



# FirstWorks Youth Board: Apply Today!

FirstWorks is a nonprofit arts organization based in Providence, Rhode Island. Our education program brings performing and visual artists to students throughout the state. We offer many experiences: interactive workshops, in-school matinees, performances in local cultural venues, lectures, residencies, summer camps, and more with professional artists.

**Are you passionate about increasing and improving arts opportunities in your community and learning more about how an arts nonprofit works?**

We value youth input that improves our education programs, and we are excited to invite Rhode Island high school students to join our Youth Board! A board is a group of people who provide oversight to an organization. FirstWorks wants to hear student voices to help us make positive changes to our programs and how we bring the performing and visual arts into classrooms throughout the state.

The FirstWorks Youth Board will:

- Meet four times for two hours (4:30 - 6:30 pm) from November 2023 to May 2024. We provide dinner!
- Provide critical insight and feedback on FirstWorks' programs to ensure they are equitable, inclusive, relevant, and applicable for Rhode Island youth.
- Gather information from their networks and communities regarding opinions and ideas about FirstWorks' education programs.
- Be given free access to FirstWorks productions and be asked to evaluate different events when appropriate.
- Be invited to shadow meetings and events with artists for a behind-the-scenes look into the FirstWorks business.

FirstWorks Staff (primarily the Education Director) will prepare meeting topics and agendas. They will also mentor, listen to, and represent the suggestions of the youth board. The board is limited to ten students. Each participating student will receive a stipend of \$250 at the end of the program.

No experience? No problem! This program is an educational opportunity where you may grow leadership skills, share your voice, and learn what working with a creative organization means. At the same time, you will impact arts programs for Rhode Island students.

### Requirements:

- You must be enrolled in a Rhode Island-based secondary school.
- You must be in your sophomore, junior, or senior year of high school.
- You must be at least 16 years old by November 1, 2023.
- You must be able to meet four times for two-hour meetings between November 2023 and May 2024 at FirstWorks' Providence Office or via Zoom.

### Preferred Qualifications:

- A background or interest in performing and visual arts.
- The ability to communicate with, contribute to, and collaborate with a team of peers.
- The ability to be a community ambassador, have conversations, and gather data from their local community.

### To Apply:

DUE DATE: October 6, 2023

- Please submit a one-page cover letter to [admin@firstworks.org](mailto:admin@firstworks.org) that addresses the following questions:
  1. What makes arts access important to your education?
  2. How would you expand or improve upon your school's arts education?
- A one-page letter of recommendation from a teacher emailed directly to [admin@firstworks.org](mailto:admin@firstworks.org).
- A resume is optional.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Jamil Jorge (he/him).

We are committed to a diverse and inclusive environment. Women, gender-nonconforming, persons of color, and persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

