

Podium RVA Leadership Statement: Amplifying Voices of Color, Elevating Potential, & Empowering Futures

At Podium RVA, we are dedicated to transforming lives through literacy and creative expression as a vessel for educational equity. As a youth-serving organization in Greater Richmond and the Tri-Cities, we recognize the profound impact of systemic inequities on Black and Brown youth, especially those within the communities we serve. Our mission is rooted in the belief that every young person deserves equitable access to opportunities that empower them with the tools they need to thrive.

Championing Equity:

Equity is at the heart of our mission. We confront and address the barriers that hinder the educational advancement of Black and Brown youth. Through targeted and intentional after school educational programs and initiatives, we strive to create an inclusive environment where all young people can access quality education, resources, and mentorship.

Uplifting Black Leadership:

We are committed to nurturing and amplifying the leadership potential within our community. Our youth deserve a council of people who see and understand them. We recognize the importance of representation not only for youth to see themselves and their possibilities, but also in decision making. We are committed to supporting Black leadership within our organization and fostering a supportive ecosystem that welcomes the insight of leaders with shared lived experiences as our youth. Additionally, we empower our youth to take on leadership roles within our organization and welcome opportunities to support and prepare them in their goals.

Fostering Inclusivity:

Inclusivity is fundamental to our approach. We celebrate the cultural richness and diversity of our youth participants and their families. Our programs are designed to be culturally responsive, creating a safe and affirming space where every young person feels valued, respected, and empowered to succeed. The beautifully diverse and colorful voices and experiences of the youth we serve help to shape our programs and advocacy efforts, ensuring they reflect the diverse perspectives and needs of our community.

Collaborative Partnerships:

We recognize that achieving our goals requires collective action. We forge partnerships with community organizations, educational institutions, and stakeholders who share our

commitment to equity and youth empowerment. Together, we leverage resources, expertise, and advocacy to create sustainable change and opportunities for our youth.

Continuous Learning and Growth:

We embrace a culture of continuous learning through meeting our students where they are and building upon their prior knowledge and strengths. We believe that each of our students have unique experiences, perspectives, and cultures that inform their understanding of the world. We see who and how they are as a strength to be nurtured rather than disadvantages that limit their potential. We remain agile in responding to the evolving needs of our youth and community. We work tirelessly to provide them with safe spaces to dream, create, feel, and question the world as we know it. Through ongoing assessment, feedback, and collaboration, we refine our educational strategies to ensure they remain relevant, impactful, and aligned with our mission.

At Podium RVA, we are not just shaping futures; we are building a community where every young person can grow academically, communicate effectively, create freely, and thrive in their futures. Together, with unwavering dedication to equity, inclusivity, and empowerment, we envision a future where all youth can reach their full potential and make meaningful contributions to society.

Empowering futures, one young leader at a time.

Created by:

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