



## **CultureWorks Student Advisory Council**

*This document lays out the context, history, importance, membership requirements, and code of conduct for Student Advisory Council.*

### **The prompting vision for Student Advisory Council:**

*What would happen if we provided youth support and opportunities to take a greater leadership role in the creation and curation of their own arts activities within community arts organizations? How might arts education and engagement be more effective if youth partnered with the adults as co-creators in the process? What other youth skills could we foster through a different approach to youth engagement in the arts?<sup>1</sup>*



### **The History of Student Advisory Council**

In the fall of 2016, 8 youth were selected to take part in a new CultureWorks Student Advisory Council, sponsored by the Neutral Zone, in Ann Arbor, MI and funded by the MCACA New Leaders Council. The aim of this group is to increase engagement and leadership by teens by encouraging their participation in program planning, student recruitment, organizational decision making, event promotion, and fundraising.

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<sup>1</sup> adapted from *The Neutral Zone's Teen Advisory Handbook*

### The intrinsic value of Student Advisory Council:

For CultureWorks:

- SAC builds a powerful group of youth who advocate for a meaningful youth voice.
- SAC creates an ongoing structure to support meaningful youth participation.
- SAC ensures that youth ideas are a central part of the decision-making for creating and improving programs.

For Students:

- Through SAC, students can see how **organizational decisions** are made.
- Through SAC, students can take on **meaningful leadership roles**.
- Through SAC, students can **develop 21<sup>st</sup>Century skills**; things like initiative, strategic thinking, innovation, and decision-making.
- Through SAC, students can become **invested in their community to create positive change**.
- Through SAC, students can **grow as artists** and eventual creative professionals.



### Membership requirements & responsibilities for Student Advisors:

Membership on the Student Advisory Council is by selection, application, and invitation, and requires a one-year commitment, which can be renewed annually upon re-applying and re-affirmation of commitment.

A person may join the Student Advisory Council if they:

- Are a High School student who is at least entering their freshman year.

- Have taken a cumulative minimum of two classes with CultureWorks.
- Has exhibited upstanding behavior in previous CW contexts, preemptively compliant with the Code of Conduct (see below).
- Shows a passion for both professional development and creative growth.

Council meetings are held on Mondays during the Fall and Spring semesters, during which we:

- Learn and practice strategies for fundraising and recruitment.
- Participate in team building activities and learn from one another through art-based projects.
- Brainstorm, plan, and promote special events for CultureWorks.
- Make decisions regarding marketing, branding, and upcoming classes.
- Work on updates to our website and social media.
- Explore relevant topics and current events through the arts.



SAC members also participate in a weekend-long leadership retreat and one community service event during the year alongside making decisions at council meetings about the trajectory of CultureWorks.

### Code of Conduct for Student Advisors:

We value who you are and what you have to bring to CultureWorks and to the greater Holland community as a leader and a person of influence. We want to equip you in the best way possible for success as an individual, as an artist, and as a global citizen. Therefore, we care about helping you conduct yourself in a way that benefits you as a future professional. For us that means:

- Using appropriate and professional behavior in public places and during SAC meetings, and any time that you are invited to participate in a CW-related event. This entails:
  - PG language
  - No PDA
  - Having a professional posture for listening, learning, and engaging during times of teaching and special speakers
  - Engaging with good questions and ready-to-learn attitude during field trips
  - Being present, and mindful of your technology use
- Using appropriate language in public places and during SAC meetings and any CW-related group chats or communications on Discord and Instagram. This means:
  - Refraining from all discussions of personal/private/intimate nature, especially personal relationships of a sexual nature
  - Refraining from vocabulary that is degrading toward others' sexual identity, sexual orientation, or body parts
  - Refraining from name calling and labeling, even in a joking manner
  - Using vocabulary and language that encourages, draws out the best in others, and affirms others' right to be who they are (without prescribing who they should be)
- Using positive, affirming, encouraging content whenever communicating in a SAC affiliated group chat or meeting. Memes, videos, music that is shared in class, in CW meetings, and on SAC group platforms should be PG, uplifting, and hospitable to everyone in the group.
- Respecting that each student at CW comes from different backgrounds. This means we need to be aware of how our behaviors, language, and choices affect others and choose to affect others positively, rather than offensively

