December 2016

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

Connecticut College Day Trip

Early in November, SAYA took a group of 40 high school students to visit Wesleyan University and the University of Connecticut. Youth had the opportunity to tour both campuses, learn about the curriculum and programs of each school, and hear about the many extracurricular activities offered. Students asked questions pertaining to all aspects
of campus life from current students and had the chance to envision themselves as college students.

**Animation Class at PS 230**

This semester, fourth graders at PS 230 learned how to animate using stop-motion techniques. The students used a variety of media, including colored paper, clay, white boards and small household objects, to tell stories of their own design. They became experts with the stop-motion animation software, and used their new skills and imagination to bring their stories to life. After working hard on their projects, they all
became familiar with the class motto, “animation takes a really long time!” Check out this video for a peek at the class project.

**SAYA College Application Mentorship Program**

In October, SAYA began offering one-on-one college application support from volunteer mentors on Saturdays at the Elmhurst Center. Ten high school seniors are currently participating. The mentors are paired with a student who receives feedback and advice on a range of college application components, including personal statements and scholarship essays.

**Family Engagement at SAYA**

SAYA collaborated closely with the school administration at Richmond Hill High School to organize an annual College & Career Fair in November. Over 250 students and their families as well as over 35 college and career representatives participated. After the event, Richmond Hill’s College & Career Advisor has been working with over 100 seniors to complete their college applications.
On December 1, SAYA held a parent orientation at MS 202 to help familiarize the community’s parents with SAYA’s after school program offerings. Parents got the chance to meet the new site director and other SAYA staff and learn about programming activities. About 30 parents attended the event and learned about the kinds of activities SAYA programming offers through presentations given by SAYA staff.

**Post-Election Response**

In the aftermath of the US Presidential Election, SAYA informed students about the electoral process, provided students with an open space to reflect on recent events and held age-appropriate conversations in many of our programs. For example, Richmond Hill High School held a Post-Election Community Forum facilitated by SAYA, in which students and staff discussed the impact of the presidential election on the school community and the ways students could be involved in their neighborhood.

**SAYA Stories**

In September SAYA began a series of social media posts featuring the stories of our youth. This campaign spotlights a different student each month and allows them to share
details about their background, experiences at SAYA and personal interests. Take a look at our features from the last few months here.

**LEADERSHIP UPDATES**

**New Additions to the Advisory Board**
Zoomdojo cofounder, Ritu Banga, joins the SAYA Advisory Board at the start of the new year. Current Board member Raj Seshadri, President, US Issuers, MasterCard, is transitioning toward as our Advisory Board as well.

**GET INVOLVED**

**20 for 20**
To celebrate SAYA’s 20 years of serving youth, SAYA has launched the 20 for 20 campaign, a recurring monthly donation of $20 to celebrate SAYA’s 20 years of service and support SAYA’s mission. If you are interested in taking part in this campaign and supporting SAYA, please contact Fatima Malik at fatima.malik@saya.org.

**Gifting and Giving**
When shopping on Amazon, please go to smile.amazon.com and designate South Asian Youth Action as your desired organization to support. This way, whenever you buy something on the site, a percentage of that money is donated by Amazon to SAYA at no extra cost to you. For more detailed instructions on selecting your Amazon charity, please see here.

**Career Opportunities**

SAYA is currently looking for dedicated professionals seeking a career in nonprofit management or youth development. If you are interested, or know someone who may be a good fit, please see our current openings here to apply or share these opportunities with others.

**Call for Volunteers**

On March 18 2017, SAYA will be holding its annual career day. If you are interested in sharing your professional and higher education trajectory with our youth, please contact Fatima Malik at fatima.malik@saya.org.
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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.