

# U.S. Youth Media Past 40 Years

- National Milestones
- Publications, Studies and Reports
- Local Milestones

**1967** | The invention of Sony's 1/2 inch black and white portable video camera "portapak" begins to be used at emerging youth media organizations (including Film Club, Movie Bus, and Channel of Soul in New York).

**Late 1960's** | In the first youth media mass movement, more than 1,000 high school underground newspapers spring up. They give teens a place to write about the Vietnam War, school dress codes, feminism, racism, sexuality, and other topics that are banned in traditional school papers.

**Early 1970's** | Youth Liberation of Ann Arbor, a left-wing teen-led organization, establishes a publishing arm, setting a precedent for the youth media field both in the U.S. and globally.

**1976** | While covering the Democratic National Convention, the focus of the organization changed forever when a 13-year-old *Children's Express* reporter scooped the news that Walter Mondale would be Jimmy Carter's running mate. From then on, CE reporters concentrated on hard-hitting political and social topics.

**1985** | New York State Council on the Arts begins funding youth media.

**1988** | The Supreme Court upheld in *Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier* the authority of public high school administrators at Hazelwood East High School in St. Louis to censor stories in a school-sponsored student newspaper.

**1992** | Aspen Institute's Communications and Society Program convenes 30 leaders in the fledgling media literacy movement at the Wye Conference Center outside of Washington, D.C.; publishes the *Aspen Institute Report of the National Leadership Conference on Media Literacy*.

**1994** | An online web site established within the College of Education at the University of Oregon, the Media Literacy Online Project, provides one of the first resources related to media literacy in the country.

**1996** | Wingspread Conference on Media, Arts and School Reform takes place in Racine, Wisconsin.

1967

**Late 1960's** | The Southwest Iowa Learning Resources Center publishes "*Media Now*," a curriculum designed to introduce high school students to media.

1970

**1969** | After almost a decade of increasing student involvement in media, and a student-led social movement promoting student rights, the Supreme Court in *Tinker v. Des Moines* rules that young people do not "shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech at the schoolhouse gate."

**1971** | Young Filmmakers, in partnership with NYSCA, establishes the first public resource center, MERC (Media Equipment Resource Center), serving film and video makers of all ages.

1975

**1975** | The RFK Memorial helps Sister Ann Heintz and Craig Trygstad found *New Expression*, an independent, citywide teen paper in Chicago. Three years later, a city wide teen paper, *The Eye*, is founded in Wilmington, Delaware, with support from the RFK Memorial.

**1979** | ISTE hosts the First Annual National Educational Computing Conference in Iowa City, Iowa.

1980

**1982** | UNESCO issues The Grunwald Document, titled "The Challenge of Media Education."

1985

**1988** | The Assembly on Media Arts, part of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) publishes a newsletter called "Media Matters," which lasts 10 years.

1990

**Early 1990's** | A group of media artists, designers, and practitioners come together in the San Francisco Bay Area, CA. The Center for Digital Storytelling partnership grows out of the numerous collaborations and shared dialogues that occurred during this period.

1995

**1994** | The Freedom Forum Media Studies Center at Columbia University releases *Media Studies Journal: Children and The Media*.

**1996** | National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) convenes to connect youth media with literacy.

**1996** | The Community Art Center launches the "Do It Your Damn Self!!" National Youth Film and Video Festival.

1995

**1996** | A small collective of NYC organizations, including The Paley Center for Media (formerly the Museum of Television & Radio), Listen Up!, the Global Action Project, The Educational Video Center, Manhattan Neighborhood Network (MNN), Reel Works Teen Filmmaking, TRUCE and Downtown Community Television Center partner to establish the Urban Visionaries Film Festival.

**1998** | The National Association for Media Literacy Education (NAMLE) hosts its first convening.

**1999** | Youth Radio's seven-part *Emails from Kosovo* series ran on National Public Radio's Morning Edition. In March, President Bill Clinton quoted from the series in his radio address announcing U.S. participation in NATO's bombing campaign.

**1999** | The Twin Cities Youth Media Network is formed.

**1999** | The first Midwest Zine Conference brings together a network of organizations and individuals that eventually becomes the Allied Media Conference (AMC).

**2000** | The Native American Film + Video Festival launches the first Native youth media makers in their twenty year history.

**2000** | The Museum of Television & Radio (now the Paley Center for Media) partners with Downtown Community Television Center to host Docu-Jam, a youth documentary showcase that is now in its ninth year.

**2001** | Five cable access centers with active youth media programs come together to start the National Youth Media Access Project (NYMAP).

**2002** | The Sundance Institute partners with Spy Hop Productions for Reel Stories: Sundance Institute's Youth Documentary Workshop at Spy Hop Productions.

**2002** | Human Rights Watch begins including youth media in its International Film Festival.

**2003** | International Youth Foundation releases the report, "What Works in Youth Media: Case Studies from Around the World," with a foreword by Christiane Amanpour.

**2003** | Stuart Foundation starts making grants to youth media in California.

**2003** | The Educational Development Center (EDC) publishes "Self-Evaluation in Youth Media and Technology Programs: A Report to the Time Warner Foundation."

**2004** | OSI & Surdna Foundation publishes "Youth Media's Impact on Audience & Channels of Distribution."

**2004** | OSI & Surdna Foundation co-host a youth media convening in New York City.

2000

2005

**1997** | A group of media literacy experts create the Partnership for Media Education, which holds two professional-level media literacy conferences in 1997 and 1998. This group later becomes the Alliance for a Media Literate America (AMLA) in 2000.

