

**FREE IN-PERSON & ONLINE
ARTS PROGRAMMING
FOR LGBTQ+ AND ALLIED YOUTH**

THE
FUTURE
URE
PERFECT
PROJECT





We envision a world where every young person feels safe, seen, and celebrated in their home and community.

OUR MISSION

We believe that the self-expression of LGBTQIA+ young people is a declaration of a better future for us all. Utilizing the arts as a pathway for that self-expression, The Future Perfect Project is a co-creative network that offers queer-centered art workshops to young people around the world, and produces writing and media content by and about the youth we serve. By amplifying queer young voices, we are transforming the narrative about young people and helping them articulate a future only they can see.

OUR OFFERINGS

The Future Perfect Project offers free arts and performance workshops around the United States for LGBTQ+ youth and allies ages 13-24. **These free, grant-funded workshops are provided at no cost to participants.** Read on for an outline of our most popular offerings. Workshops can also be customized to suit your organization's needs.



Click [here](#) to opt-in to our online network to register for programming, stay up to date on events, and learn about new offerings.

ONLINE WORKSHOPS



WRITER'S ROOM

An open invitation free bi-monthly writing workshop available for LGBTQ+ and allied youth that focuses on developing writing skills for creatives of all backgrounds and experiences.

Writer's Room gathers online to study queer writers, respond to prompts inspired by their writing, and honor our inner artists by creating a pathway from our insides

to the outside world. Every other week, a queer guest-facilitator will be welcomed into the space to share their personal writing practice. This workshop is great for those who are just discovering their voice, as well as for those who want to continue expanding and developing their artistic point of view. We invite anyone to come connect with the community, share, reflect, and respond. [Click here to see selected student work from the workshops.](#)

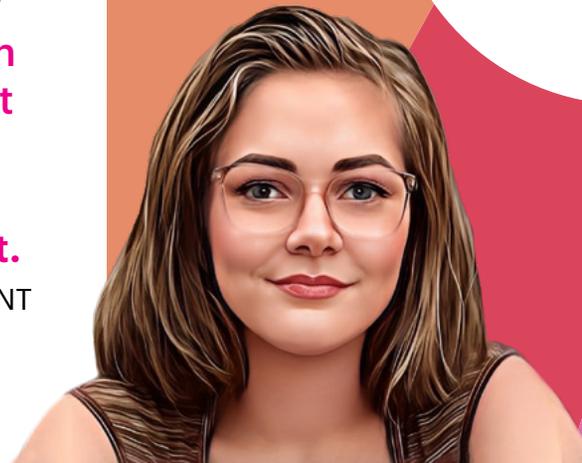
“ I had never considered myself a writer. I was really good at it in grade school/middle school...and then I just kinda of dropped it... [Writer's Room] brought it back like a storm...I didn't think it was my thing, and then Future Perfect made it my thing. I can't imagine my life without The Future Perfect Project.

—SARAH (MINNEAPOLIS, MN) FPP WRITER'S ROOM PARTICIPANT



300+

students enrolled
in our FPP Online
Network



ONLINE WORKSHOPS



FUTURE PERFECT RECORDS

An application-based, 10-session online workshop for LGBTQIA+ singer-songwriters, producers and musicians ages 14-22. Selected applications will create a full-length album of original music together to be distributed on all platforms.

Participants in this program collaborate to create a full length album and learn from queer guest facilitators in the music industry about the ins and outs of their specialty. Our first full-length album, *Not What You Pictured*, is a compilation of their individual songs, released in 2022. FPP brought the young artists to New York City where they performed in concert at Lincoln Center and with SoFar Sounds. They also had the opportunity to meet one another in person for the first time.

[Click here to listen to previous albums from FP Records.](#)



+12K

streams of the FP Records discography with **15** young LGBTQ+ musicians mentored



FP Records has given me so many opportunities to grow my craft, as well as myself. The support I've gotten from FPP is like no other and I am so grateful that I have a space where I can express my true and authentic self.

—AJ (LONG BEACH, CA) FP RECORDS SINGER-SONGWRITER, NOT WHAT YOU PICTURED



ONLINE WORKSHOPS



PODCAST

An application-based, online workshop for LGBTQIA+ writers, journalists, producers and musicians ages 14-22. Selected applicants create a 6-episode season of an original podcast to be distributed on all platforms.

The team at The Future Perfect Project has handed the mic to LGBTQ+ youth with I'm Feeling Queer Today (IFQT), a podcast that explores themes and issues through a queer youth lens. A combination of original poetry, one-on-one interviews, media reviews, comedy segments and more, IFQT is setting out to be the best representation of queer youth culture today, directly from the youth themselves.

