Our video training program for low-income youth begins in the West Garfield neighborhood under the name, The Alternative Schools Network Video Project, a program of the Alternative Schools Network.

Everything Must Change, a video shot by 10 and 11-year-old students, examines the West Garfield neighborhood and proposes positive changes that could be implemented. The video is hailed in the local press for its innovative approach and later wins the Electronic Kid Film and Video Festival.

Community TV Network is incorporated as a separate 501(C)3 organization, while housed in the offices of the Alternative Schools Network in Uptown.

La Esperanza, our first video in color, follows the creation of the A La Esperanza mural. The video was created by students from Latino Youth Alternative High School, with help from Denise Zaccardi as video instructor, editing instructor Laura Litten, and technical advisor Mike Popadic. The video would later be showcased in an exhibition by the National Museum of Mexican Art, entitled 40 Años: A La Esperanza.

CTVN youth cover Harold Washington’s race for mayor. Running with the Mayor, a video created by students, documents this campaign for office by Chicago’s first African-American mayor.

With the coming of cable TV in Chicago and the Chicago Access Network, youth producers from Latino Youth Alternative High School documented the making of that symbol in the 1980s.

“WELCOME TO THE PEACE HOUSE” screened in Washington DC, as part of the first Smithsonian Museum African-American Film Festival. This youth produced documentary has received multiple awards, including the Chicago award from the Chicago International Ciné Youth Film Festival.

Two CTVN films were screened in the Summer 2019 Movies In the Park Film Festival hosted by the Chicago Park District. Youth Producer, El Concepción screened her award winning documentary, “HOW TO BE A MAN,” and the historic documentary “OFF THE WALL,” produced in the 1970s by young people at the Ruiz Belvis Cultural Center High School.

The DuSable Museum screened several of the South Shore High School youth produced films as part of its African-American youth art exhibit Cultural Identity: “IT’S ALL ABOUT THE ART. AFRICAN-AMERICAN Y.” This exhibit is on display through March, 2020.
JOURNALISM PROGRAM

CTVN’s journalism program is infused in all of our programs. This year students deepened their critical thinking skills with advanced fact checking skills, including the utilization of data scraping as tools to produce trend video pieces concerning issues teens are most interested in. Some pieces include a rise in more teens friendly TV shows starring people of color, an increase of cultural appreciation versus cultural appropriation, and an increasing interest in a push for later school times. CTVN formed a new partnership with tech start-up Muck Rock and with the Chicago Reporter, an investigative journalism magazine.

IN-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

TRUMAN MIDDLE COLLEGE
Youth learned the importance of persistence and hard work, despite the polar vortex interrupting their classroom schedule. They produced four news pieces covering topics including teen mental health, police brutality, immigration policy and violence in Uptown. They also worked on two projects adapting a scene from a short story, and two final narrative films covering the issues that cause previously incarcerated individuals to end up back in jail, and school bullying.

SULLIVAN HOUSE HIGH SCHOOL
In this Avalon Park program, students learned how to cover their school’s basketball team as sports journalists. They gained experience with both sports interviews and capturing action shots during the games.

IN-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

TRUMAN MIDDLE COLLEGE
Youth learned the importance of persistence and hard work, despite the polar vortex interrupting their classroom schedule. They produced four news pieces covering topics including teen mental health, police brutality, immigration policy and violence in Uptown. They also worked on two projects adapting a scene from a short story, and two final narrative films covering the issues that cause previously incarcerated individuals to end up back in jail, and school bullying.

SULLIVAN HOUSE HIGH SCHOOL
In this Avalon Park program, students learned how to cover their school’s basketball team as sports journalists. They gained experience with both sports interviews and capturing action shots during the games.

1993
The End of the Nightstick: Confronting Police Brutality in Chicago, a timely topic of intense national interest, is produced by CTVN with Peter Kammer, Cyndi Moran, and Leo Schuler. It won a Silver Plaque at the Chicago International Film Festival. It is later aired on PBS’ POV series.

