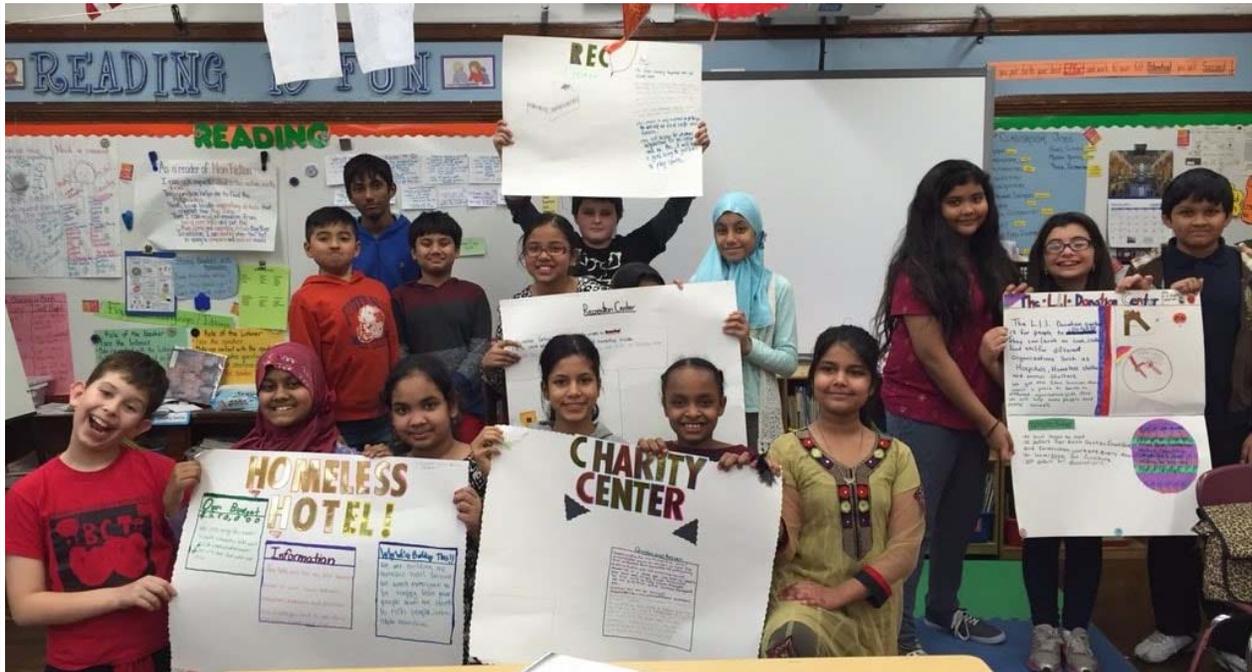


April 2016

# SAYA! South Asian Youth Action



SAYA youth at PS 230 show off their projects after learning about participatory budgeting from NYC Council Member Brad Lander's staff.

## OFF TO COLLEGE

### College Acceptances Begin to Roll in for SAYA Youth

It's an exciting time at SAYA as our students start hearing back from the colleges to which they have applied. Youth have gained admission to a range of schools including Adelphi University, Barnard College, Baruch College, Brown University, Cornell University, Fordham University, New York University, St. John's University, Stony Brook University, Syracuse University, University at Buffalo, Vassar College and Williams College, among others. Many of our youth have also been admitted to the various CUNY colleges in New York City, along with some being accepted into CUNY's prestigious Macaulay Honors Program. We advise our youth as they make their college enrollment decisions and will continue to support them as they begin their higher education journeys. Additionally, for the second consecutive year, the SAYA Scholarship Fund is set to give out awards to selected high school seniors to help mitigate the cost of attending college. These scholarships will be renewable for all four years of college based on academic standing.

## RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

### Middle School Youth Visit National Museum of Mathematics



Earlier this semester, our middle school youth at Our World Neighborhood Charter School visited the Museum of Mathematics. Students had a great time taking in the Squared Wheel Trike and Math Square exhibits, learning all about the many applications of math in everyday life.

