581	\$0	\$537	\$0
13	<u>OTHER (EXPLAIN)</u>	\$250 Youth NYC Conference Leadership	\$150.75 Fiscal Sponsor Fee	\$705 Stipends for top teen leaders	\$75 +\$168 Fiscal Sponsor Fees	-
<u>TOTALS:</u>		\$2,500 DC Humanities Council	\$2,000 Diversity Fund	\$20,000 Human Serv. Grant	\$1,000 Gen. United	\$9,100 In kind

2013 TIMELINE & PROPOSED FUTURE OUTCOMES

Community planning sessions are scheduled starting May 2013 for I SAW! DC's third annual youth led community based education project. During a rotation of six weeks; historical sites, museums, libraries, educators, historians and artists host daily summer experiential learning sessions that begin July 1st, 2013 thru August 9th, 2013. Funding and collaborative partnerships will be secured to sustain and expand project outreach and activities during I SAW! DC's 2013 fiscal year which begins April 1st, 2013 to March 31st, 2014. Youth leaders will continue to educate a global community in public forums about their local history and promote social action with a web based interactive online newsletter to:

- a) increase awareness of DC's cultural heritage/identity;
- b) bring attention to endangered historical sites; and
- c) preserve the legacies of displaced communities with their contributions to a nation's capital in the midst of rapidly changing neighborhoods.
- The interactive website newsletter- **Experience DC-Youth Visions** will give DC teens the power to uncover and reveal the history of DC through their own eyes as they educate a global community about DC's cultural identity in the midst of the Districts' rapidly changing neighborhoods and help preserve the historical legacy of displaced communities and the lasting contributions of their inhabitants to the nation's greater history.
- Youth scholars will also plan to screen their research documentary video at the African American Civil War Museum and at their own local DC libraries.
- Youth leaders will take an active role in social entrepreneurship and innovation to generate donor sponsorship, visibility and community based support to sustain I SAW! DC's ongoing youth led program with the goal of at least fundraising \$10,000 through monthly subscriptions to the youth produced interactive newsletter.
- Research scholars will engage with local news media, radio and television to educate and inform the community about historical significance of the Mt. Zion Female Union Band Cemetery.
- Youth research scholars will led an effort to do something that will have a direct impact to preserve the history, such as a organizing a beautification day.

16 | Page 2012 All Copyrights Reserved by I SAW! DC™