

Contact:

Christy LeMaster
Marketing Coordinator
1517 W. Fullerton
Chicago, IL. 60614
(p) 773.281.9075
(f) 773.929.0266
kidsfest@facets.org



June 18, 2006

Facets Launches *MediaBridge: Global Exchanges in Youth Filmmaking*

Facets Multi-Media and the Chicago International Children's Film Festival announce the launch of **MediaBridge** a multi-pronged youth program, scheduled July 10-August 13. **MediaBridge** will convene an international panel of 18 young filmmakers and critics from five continents to collaborate with 18 local youth on film programming, screenwriting and production. MediaBridge is produced by the CICFF in conjunction with the Harold Washington Cultural Center in Bronzeville.

"We've graduated more than 500 high school age children from our summer programs in the past seven years and these young people want more experiences as critics, on juries and in production workshops," said Milos Stehlik, Facets Director.

Starting July 10, the **MediaBridge** team will begin viewing more than 400 films entered for youth in the Chicago International Children's Film Festival. Facets plans to present a festival of youth-curated screenings of innovative youth-produced films, as well as adult-produced films from 20 countries. Jury participants will then become **MediaBridge** leaders for the purpose of instructing other children and youth in critical thinking, production and close analysis.

The second phase of the program, starting July 20, provides an intensive two-week screenwriting workshop during which the young people will produce scripts for short live action films. In the final week of the program, MediaBridge participants will 'workshop' their screenplays in a one-week Sundance Screenwriter's Lab immersion workshop, led by Carla Esmeralda. The curriculum will be complemented by visits from celebrity guests, Harold Ramis and Roger Ebert, among others.

"By training young filmmakers in a potent multicultural atmosphere, we hope to create an evolving collaboration between the U.S. and other countries now and in the future," said Program Director, Nicole Dreiske.

The MediaBridge Festival will run August 12-13 at Facets and the Harold Washington Cultural Center (4701 S. King Drive) in Chicago's Bronzeville neighborhood.

The program will be open to youth city-wide. MediaBridge Applications are available by contacting "**Kidsfest**" at **773-281-9075** or by e-mail at kidsfest@facets.org

###

MediaBridge is sponsored by:



This program is partially sponsored by a grant from the Governor's International Arts Exchange Program of the Illinois Arts Council.



MediaBridge is produced by the CICFF in conjunction with the Harold Washington Cultural Center.

