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youTHink STUDENTS TO SPEAK ABOUT SOCIAL JUSTICE AT TEDxYouth@Hollywood IN FEBRUARY

LOS ANGELES, CALIF. (February 4, 2013) – Student interns from the Zimmer Children's Museum's youth development program youTHink will have the opportunity this month to speak about issues of importance to them at TEDxYouth@Hollywood.

TEDxYouth@Hollywood, a free, day-long conference for youth ages 14-19, exists to deeply inspire and imprint youth with exposure to excellent humans with mind, heart and spirit-expanding ideas and experiences. The theme of the inaugural event is JUMPING (aka Jumping into something new, Jumping into something exciting, into something you're afraid of, into something inspiring. Jumping for the fun of jumping).

Out of the 14 young adult presenters at the conference, 10 are youTHink students. Speakers will talk about overcoming obstacles, taking risks, being a paralympian, taking action for social change, being undocumented, forgiveness, and the power of art, among others. youTHink student Monica Martinez says "I am myself and never pretend to be anyone else. My struggles have pushed me to become the best person I can be and dedicate myself to do better. My family isn't perfect but I will always be one. My life isn't perfect but I will always rise above it. Everything that has occurred in my life has made me stronger."

"We are about creating opportunities for youth to be taken seriously in the world," describes youTHink Director Shifra Teitelbaum. "TEDx was a natural partnership for them to express their thoughts on social justice issues that are of importance to them. "

TEDxYouth@Hollywood takes place on Sunday, February 10, 2013 from 9am-4pm at Hollywood High School (1521 North Highland Avenue, Los Angeles 90028). Hollywood High School is accessible by public transportation: Hollywood/Highland Station- Metro Red 802; Metro Local (156, 210, 212, 217, 222, 312, 656), Metro Rapid (780); TEDxYouth is providing buses for youth at select locations. A healthy lunch will also be provided.

About youTHink and the Student Internship

youTHink is the unique arts and education program of the Zimmer Children's Museum. Reaching over 3,000 students yearly in Los Angeles through youTHink lessons in schools and youth programming beyond the classroom, youTHink uses the power of art to foster youth's critical thinking about contemporary issues and empowers them to make a difference in their communities and in the wider world.

The youTHink internship is a year-long leadership and community involvement program for middle and high school students. Interns develop and expand their leadership skills, increase self-awareness, deepen their knowledge about social issues, and learn skills and tools they can use to make a difference in their communities. The internship brings diverse youth together from different schools, communities and cultures to create a community that learns from each other and works together to

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make an impact. Through the program, students gain confidence and competence, and become increasingly able to apply what they learn at youThink in other settings and experiences.

About the Zimmer Children's Museum

The **Zimmer Children's Museum** is a nonprofit cultural institution located on Museum Row in Los Angeles, featuring hands-on exhibits for children ages 0-8 to explore BIG IDEAS in creative and inspiring settings. The Zimmer is also the only museum dedicated specifically to kids and families in Los Angeles.

The Zimmer Children's Museum is dedicated to teaching people about the BIG IDEAS of global citizenship, community responsibility, and cultural sensitivity. Our mission is to promote values that help make a better society through interactive learning, creative self-expression and art experiences for children. For more details about the museum and its programs and events, please visit <http://www.zimmermuseum.org>.

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