**1997** | In Boston, youth media organizations form a network called Reel Eyes, that lasts for a year.

**1998** | ListenUp! youth media network website is launched as a project of Learning Matters, Inc.

**1999** | OSI's Youth Media Program/Youth Initiatives is launched as a strategy to support opportunities for authentic self-expression while teaching young people the practical and ethical aspects of journalism.

**2000** | The National Federation of Community Broadcasters received its first year of funding from OSI to run the National Youth in Radio Training Project, launching an annual series of workshops to engage young people in producing top quality public radio content for local stations all over the country.

**2000** | Youth Media practitioners convene at Summit 2000: Children, Youth and the Media, in Toronto, Canada.

**2000** | MNN creates the first access channel produced by youth for youth, called "Youth Channel."

**2001** | Open Society Institute (OSI), the Readers Digest Fund, the Surdna Foundation and the Ford Foundation partner to support the publication, "Sticking With my Dreams: Defining and Refining Youth Media in the 21st Century."

**2002** | Time Warner Foundation begins funding youth media initiatives in New York City.

**2003** | Public Access Corporation of DC (DCTV) forms a network of local youth media programs and dedicates a youth programming block on it's channel.

**2003** | National Alliance for Media Arts & Culture (NAMAC) publishes "A Closer Look: Case Studies from the Youth Media Initiative," a three year initiative that contributes to the growing knowledge base of the field.

**2003** | Steve Goodman, founder of the Educational Video Center (EVC), publishes *Teaching Youth Media: A Critical Guide to Literacy, Video Production and Social Change*.

**2004** | OSI publishes three white papers: Erin O'Reilly's, "Youth on the Airwaves," Keith Hefner's, "Print Media by and for Teens," and Diana Coryat and Steve Goodman's, "Developing the Youth Media Field: Perspectives from Two Practitioners." OSI also curates DVD: "Youth Made Media: I Make Media Because..."

**2005** | OSI announces that as of March, its Media Program has made 209 grants to 83 organizations. That same year, OSI launches *Youth Media Reporter*, a web journal to spotlight the growing influence of youth-produced media.

**2005** | OSI & the Surdna Foundation publish "Youth Media Evaluation Toolkit."

**2005** | The National Media Consortium, Adobe Systems, and the George Lucas Educational Foundation host the 21st Century Literacy Summit in San Jose, California.

**2006** | EVC, in partnership with EDC, launches the Youth Media Learning Network (YMLN)—an initiative intended to promote professional development for the youth media field on a national scale.

**2006** | OSI awards the Academy for Educational Development (AED) new managers of *Youth Media Reporter* (YMR), which becomes a multi-media professional journal that documents the best practices in the youth media field.

**2006** | Listen Up! launches *Youth Media in Practice*, an online gallery of youth media and its practices, a curricula gallery, glossary and resource archive.

**2007** | NYMAP launches Youth Video Exchange Network (YVXN), a web-based initiative to share media using digital file sharing methods.

**2007** | The MacArthur Foundation begins to publish several studies on digital media and young people, covering issues from civic life online, learning race and ethnicity, to identity and digital media.

**2008** | YMR releases the first annual print version of the journal and announces a new focus on regional investigations of youth media practice for the following year.

**2008** | Human Rights Watch begins partnering with Adobe Youth Voices for a traveling festival called "Youth Producing Change."

**2009** | AED, in partnership with the McCormick Foundation, releases the "National Youth Media Summit Official Report-Out;" a "State of the Youth Media Field Report;" and a Call-to-Action Investment Prospectus for the youth media field.

**2009** | *Journal of Media Literacy Education* launches its inaugural issue.

2005

**2005** | NAMAC hosts the Youth Media Leadership Institute.

**2005** | NAMAC revisits the organizations first surveyed for "A Closer Look" in 2003, and documents this work in the Youth Media Archive Database. This continuing research documents the needs and direction of the field of youth media over time.

**2005** | The Tribeca Film Institute initiates its youth programs.

**2006** | OSI publishes "Investing in Youth Media: A Guide for Grantmakers," distributed by the Grantmakers in Film + Electronic Media

**2006** | The Adobe Foundation launches Adobe Youth Voices to support youth media in and out of schools.

**2006** | The Stuart Foundation publishes "I Exist. I Am Visible. I Matter."

**2006** | The Regional Youth Media Arts + Education Consortium, a network of youth media and arts educators in Boston begins, supported by the Institute for Contemporary Art.

**2007** | The Youth Media Fellowship, with the support of the YMLN, is inaugurated with the support of OSI and EVC, and hosts 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 cohorts.

**2007** | The Chicago Youth Voices Network—a collective of youth media organizations and grantees of the McCormick Foundation—launches officially. The McCormick Foundation is central in the organizing.

**2008** | Kathleen Tyner expands on the research conducted first for NAMAC's 2003 edition of "A Closer Look" as part of the Youth Media Initiative. This research is arranged to publish in the third print version of *Youth Media Reporter* in 2010.

**2009** | AED, in partnership with the McCormick Foundation, hosts the National Youth Media Summit in Lake Forest, Illinois.

**2009** | A 12-person steering committee crafts the "2009 National Youth Media Summit Working Paper," supported by YMR/AED and the McCormick Foundation.

**2009** | The MIT Press, in partnership with the Monterey Institute for Technology and Education, begins publishing the *International Journal of Learning and Media*.

2010