

THE
FUTURE
PERFECT
PROJECT

FREE
ONLINE
PROGRAMMING
FOR LGBTQ & ALLIED YOUTH

OUR PROGRAMS

Visit thefutureperfectproject.com to register

The Future Perfect Project Online Workshops (FPOW) are online writing, arts, and performing* workshops for LGBTQ+ Youth & Allies around the United States.

These programs are for LGBTQ+ Youth & Allies ages 13–19 with TBA offerings for Middle School Students. Youth can join from anywhere in the United States via Zoom.

All of our workshops are grant funded and provided at no cost to participants.

**Other various offerings TBA*



**FOR DETAILS & BOOKING, EMAIL:
contact@thefutureperfectproject.com**

LET US HOST A VIRTUAL WORKSHOP WITH YOUR ORGANIZATION

The Future Perfect Project would like to do an online workshop with your young people, entirely for FREE. We partner with organizations such as LGBTQ centers, community centers, and schools, providing engaging, uplifting and transformative arts workshops to LGBTQ youth and allies. To add us to your calendar, please email contact@thefutureperfectproject.com.

“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. Ryan and James’ caring spirit and great facilitation skills allow so much creativity to flow around tough, personal topics.”

— CHRIS PAULSEN, CEO, INDIANA YOUTH GROUP



We believe that the artistic expression of young people is a declaration of a better future for us all.

PROGRAM OFFERINGS

Choose one of the workshops below, or ask us about customizing a workshop to suit the needs of the population that your organization serves.



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.



ARTIVISM

Exploring the ways we can use art & self-expression to promote social justice and create real change in the world. With so many issues that need addressing, how do we literally move people to act in a way that leads to lasting change? How do we use our words, songs, and images to cast a spell for the world we want to see and inspire the people to do the same. Join us as we learn about a queer trailblazers whose work shook the world and dare to create art that will give voice to your concerns.



LOUD & QUEER

At The Future Perfect Project 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. But what if you were free to speak your mind and unburden your heart? Through writing or songwriting, we will work to transform our most vulnerable truth into a piece of revelatory art.

OUR MISSION

The Future Perfect Project believes that the artistic expression of young people is a declaration of a better future for us all. By making safe spaces for LGBTQ+ Youth & Allies to express themselves through the arts, connect with one another, and amplify their voices, FPP is creating a future where every young person feels safe, seen, and celebrated in their home and community.

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 2016 as I was traveling the country with my solo show, I began to notice something different about this current generation of LGBTQ+ youth and their allies. For starters, they were incredibly well informed about the world and could thoughtfully discuss important issues such as politics, climate crisis, racism, homophobia and capitalism. They had a social justice component that I'd never seen in any previous generation, and what made it even more impressive was the fact that their awareness extended beyond the reach of the LGBTQ+ community. Their insistence on diversity and inclusion was absolute and included everyone. They've also grown up with the Internet, making them the first generation to live a life with the answers literally at their fingertips. But most remarkable to me was how they were changing what it meant to be LGBTQ+. Just as my generation had fought so hard for the right to be ourselves as out gays and lesbians, this generation is fighting to be recognized and respected as the



people they knew themselves to be. In a recent study, The Trevor Project revealed that more than one in five LGBTQ youth in the United States identify as a sexual orientation other than gay, lesbian or bisexual. It is a whole new world in which LGBTQ youth are using terms like “queer, trisexual, omnisexual or pansexual” to describe their identity. This made me wonder if perhaps young people today were living in a future that hadn't yet arrived. Just as I once felt out of sync with the times in which I lived, perhaps these 14, 15, 16, 17-year-olds were a step ahead of the world around them.

In early 2017, I teamed up with singer-songwriter, Ryan Amador and together we set out to travel the country and find out if this generational shift was happening everywhere. We called ourselves **The Future Perfect Project** and devised a program that involved visiting high schools and LGBTQ+ Youth Centers and 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.

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, *Executive Director*

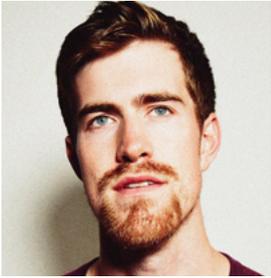


ABOUT US



CELESTE LECESNE (he/they) Executive Director/Facilitator/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. Lecesne was the executive producer of *After The Storm*, a documentary film that tells the story of 12 young people living in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. 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*. jameslecesne.com



RYAN AMADOR (he/him) Director of Operations/Facilitator/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. His most recent music video, "Like A Woman," is a collaboration with global women's rights organization VDay/1 Billion Rising, and calls men into the movement to end violence against women. Ryan is the recipient of a 2013 ASCAP Award for Songwriting and is a graduate of NYU's Theater Department. He has directed and written theater pieces in New York City, Los Angeles, Cincinnati, Seattle, and Abu Dhabi. Ryan and James are currently working on a musical about queer youth. ryanamador.com



JULIE NOVAK (she/her) Media Producer/Facilitator

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 has performed all over the United States, including touring her one-person show, *America's Next Top*, which had a successful run in the NYC Fringe Festival. Currently, 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/her) Media Producer/Facilitator

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



Z INFANTE (they/them) Director of Youth Outreach/Facilitator

Z is an actor, writer, and producer based in New Jersey. They began their career as an actor working on Rick Linklater's film, *School of Rock*, starring Jack Black and Joan Cusack. Recently, they became a Theater Bay Award Finalist, SFTBA Critic Circle Award Nominee and BroadwayWorld Award Winner for their performance in John Leguizamo and Tony Taccone's new musical *Kiss My Aztec!* at Berkeley Repertory Theater & La Jolla Playhouse. Additional credits include: *Alice By Heart* (Duncan Sheik, Steven Sater, Jessie Nelson), *Somewhere* a play by Matthew Lopez and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* directed by Julie Taymor. Film/TV: *GOTHAM*, *Alpha House*, *Carrie Pilby*, *Jeffrey*. Podcast: Audible's "Sorry Charlie," "Wait Wait Don't Kill Me," (Webby Award Winner) and *The College Tapes*. zacharyinfante.com

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

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

MASSACHUSETTS

- Fine Arts Work Center, Provincetown

MINNESOTA

- South High School, Minneapolis

MISSOURI

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

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

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