

WOMEN'S VOICES NOW AND GLOBALGIRL MEDIA JOIN FORCES ON SUMMER YOUTH EVENT FOR UNDERREPRESENTED GIRLS

Non-profit organizations focused on advancing the rights of women and girls kickoff four week media training program at [USC's Annenberg School](#)

2018 Golden Globe Ambassador Simone Garcia Johnson to participate

Los Angeles, California -- June 18, 2018 -- **Women's Voices Now**, a 501(c)(3) non-profit focused on advancing global female rights, announced today its first collaboration with **GlobalGirl Media**, a 501(c)(3) non-profit focused on elevating young women from underrepresented communities, on its [summer media training program for teenage girls](#).

The training program spans four weeks and kicked off Monday, June 18th at the University of Southern California with a welcome event for the 2018 cohort. 20 young women, ages 15-22, were selected to participate from across the Los Angeles area. The group will be mentored by a range of established media executives, content producers and professors to develop, shoot and edit four documentary shorts, which will be presented as an anthology at the close of the program. The 2018 content theme is **Youth of LA** and participants will explore topics that concern today's youth such as immigration, environment, homelessness, bullying and racism.

"We're thrilled to gather both the Women's Voices Now and GlobalGirl Media Los Angeles communities for this important program that brings mentorship and educational opportunities to a group of truly inspiring girls," said **Heidi Basch-Harod**, Executive Director of Women's Voices Now. "We aim to empower young women with voice and media skills and are always inspired and energized by the output of the training program," added **Amie Williams**, Founder of GlobalGirl Media.

This is the sixth annual training event in Los Angeles, historically put on by GlobalGirl Media. This year, the collaboration of both organizations brings together more instructors, mentors and volunteers and further advances the opportunities the program presents for underrepresented girls. This is also the second year USC Annenberg has hosted the event through the support of Lisa Pecot-Hébert, Associate Professor of Professional Practice and Associate Director of Undergraduate Journalism at USC Annenberg, who is a mentor for the program.

Among other partners and grantees, the **Hollywood Foreign Press Association** (HFPA) has been a [loyal supporter of GlobalGirl Media](#) and its training program since 2015. With the launch of their ambassador program in 2017, it was announced late last year that the HFPA's inaugural ambassador [Simone Garcia Johnson](#) chose GlobalGirl Media as her organization of choice, and helped launch the training event this week.

Both Women's Voices Now and GlobalGirl Media aim to curate and create media that puts female voices in front of and behind the camera to promote gender parity--developing values-driven content authored by individuals, of all genders, that focuses on women and girls. Due to this focus, the media training program participants are chosen based on their passion for media arts, specifically an interest in journalism and/or filmmaking. The complimentary program

cultivates scholastic achievement, harnesses technology skills, ignites community activism and overall aims to spark social change. The young women receive a small stipend, professional media training, a career pathway with mentoring and are eligible to join GlobalGirl Media in reporting stories of young women around the world and opportunities to cover newsworthy events, year-round in Los Angeles.

More collaborative programs and opportunities are forthcoming from Women's Voices Now and GlobalGirl Media.

About Women's Voices Now

Women's Voices Now (WVN) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that supports the free expression of women worldwide and their struggle for civil, economic, political and gender rights by creating platforms that connect conscientious art and media creators, activists, filmmakers, audiences and advocacy organizations. Through the annual WVN Online Film Festival and its fiscal sponsorship program, Women's Voices Now provides an opportunity for filmmakers to share stories furthering women's rights and ultimately building a stronger community. For more information visit: <http://www.womensvoicesnow.org/>.

About GlobalGirl Media

GlobalGirl Media (GGM) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that aims to develop the voice and media literacy of teenage girls and young women, ages 14-22, in underrepresented communities by supporting them to create and share digital media, designed to spark activism and social change. Through mentoring, training and access to a worldwide network of multiplatform distribution partners, GGM harnesses the power of media to empower young women to bring their stories to the global media stage. GGM has trained 400 young women across multiple countries including the U.S., Morocco, South Africa and Kosovo. These "global girls" have also produced over 380 videos and 400 blogs telling the stories that matter to today's youth. For more information visit: <http://globalgirlmedia.org/>.