

Press release
24 December 2010

Hackney youngsters put their estate on the silver screen

30 youngsters from Fellows Court and Fawcett Estate in Hackney will take to the red carpet for the screening of their very own film at the Rio Cinema on 22 January as part of the Estate Vision youth TV channel.

Estate Vision is produced by Chocolate Films in partnership with Hackney Homes, Space, Elevate@ Skyway, and the Fellows Court Youth Club run by Hackney Youth Service.

Over the past few months, young people have directed, filmed and edited shows about local issues, working with experienced filmmakers from Chocolate Films.

There have been six broadcasts in total, with programmes including a humorous insight into hair weave (using artificial or human hair pieces) and the different opinions it raises; a special 'Teens got Talent' themed broadcast with a cooking show and showcase of local rapping talent; and programmes exploring positive things young people can do to stay out of trouble.

Project Manager Ana Tovey says, "Estate Vision is a really exciting opportunity for young people to get their voices heard about local issues and gain valuable media production skills. We've been really impressed with the programmes they've made and how they've got to grips with the live broadcast technology."

Neehara Wijeyesekera, Hackney Homes, Head of Tenancy and Leasehold Services said: "This has been a fantastic opportunity for young people to learn new creative skills and showcase the programmes they've made. Hackney Homes is always looking at different ways to engage with our young residents and we are looking forward to seeing them on the big screen."

Some of the comments from the young people ranged from "I enjoyed learning how to be a good director" to "It helps me stop doing bad stuff like hanging out in gangs; it keeps me out of trouble."

The broadcasts can be watched again online on the channel website at www.stickam.com/estatevision. If you would like to attend the screening at the Rio Cinema please contact office@chocolatefilms.com or 0207 793 4287 to book your place. Places are limited.

-Ends-

Press queries to Angela Howard on 020 8356 3877, or email angela.howard@hackneyhomes.org.uk

Notes to Editors

- Hackney Homes is an arms-length management organisation managing around 30,000 council properties in the borough of Hackney.
- Estate Vision is funded by Mediabox, Hackney Youth Opportunity Fund, Hackney Homes and Space.
- Chocolate Films is a not-for-profit film production company that combines commercial production with an outreach programme of educational and community filmmaking projects. Their ethos is to make films that change and inspire people's lives on a local level.
- Mediabox enables young people to create media projects and get their voices heard. It has given disadvantaged 13-19 year olds, and up to 25 if they have learning difficulties or disabilities, living in England the opportunity to create media projects about issues that matter to them, from film and journalism to digital media and campaigns. Mediabox is delivered by a consortium led by First Light and Media Trust in partnership with Skillset and the UK Film Council. Over 17,000 young people have benefited from the scheme since it was launched in 2006.