



PRESS RELEASE

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Big Picture & Youth Venture *Empowering Young Changemakers*

Announcing a new educational opportunity for young people to actively take charge and create positive, social change in their communities

Providence, RI – July 16, 2007 -

An exciting new collaboration has been announced dedicated to revolutionizing education by generating new opportunities for empowering young people to become positive changemakers in their communities as an organic part of their school curriculum.

The Big Picture Company and Youth Venture are teaming up to inspire and invest in teams of young people to create, launch, and lead their own sustainable community-benefiting programs and projects as part of their schooling. The result: An innovative design for catalyzing vital and innovative changes in urban education by encouraging and expecting students to become actively engaged in societal change by bringing about positive, lasting change in their communities.

The Big Picture Company – Youth Venture Partnership program will engage and support urban youth who are enrolled in Big Picture schools across the nation, to create and lead their own social Ventures. Ventures are civic-minded solutions to local problems identified by youth themselves. Teams of youth will be guided in how to apply their own interests or passions to create their projects. And, each Venture will receive financial support of up to \$1,000 in start up funding.

“When someone at a young age experiences taking initiative and leading an effort to address a social issue on their local community level, it’s highly likely they will continue to take initiative again and again throughout their lives, becoming lifelong leaders, says Jim Hamel, Youth Venture Director of National Partnerships and the New England Region. “No doubt, the actions, deeds, and efforts of these Ventures will ultimately serve to inspire their peers to act as well.”

“Youth Venture is a perfect fit for Big Picture Schools,” says Elliot Washor, co-founder and Co-Director of Big Picture. “Our expectation is that all of our students seek out real-world projects and a venture through which they can make a difference in the world while they find out who they are and what they can and need to do to be successful. Youth Venture will become an essential part of our learning design.”

About Youth Venture

By inspiring and investing in teams of young people to start their own social ventures, Youth Venture is working to build a powerful network of young changemakers around the world. Youth Venture provides coaching, resources, and seed funding for young people ages 12-20 to create, launch, and lead sustainable community-benefiting ventures. We believe this will catalyze a

cultural sea change, transforming a generation of young people into capable leaders of social change - leading to a world of Everyone a Changemaker. www.GenV.net
Youth Venture was founded in 1996 by Ashoka.

About The Big Picture

The Big Picture Company's mission is to catalyze vital changes in American education by generating and sustaining innovative, personalized schools that work in tandem with the real world of their greater community. We design break-through public schools, research and replicate new designs for education, train educators to serve as leaders in their schools and communities, and actively engage the public as participants and decision makers in the education of our youth. Our philosophy is grounded in educating "one student at a time." We promote and create personalized education programs that are unique for each student. The Big Picture Company was founded in 1993 by Dennis Littky and Elliot Washor. There are over 50 Big Picture schools nationally and internationally, and the network is growing.

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