1994
Hard Cover is featured on NBC Nightly News with Tom Brokaw as the focus of their “America Close-Up” segment.

1998
Rosa Parks: Mother of a Movement, a video featuring one of America’s most influential people, is produced by CTVN’s students with Rosa Parks, winner of first place awards in the documentary category at the SoYou Win $50 Self National Film Festival in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

2003
CTVN purchases its Youth Media Center complete with a classroom, an editing suite, and an office space for the staff. The staff gives Hard Cover their own space to produce and edit their episodes.

2004
Hard Cover receives the Coming Up Taller Award at a ceremony in the White House from the President’s Committee on the Arts and Humanities, National Endowment for the Arts, National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services for superior after school programs for at-risk youth.

2009
Our Hidden Culture, a video by youth in the summer program, became an Internet sensation! The video explores all forms of sexual violence and silencing - from cátering to human trafficking - and how they are all woven together under a bigger concept called rape culture. In the few weeks after its release, the video received over 1,000 hits on Hard Cover’s YouTube page.

2014
CTVN staff and students were honored to host Nilson Juwe Hard Kimi, an Indigenous activist and youth leader visiting from the Amazon. The visiting filmmaker screened his latest film and entertained questions from the students, emphasizing the importance of media in telling first person stories.

2017
Welcome to the Peace House, a documentary on “I Grow Chicago,” wins the Chicago Award at the Cine Youth Fest. The youth-produced discussed their project for a segment on FOX News 32 Chicago. The film was later selected for the 2018 Smithsonian American Film fest in Washington D.C.

After School Programs and Summer Programs

CTVN YOUTH MEDIA CENTER:
Youth learned advanced film production and journalism research skills including: how to use a 360 camera, edit motion graphics and animation, and how to scrape data to supplement their journalism videos. Journalist Mina Bloom of Block Club Chicago and gave the students feedback on their story ideas.

FENGER ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL
Fenger youth learned how to produce their own vox pops and breaking news videos in their journalism intensive program. Some videos produced include live reporting from the Taste of Chicago and a short documentary. “A Penny for Our Thoughts, A Penny for Our Arts,” about a black-owned community youth art center in Chicago’s Englewood community.

PROGRESSIVE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY
Students learned the importance of turning an interview into a conversation. Two thought-provoking pieces on non-traditional ways of coping with depression and cell phone addiction were created. In the summer program, visiting professionals offered advice for TV and Journalism careers: Mike Mabbott and Theodore Roseman of Harpo Productions, Chicago Crusader City Editor, Erick Johnson and two Chicago Crusader interns presented their wisdom.

SOUTH SHORE INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL
Young people learned about investigative tools in their documentary intensive program. The summer program focused on remix culture. Using our cable show archives, young people matched their current topics with youth produced videos from the 1980s. Students chose issues from the past that remain pertinent to teens today. Topics include colorism, body image, dress code, and mental health.

ANTONIA PANTOJA, ASPIRA OF ILLINOIS HIGH SCHOOL
In this summer program, students produced a series of documentaries using journalistic practices on teen dating, youth soccer, bullying, and North Side versus South Side pizza.
HARD COVER: VOICES AND VISIONS OF CHICAGO’S YOUTH

Hard Cover is CTVN’s youth produced cable access TV show and Youtube channel. A new show is curated, produced and distributed every 2 weeks by CTVN youth staff. The episode collects recently completed videos from all of CTVN’s programs and organizes them together into shows for distribution to CAN TV in Chicago and Phillycam in Philadelphia.

2019 SCREENINGS

• BLACK CINEMA HOUSE
• DUSABLE MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY
• HUMBOLDT PARK MOVIES IN THE PARK, CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT
• NATIONAL MUSEUM OF MEXICAN ART
• NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE, WASHINGTON D.C.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

SUFFRAGE AT 16 is a multimedia marketing project developed in partnership with youth from Vote 16 Illinois. The project used video, a Twitter town hall, and Snapchat’s geospace advertising tools. Through these tools high school students were recruited across Cook County to join a growing movement seeking to push to lower the voting age to 16 for municipal elections.