In Episode 1, the youth explore the concept of Queer Joy. As host Logan Waugh states, "In a time that is so dark for so many people, we felt it was important to uplift the happiness, community and acceptance which accompanies our queerness."

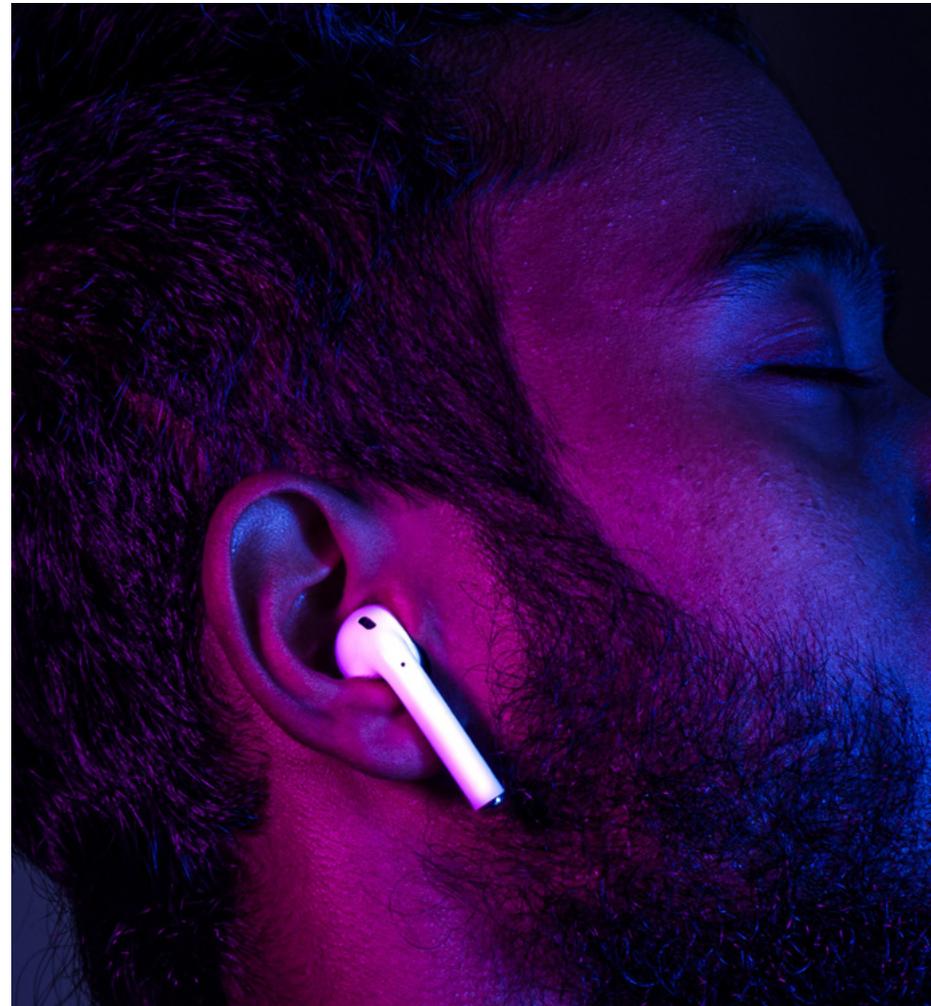
From opening to closing, each segment is thoughtfully produced and crafted through a powerful artistic lens.



Through The Future Perfect Project, I have gained a new understanding for how influential the podcast medium is. The beauty of it, really, is the human connection that translates through audio format (as opposed to written or visual). The listener can hear the laughter, joy, and humanity in the podcasters' voices.

—CHAI TURNER

WRITER/CO-PRODUCER, I'M FEELING QUEER TODAY



IN-PERSON WORKSHOPS

We partner with organizations such as LGBTQ centers, community centers, middle schools, high schools, and colleges to provide engaging, uplifting and transformative creative workshop experiences. Workshops can be one hour, one day or a one week residency depending on your organization's needs.

LOUD & QUEER

We believe that many LGBTQ+ young people are living in a future that hasn't yet arrived, and as a result they are often bumping up against the norms in our society. In this workshop, we get to speak our minds and unburden our hearts through writing or songwriting—transforming our most vulnerable truth into pieces of revelatory art.

ARTIVISM

How can we use our words, songs, and images to create a world we want to see and inspire other people to do the same? Learn about queer trailblazers whose work shook the world and dare to create art that will give voice to your concerns while exploring ways we can use art & self-expression to promote social justice and create real social change.

IT'S YOUR SUPERPOWER

Every superhero has an origin story. Each one is totally unique. Through free-writing and prompts, we will explore our own origins as everyday heroes, and celebrate the ways we turn tragedy into triumph, self-consciousness into self-confidence, and pain into power.



