

## YSC Employee Spotlight



**Name:** Michael Centeno

**Title:** Digital Arts Instructor

**Education:** Currently working on my B.A. in Film and Television and Chicano Studies at Cal State University of Northridge.

**Hometown:** Sylmar

**Family:** I have one older sister.

**Hobbies:** Gardening and watching movies. They both are great ways for me to relax but it's hard to find time for the latter.

### **How did you come to Youth Speak Collective?**

A friend of mine had posted on Facebook that Youth Speak was looking for a Digital Arts Instructor. I had quit my full time job six months earlier because I wanted to go back to school and focus on my film-making. Everything just fell into place at the perfect time.

### **What is your role at Youth Speak Collective?**

I train youth in all aspects of video production from pre-production, production, to post-production. I also plan to utilize my skills to help promote the organization through various types of media, with an emphasis on online content.

### **What is the best part of your role?**

The best part of my role is seeing a youth screen his or her project in front of an audience. Something amazing happens when a student screens a project that they worked very hard. I believe that most come to the realization that they have a voice, and people can and will listen to that voice.

### **What is your favorite TV Channel?** HBO

### **Favorite place you have been and why?**

Big Sur, is probably my favorite place right now. On one side you have the ocean and on the other are amazing Redwoods. It's been referred to as, "*The greatest meeting of land and sea.*" I embrace and love technology, but sometimes you just need to reconnect with the Natural, and hit the reset button.

### **Where is the next place you would like to go?**

I would love to see the Aurora Borealis in Alaska, but I would also love to take a trip to New Zealand as well as The Galapagos Islands.

### **What makes you laugh/cry?**

I have to be honest and say that there have been a few films that have made me shed a tear.