### Young Women Take a Trip to Smith



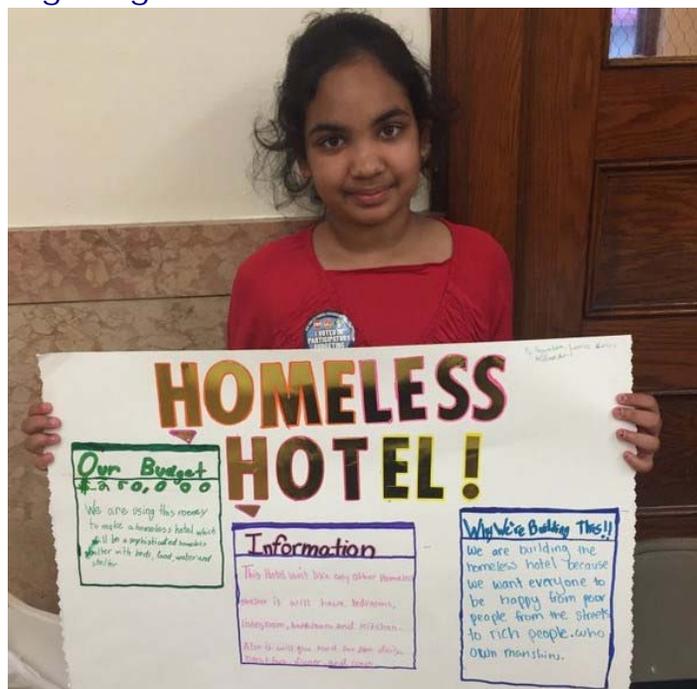
On a cold Friday in February, 18 youth enrolled in SAYA's Desi Young Women's Leadership Program took a day trip to visit Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts. In addition to touring the beautiful campus, youth met with admissions officials, current students and a professor to get a better sense of life at this selective women's college.

## SAYA's Career Exploration Day Exposes Youth to Diverse Professional Paths



70 high school youth recently came together for a day-long Saturday event to meet and learn from 29 industry experts from a range of fields. Through a series of panels on broad career categories such as Education, Nonprofit & Social Change; Finance; Healthcare; Media & Marketing; Law; Startups & Innovation; and STEM, youth gained insight on many professional paths that they can pursue. Special thanks to SAYA Young Change-Makers and all our volunteers who participated for making this an extremely successful and inspiring event for our youth.

## Elementary School Youth Play an Active Part in NYC Council's Participatory Budgeting



On Thursday, March 31, SAYA fifth graders and staff at PS 230 in Kensington, Brooklyn helped with Participatory Budgeting activities and encouraged parents to vote for community improvement projects at mobile voting stations at the end of the school day and after an evening talent show. It was a successful community engagement event with great turnout, especially among women. Our fifth graders learned about participatory budgeting earlier this year with the help of staff from Council Member Brad Lander's office, in whose district PS 230 is located. Additionally, SAYA's high school youth attending the ARISE leadership program at our Elmhurst Center canvassed in Forest Hills and encouraged individuals aged 14 and up to vote for community improvement projects.

### Young Women's Leadership Conference Celebrates the Transformative Power of Art



SAYA's third annual Young Women's Leadership Conference themed Personal to Powerful took place on Saturday, April 9, 2016. The exciting daylong event provided close to 60 of our young women in high school with tools to transform their narratives into art through three engaging workshops on performance art, photography and poetry. SAYA thanks Rinku Sen of Race Forward for her powerful keynote address, artist Chitra Ganesh for her passionate closing remarks, WeWork Studio Square for donating the space, and our amazing teaching artists for their inspiring workshops.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Spring Overnight College Trips

SAYA has 2 overnight college trips planned for the end of April. A group of youth will tour public and private colleges in and around Philadelphia while another group will visit higher education institutions in the Boston area. Stay tuned for highlights from these much-anticipated campus visits.

#### SAYA Young Men's Leadership Conference

Growth is the theme for our Young Men's Leadership Conference which will take place on Saturday, May 21, 2016. In the first workshop, SAYA youth will gain civic engagement

tools and discuss how to bring about positive change in their neighborhood and community. In the second workshop, they will learn how to harness the power of spoken word for telling their stories.

### 2016 Gala

SAYA's annual Gala will be held on Saturday, September 24. Please join us as we celebrate twenty years of connecting New York City youth to opportunities.



SAYA is excited to participate in Give Local NYC on May 3, 2016. Give Local NYC is a 24-hour on-line event designed to empower every New Yorker to donate to nonprofit organizations that are tackling today's most critical issues. Click to check out our profile.

**South Asian Youth Action**  
54-05 Seabury St. Elmhurst, NY 11373  
Phone: 718-651-3484 | Email: [saya@saya.org](mailto:saya@saya.org)

South Asian Youth Action (SAYA) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization established in 1996 and dedicated to K-12 students in need of support in New York City. While South Asian-focused, SAYA is secular, inclusive and committed to connecting youth from all backgrounds to opportunities. Our mission is to foster a strong sense of belonging in youth and provide them with the tools to thrive academically, professionally, and personally. SAYA's holistic program model consists of academic support, college preparation, leadership development, career exploration, sports activities and arts enrichment.