THE GOOD OF CHICAGO will be a series of videos highlighting goodness of a group or person in each of Chicago’s neighborhoods. The first in the series was produced and is about the Humboldt Park neighborhood. This video focuses on the Puerto Rican community and its Chicago history.
OVER 400 YOUNG PEOPLE PARTICIPATED IN OUR MEDIA PRODUCTION PROGRAMS THIS YEAR. WE ARE MOST GRATEFUL FOR YOUR CONTINUED GENEROUS SUPPORT.

FUNDERS
Chicago Digital Media Production Fund
The Chicago Community Foundation - Hive Grant
The Chicago Community Trust - Smart Growth Grant
The Chicago Learning Exchange
City of Chicago, Department of Family Support Services
Andrew and Alice Fischer Charitable Trust
The Illinois Arts Council, a State Agency
Illinois Humanities
Robert R. McCormick Foundation
The Sage Foundation

IN-KIND DONATIONS
Chipotle Mexican Grill
Theresa Campagna
Matthew Cassel
Chicago Park District
DuSable
Douglas Hall
Damian Iordanov
Roberto Lopez
National Museum of Mexican Art
National Museum of African American Art
Megan Powers
Stony Island Arts Bank
Morrie Warshawski

SPECIAL PROJECTS YOUTH VIDEO PRODUCERS
Cherakee Bailey
Danielle Balcita
Audreanna Bolton
El Concepción
Nioco DuBose
Alexa García-Palacios
Hayley Hawkins
Aaron McCullogh-Bradshaw
Isaac Perez

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF
Damian Iordanov
Denise Zaccardi, PhD
Executive Director

COLLABORATORS
After School Matters
Alternative Schools Network
Michael Hannan

CONSULTANTS
Elsie Hernandez
Vedran Residbegovic

INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS
Michael Anzaldi
Patrick Battel
Christopher Benshoof
Brian Cory
Doug Clevenger
Mary Deweyer, Career Success Services
Sharon Feigon
Christine Fuentes
Alex Gorfinke
Nancy Juda
David Landeck
Ron Norinsky
Lorraine Owles
Richard Peloquin
Kate Pravera
Gordon Quinn
Stephen M. Rose and Anne L. D’Ursu-Rose
Dahlia Rudavsky
Kathryn L. Simon
Teresa Tamura

COLLEGE INTERN
Keyshawn Fields, Chicago State University

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Lisa Caridine, Health Resources, University of Illinois
Laurie Little, Faculty/Filmmaker, DePaul University/Luminist Films
Tony Medici, Videographer
iJazz Media
Toyce Mizelle, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago
Amber Milan Watson, Producer, BET/Jax Media

MARKETING COMMITTEE
Lindsey Gerber
Matthew Ibalio
Oscar Montesdeoca

MARKETING
Alex Brinkman-Gramigna

VIDEO INSTRUCTORS
Chloe Fourte
Brandon Johnson
Jacob Klippenstein
Jon Mueller
Mary Reid
Eli Rudavsky
Bill Sacco
Jason Tompkins

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF
Damian Iordanov
Denise Zaccardi, PhD
Executive Director

CONSULTANTS
James Pfluecke
Karen Pravera
GUEST SPEAKERS
Brian Ashby
Mina Bloom
Liliane Calfee
Adeshina Emmanuelle
Felicia Holman
Erick Johnson
Morgan Johnson
Ben Kolak
Mike Mabbutt
Deborah Payne
Lauren Ponto
Theodore Roseman
Yvonne Welbon

COMMUNITY TV NETWORK
2418 W BLOOMINGDALE AVE
CHICAGO, IL 60647
PHONE: (773) 278-8500
INFO@CTVNETWORK.ORG