In March, approximately 80 youth attended SAYA’s annual Career Exploration Day at the Elmhurst Center. Twenty-eight industry experts from a range of fields participated in panel discussions about their career trajectories, interests and educational backgrounds. Youth gained exposure to different professions including careers in health, technology, engineering, education, government, law, startups and media.

**College Visits**

This Spring, 80 youth attended one of our two college overnight trips, which included a range of different campuses and school types, allowing high school students to get familiar with their options and discover their preferences. One trip was to upstate New York where students visited Iona College, Skidmore College, SUNY New Paltz, SUNY Purchase, and Union College and
learned about campus life at each school. The other trip was to Rhode Island and Boston, where youth visited Brandeis University, Brown University, Tufts University, Wentworth Institute of Technology and Wheaton College.

**Annual Young Women's Leadership Conference**

This May, approximately 70 youth attended SAYA’s annual Young Women’s Leadership Conference, entitled Culture Con 2k17, with a theme focused on celebrating and affirming the young women’s diverse cultural identities. Young women facilitated discussions on cultural stereotyping and appropriation; beauty standards; and the advantages and challenges of being third culture kids. The keynote speaker this year was SAYA’s founder and New York City’s first Commissioner of Immigrant Affairs, Sayu Bhojwani. The event brought together SAYA middle and high school youth and their friends for a day of learning and creativity. SAYA’s young women’s leadership program is funded in part by the New York Women’s Foundation.

**SAYA 2017 College Scholarships**

In May, SAYA awarded scholarships ranging from $1,000 to $5,000 a year to 14 high school seniors starting college this fall. With the announcement of this year’s recipients, 29 youth have are now receiving multi-year scholarships from SAYA to help meet their higher education costs.

**Supporting Middle School Youth**

This Spring, SAYA received a grant from the New York Life Foundation to expand our Middle to High School Transitions Program. We aim to support youth through the high school admission process in order for them to enroll in their best fit high school. SAYA is among the Foundation’s 18 national grantees and one of the three organizations based in New York.
In June, SAYA held its first Middle School basketball tournament at MS 202. Two teams of youth from sixth, seventh, and eighth grades from MS 202 and Central Queens Academy competed against one another. The event brought together parents and school staff to cheer on the two teams, and watch as Central Queens Academy took home the win.

**Art Making at PS 124**
During the Spring semester, PS 124 participated in an artist-in-residence program with Arts Horizons. Youth took part in a variety of art making activities, including printmaking, creating masks and collaging. Subjects explored through activities included architecture and structure, climate change, and diversity and culture.

**Coding at MS 172**

Young women at MS 172 participated in web development and focused on front-end programming. Youth learned about internet safety, web development fundamentals, HTML, CSS3 and Javascript. By the end of the course, each young woman created her own website and learned how coding could be used for self-expression. A grant from Con Edison supported this program.

**SAYA Young Change-Makers**

**Hoops for Hope**

In April, our young professionals group, SAYA Young Change-Makers, organized Hoops for Hope, a youth-volunteer basketball tournament. This event brought together current SAYA youth, alumni, staff and supporters for a 3-on-3 tournament. Basketball lovers had the chance to show off their skills and support SAYA during this fun daylong event.

**Looking Ahead**

**Summer Kick Off**

July marked the beginning of SAYA’s summer session. This year, we are running programs at five sites. At the Elmhurst Center, during the six week intensive session, youth participate in leadership sessions, SAT prep, college application preparation, basketball and arts activities. At our elementary and middle school summer camps, youth engage in STEM activities, cooking, dance and sports. Please feel free to reach out to Fatima Malik at fatima.malik@saya.org to learn
more about summer programming or to attend an open house at the Elmhurst Center. Open houses will be held Monday, July 31st and Tuesday, August 1st.

**Supporting our Programs - 2017 Annual Gala**
Save the date for SAYA’s annual gala, September 23rd at Pier Sixty, honoring Sunil Gulati, President of the U.S. Soccer Federation and filmmaker Mira Nair. Please reach out to Susan Callo at susan@saya.org for more information.

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**South Asian Youth Action**  
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South Asian Youth Action (SAYA) is a 501(c)3 youth development organization in New York City for students in elementary school through college. 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.