

YSC Employee Questionnaire

Name: Melissa Khamvongsa

Title: Director of Development

Education: M.P.A California State University Northridge, Nonprofit Management
B.A. Loyola Marymount University, Chicana/o Studies and Spanish

Hometown: Sun Valley, CA

Family: Married to the love of my life Dario and have two dogs; Mugre and Dex.

Hobbies:

I ran my first marathon this year and I'm hoping to beat my own time in 2011. I love hiking with my dogs and riding my bike around Burbank where I live. I love to try new restaurants and enjoy the nightlife around LA.

How did you come to Youth Speak Collective?

I have been at YSC since March of 2010. My experience and background are with nonprofit organizations and fund development. When the opportunity came up to work in Pacoima I decided to apply for the job and found that it has been a great fit for me. The YSC family has been so welcoming and I couldn't be any happier.

What is your role at Youth Speak Collective?

As Director of Development it is my primary responsibility to expand and implement fundraising strategies to diversify our funding streams. It is my job to create a development plan, research grant programs and write proposals for both unrestricted operating revenue and existing programs. I also lead the effort in planning fundraising events including our first formal Gala event for 2011. My own personal goal is for Youth Speak Collective to be a multi-million dollar nonprofit and serve over 10,000 youth in the San Fernando Valley.

What is the best part of your role?

The best part of my job is hustling people for money...and having a good reason for it. I embrace the challenge of asking people for money because I know they can't say no to our innovative and effective afterschool youth programs. I love the fact that we are located in the heart of Pacoima and the youth look to us as a source of empowerment. I have seen first-hand the results of our programs and I'm honored to work with such a great staff. After a long day at the office working on donor cultivation and grant writing it is refreshing to talk with our youth and see all of the great potential that they have.

What is your favorite TV Channel?

I am an HGTV junkie and think that one day I will turn my house into an MTV crib. I also must confess that my guilty pleasures are watching bad reality TV shows like The Bachelor and Kendra.

Favorite place you have been and why?

Paris, France on top of the Eiffel Tower. Why...because that is where my husband proposed.

Where is the next place you would like to go?

Tokyo, Japan.

What makes you laugh?

I love watching old episodes of I Love Lucy, Golden Girls and Three's Company.

