PODIUM'S SUMMER VIRTUAL PROGRAM RECAP

BY VICKI YEROIAN, MSW, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Starting in March 2020, Podium began hosting virtual writing prompts and communication workshops, open for all youth ages 10 - 19 in the Greater Richmond area. As always, Podium programs remain free of charge! On June 11, 2020, Podium wrapped up our first 10-week virtual program session with a recorded open mic, hosted by three alumni on Zoom. Check it out here!

This summer, Podium continued to host our own virtual communication programs, open mics, and launched our annual Teen Professional Conference, 100% virtual and live streamed for the first time. With our community partners Nextup RVA and Metro Richmond Boys & Girls Clubs, Podium actually hosted more programs this summer than ever before!

Youth attendees enjoyed a variety of creative writing prompts as well as a science fiction and STEM writing program. Overall, Podium served 61 young people in Richmond this summer.

With schools and community centers remaining virtual, you can bet that Podium will be back this Fall in full force. Want to sign up for a virtual program, or know a young person who would benefit from engaging with Podium?

Head over to podiumrva.org!

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RVA CELEBRITY DISH: TAKING THE PLATE AT THE DIAMOND

BY JONI ALBRECHT, DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

The Diamond, home of Flying Squirrels baseball, will host a different sort of game October 1. The rules include ample cheering and jeering. The players are four Richmond leaders, good sports who will step up to home plate – a.k.a. “the dish” – to catch their share of flak, funny stories, inside scoop and maybe even a little dirt.

The RVA Celebrity Dish at The Diamond, is Podium’s second annual Dish event, this year being presented both in-person and streamed live. Podium is thrilled to honor Senator Jennifer McClellan, Soulidifly CEO and Chairman BK Fulton, Squirrels Baseball VP Todd “Parney” Parnell, and beloved Richmond preschool teacher Anne F. Waldruff, each for their unique and unwavering commitment to helping Richmond youth find and share their voice.

The Dish will also serve as the official kick-off of The Pedestal Fund, a scholarship and sustainability campaign to elevate education and opportunity for youth in the greater Richmond area. You won’t want to miss this very special kick-off, hear student and alumni testimonials, bid on excellent silent auction items, and more. Co-Chairs are board members Eddie Camp, Jerry Howard and co-founder David L. Robbins. The RVA Celebrity Dish is sponsored by Xponent21, digital and automation consultants in Richmond.

All proceeds from the Dish benefit Podium’s transformational writing and communication programs. Podium invests $600 per student each year to provide a safe platform for expression and exploration for nearly 500 youth participants, or roughly $300,000 annually. Ballpark figures. Join us at the Dish and be a part of the big win for Richmond youth!

Secure your Dish ticket today!
PODIUM PROUDLY PRESENTS: THE PEDESTAL FUND

BY JERRY HOWARD, PEDESTAL FUND CO-CHAIR

For eleven years, Podium has helped Richmond youth develop their passion for writing and provided opportunities for students to share their voices and succeed in a modern culture and economy.

We stand with youth who, all too often, experience firsthand the community trauma we read about, and we provide a safe space for expression and support.

But we see something more and invite you to look ahead with us.

Imagine a Richmond where all youth have access to career and college readiness programs, application and essay expertise, and mentoring to help map opportunities for success.

Picture a Richmond known for restoration and progress, where “at-risk” youth are embraced as “at opportunity” and are empowered to achieve their full potential.

See those same students as living monuments to a city that helped them dream bigger, go further, and reach higher.

Podium RVA is building The Pedestal Fund, a transformational investment in life-changing programs, scholarships, and career and college guidance.

We are asking you, other faithful supporters, and the greater Richmond community to help us come together as one united force to build The Pedestal Fund in support of these important community needs.

All gifts to Podium RVA’s annual fund over the next three years will provide foundational support to fuel sustainability, organizational capacity, and program expansion and will be recognized as gifts to The Pedestal Fund.

Check us out at podiumrva.org!

FACEBOOK.COM/PODIUMFOUNDATION

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