

Seven Los Angeles Leaders to Make up New Youth Speak Advisory Council

(Los Angeles – November 10, 2011) -- Youth Speak Collective (YSC), the Pacoima-based non-profit organization announced recently the creation of its Advisory Council made up of emerging Los Angeles leaders with experts from government, nonprofit, education and the philanthropic sector. Through strong networks, friendships and innovative ideas, these seven leaders will work together to address community issues, raise resources and create awareness of Youth Speak grassroots programs.

“The commitment of these innovative thought leaders will serve as an opportunity to further develop our signature programs that provide crucial academic, life and work-readiness opportunities to at-risk youth living in the Pacoima community,” said Melissa Khamvongsa, YSC Director of Development who facilitates the Council. “We are excited to have them on our team and look forward to working together to help Youth Speak fulfill its mission.”

Joining the Youth Speak Advisory Council are:

- Angelica Ayala, Office of Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa
- Antonio Plascencia Jr., Los Angeles Unified School District
- Cesar Diaz, Community Partnerships Consultant
- Jennie Carey, Los Angeles Education Partnership
- Noé Montes, Noé Montes Photography
- Vanessa Briseño, Nonprofit and Philanthropic Consultant
- Xochitl Bravo, Partnership for Los Angeles Schools

The focus of the new Advisory Council will be to develop innovative solutions to raising resources for the Youth Speak programs and organization. The Council will work closely with the Board of Directors and Executive Director David Kietzman. Throughout the year these advisors will host “friendraisers” on behalf of YSC to raise awareness and fundraise for the programs. The Council will meet regularly to further develop grassroots leadership, mentor staff and develop a strong network of support for youth-driven programs.

YSC focuses on transforming the physical and economic neighborhoods in the Northeast San Fernando Valley. Some of the Youth Speak Collective’s signature programs include Academic Support Services, Youth Development and Creative Expression programs, Project Youth Green (PYG) and Futbolito Pacoima. Currently, YSC serves approximately 500 youth a day and over 3,000 students last year through school based and community centered events.

About Youth Speak Collective:

Founded in 2006 by a handful of high school students and the current Executive Director, YSC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization committed to empowering at-risk youth and their families with the skills necessary to pursue higher education and create strong communities. YSC annually helps more than 3,000 individuals, including some of the most disadvantaged youth and families in the Northeast San Fernando Valley. The organization provides a broad spectrum of integrated direct services designed to strengthen families, build self-sufficiency and guide them towards productive futures