The work that The Future Perfect Project does with LGBTQ+ young people is amazing. Within 45 minutes the youth had written lyrics about their own life experiences and collaborated to weave the lyrics together into song. FPP's caring spirit and great facilitation skills allow so much creativity to flow around tough, personal topics.

—CHRIS PAULSEN,
CEO, INDIANA YOUTH GROUP

What's your super power?



"Hope. A never ending hope that the future holds amazing things."

—Juliana (New Haven, CT)
In-Person Workshop Participant



"My words."

—Levi (Philadelphia, PA)
In-Person Workshop Participant



"My voice."

—Lucian (Philadelphia, PA)
In-Person Workshop Participant

SPECIAL PROGRAMS



QUEER YOUTH ANIMATED

An episodic series of two-minute films featuring diverse stories of the queer experience told firsthand by the youth themselves, animated by an entirely LGBTQIA+ team of professionals, most of whom identify closely to the interview subject.

The Future Perfect Project has handed the mic over to the next generation of LGBTQ+ youth, giving them the opportunity to talk about such topics as coming out, blended families, relationships, peer acceptance, homophobia, activism, and more. The result are these two-minute animations that offer a vision of queer youth in which they are safe, seen, and celebrated in their homes and communities. [Click here to view season one of Queer Youth Animated.](#)

“ We’re always changing, striving to better ourselves, finding new things that work for us. **I’m over the moon** to see this snapshot of my life immortalized by such a great team.

—FLETCHER (KANSAS CITY, MO) QUEER YOUTH ANIMATED STORYTELLER

+38K

Youtube channel views of original FPP content produced by and for LGBTQIA+ youth



Still from Fletcher's story featured in *Queer Youth Animated*



WHERE WE'VE BEEN

ALABAMA

- Magic City Acceptance Center, Birmingham

ARKANSAS

- DYSC (Diverse Youth for Social Change), Little Rock
- Central High School, Little Rock

CALIFORNIA

- Orange County School of the Arts, Santa Ana
- Canyon Crest Academy, San Diego

COLORADO

- Denver School of the Arts, Denver
- Strive Prep, Denver

CONNECTICUT

- New Haven Academy, New Haven
- Hartford Stage Company Youth Program,
- Watkinson School, Hartford
- True Colors LGBTQ Youth Conference, Storrs

INDIANA

- Greater Youth of Evansville
- Brownsburg High School, Brownsburg
- Herron High School, Indianapolis
- Indiana Youth Group, Indianapolis
- Park Tudor High School, Indianapolis

IOWA

- Iowa Youth Writing Program, Iowa City

KANSAS

- Lawrence Library, Lawrence
- Park Highland High, Topeka

MAINE

- Out Maine, Rockland

MASSACHUSETTS

- Fine Arts Work Center, Provincetown

MICHIGAN

- Michigan GSA Network
- Stand With Trans

MINNESOTA

- South High School, Minneapolis

MISSOURI

- Kansas City Repertory Youth Program, Kansas City
- Winnetonka High School, Kansas City

NEVADA

- The LGBTQIA2S+ Community Center of Southern Nevada

NEW YORK

- Kingston High School, Kingston
- Camp Lightbulb, NYC
- Professional Performing Arts School, NYC

NORTH CAROLINA

- Time Out Youth Center, Charlotte
- Inside Out LGBTQ Youth Center, Durham

PENNSYLVANIA

- High School of Creative and Performing Arts, Philadelphia

SOUTH CAROLINA

- Uplift LGBTQ+ Youth Outreach Center, Spartanburg

TENNESSEE

- Oasis Center for LGBT Youth, Nashville

TEXAS

- HATCH, LGBTQ Youth Center, Houston
- Tony's Place, Houston

UTAH

- Encircle Youth Summit, Lehi

WASHINGTON

- Mercer Island High School, Mercer Island
- Garfield High School, Seattle



“I can honestly say that we weren't prepared for the depth of love, empathy, and genuine care that The Future Perfect Project provided to our youth over those two days. I feel that many of our youth experienced a sense of healing provided by the activities that FPP shared. We love the Future Perfect Project!”

—**DEB FOREMAN,**
PRESIDENT / CO-FOUNDER
UPLIFT OUTREACH CENTER,
SPARTANBURG, SC

OUR STORY

I've been fortunate as co-founder of The Trevor Project to be on the front lines of change as several generations of young people have come of age. But in 2017, I teamed up with singer-songwriter, Ryan Amador and together we set out to travel the country and discovered that there was a generational shift in terms of LGBTQIA issues and we wanted to find out if it was happening everywhere. We called ourselves The Future Perfect Project and began visiting high schools and LGBTQ+ Youth Centers, providing youth with a safe space to engage in creative writing and performance. When possible, we facilitated a live performance for a larger community audience in an effort to help queer, trans and allied youth become more safe, seen and celebrated.

We added producers/facilitators, Julie Novak and Emma Sezlowsky to our FPP team as well as Operations Manager, Jon Wan. When the pandemic arrived and we could no longer travel, we managed to keep growing our community by adapting our workshops to an online format and giving them the opportunity to create art, as well as a chance to meet other like-minded young people from all over the country. While lawmakers are busy passing laws and proposing measures to limit the self expression of LGBTQ+ youth in their schools and communities, FPP has been handing the mic over to the next generation, giving them the opportunity to speak their truth and sing their songs of tomorrow.

In five years, we've reached thousands of young people, online and in-person, creating community through self-expression and social activism. Our in-person workshops have visited 100+ schools and LGBTQ+ Centers. We've 300+ registered into our FPP online network which feeds into our online workshops.

It seems the world is never quite ready to know what a younger generation sees or feels, but change happens when young people begin to age-up and make the future happen. The Future Perfect Project is providing this new next generation of LGBT and Questioning young people with the tools to tell us what they know, what they feel and what they see: and what they see is a future in which every person gets to be perfectly and fully themselves.

—Celeste Lecesne, Co-Founder and Artistic Director

OUR TEAM



CELESTE LECESNE (he/they) Artistic Director / Co-Founder

Celeste wrote the short film *TREVOR*, which won an Academy Award for Best Live Action Short. They are the co-founder of The Trevor Project, the only nationwide 24-hour suicide prevention and crisis intervention Lifeline for LGBT and Questioning youth. They have written three novels for young adults, and created *The Letter Q*, a collection of letters by queer writers written to their younger selves. An actor as well as a writer, Celeste has created several award winning solo shows including *The Absolute Brightness of Leonard Pelkey*, *Word of Mouth* and *One Man Band*. celestelecesne.com



RYAN AMADOR (he/him) Associate Artistic Director / Co-Founder

Ryan is a recording artist, songwriter, and theater-maker with three full length albums and five EP's of original music online. He is best known for his song "Instead" which has over six million listens on Spotify, as well as LGBT-related music videos "Define Me," "Spectrum," and "Loverboy," which have been featured in Huffington Post Queer Voices. Ryan is the recipient of a 2013 ASCAP Award for Songwriting and is a graduate of NYU's Theater Department. Ryan and Celeste are currently working on a musical about queer youth. ryanamador.com



JON WAN (he/they) Managing Director

Jon (Kiko) is a drag artist, host, comedian and songwriter performing all over New York City. They've been named by *Time Out* and *Paper Magazine* as a noted queer performer and feature in Gregory Kramer's *DOWNTOWN*, a portrait documentation of downtown life in New York City. At The Future Perfect Project, they weave together their passions for self-discovery, artistic expression, and arts administration to elevate and amplify the voices of young people and the collective future. kikosoiree.com



JULIE NOVAK (she/her) Producer / Facilitator / Graphic Design

Julie is a musician, writer, and performer who enjoys making people laugh, feel loved and consider their role in making the world a better place. Trained with a background in theatre, comedy and improv, she is co-founder of TMI Project, a non-profit offering transformative memoir workshops and performances where participants are encouraged to share the parts of their stories that they usually leave out. She is the host of No One Like You, a radio show and podcast where she interviews everyday heroes who share uplifting stories about turning their kryptonite into their superpower. julienovak.com



EMMA JAYNE SESLOWSKY (she/they) Producer / Facilitator / Social Media

Emma is an Emmy-nominated singer-songwriter, and Webby nominated podcast host and editor who's been featured everywhere—from Justin Bieber fragrance commercials to Coca Cola digital campaigns. Her single "Morning" premiered on PRIDE.com, who called it "a literal ball of queer sunshine." When she's not podcasting or singing, Emma's performing all around the country, hosting comedy and music variety shows, and taking on song commissions for private clients. emmajaynesings.com

CONTACT US

Amplify the voices of LGBTQ+ youth in your area!

For more information about our programs, booking a workshop at your school or organization, or to learn how you can get involved in our efforts to build a future where every young person is safe, seen, and celebrated in their home and community, email:

contact@thefutureperfectproject.org



“From the opening circle to the closing words, students were made to feel safe, included, and SEEN. The Future Perfect Project creates a safe space where they encourage students to be unapologetically themselves. This is often the first time they have met other students or adults who accept them just as they are. And this is often the first time they have really ever had hope for their futures.”

—**ANDREA CASPARI**, ENGLISH TEACHER / GSA MODERATOR,
WINNETONKA HIGH SCHOOL, KANSAS CITY, MO

