



# The Roger Lehecka Double Discovery Center

*Getting community youth to, through, and beyond college*



## **DDC Students Working for Social Justice From Behind the Camera - YANY LinkNYC**

We are so proud to present you with the trailer for the narrative short film, “Harlem Is My Home”, written, produced, performed, and directed by DDC Students. “Harlem is My Home” gives voice to a young person’s perspective on the gentrification of her beloved community. The video clip features Pearl, a young girl from Harlem, who is grappling with the shifting cultural landscape of her neighborhood. [Click here](#) to watch the trailer.

For this project, DDC partnered with Young Audiences New York (YANY) LinkNYC, NBCUniversal, and Creator Force, a non-profit that offers education, inspiration and access to careers in the creative fields to underrepresented youth. The YANY LinkNYC program is an arts-integrated digital media-mentoring program that immerses students in real-world professional experiences in the arts.

Throughout the class, DDC students have been exploring art as agent for change and learning the basic elements of visual language, narrative and strategies to tell a story. "It has certainly been a privilege to work with these students and see their ideas and hard work materialize into moving image," said Christie Neptune, Teaching Artist, YANY. "'Harlem is My Home' is

a perfect example. It is a story about the social issues (gentrification, affordable housing, environmental issues, etc.) currently affecting their community."

On Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, DDC hosted a screening of the trailer for the families of the students in the class. All were impressed with what the students had produced and they look forward to their final project at the end of the summer.

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### **22 DDC students will attend the Freedom and Citizenship Seminar, a free four-week residential program focused on political philosophy and presented by professors from Columbia and Princeton**

The Freedom and Citizenship Seminar is an academic enrichment program led by Columbia University's American Studies department in collaboration with The Double Discovery Center. This year, 22 DDC students have been accepted into the program, which begins on July 8th with an intensive, college-level seminar. While taking the summer seminar, DDC students will live on campus in the dormitories to get a sense of what college life is like. The summer session is followed by a yearlong civic leadership project whereby students research a contemporary political issue and develop an advocacy initiative with support and guidance from Columbia undergraduate teaching assistants.

In the past, students have addressed issues that include Students Rights, Intimate Partner Violence, Climate Justice, Housing Justice, Immigration, and Mental Health. You can see a description of each project at <https://freedomandcitizenship.columbia.edu/civic-leadership>

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### **The Macquarie Group has selected 11 DDC students for its LEADS summer internship program!**

On July 8th, 11 DDC students will explore the world of work as they begin their five-week paid summer internship at Macquarie Group, the Australian global investment bank and financial services company. LEADS, which stands for Leadership Education Advancement Development Support, provides students with hands-on experiences across various sectors of business and finance. Students will work at the Macquarie headquarters in New York City, which is located in the heart of Manhattan.

Selected after an intensive interview process, these DDC students will shadow mentors who are Macquarie staff from the Corporate Asset Finance, Commodities and Global Markets, Corporate Operations, Financial Management, Risk Management, and Asset Management areas. Each intern is paired with a full-time Macquarie employee who is the designated mentor for the duration of the internship.

They also will participate in career development sessions to build their professional and workplace skills, including networking, project management, personal budgeting, and public speaking.

What a fabulous opportunity, we are so excited!!! **DDC Students, Welcome to the Top of the Financial World!**

For additional information on the Macquarie LEADS Internship, [click here](#).

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### **DDC Student Spotlight: Deborah Oyede, 11<sup>th</sup> grade, DDC student since 2017, and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Oyede**

I am so thankful for DDC! They helped me expand my creative side and showed me how to combine it with my passion for STEM so that now I know what I want to do: a double major

in pre-vet biomedical engineering/sciences, a minor in business and digital media, arts and technology, and then go to veterinary school.

DDC boosted my self-esteem, prepared me for the college application process, and provided me with top academic classes to strengthen my grades and expand my horizon.

The Counselors have shown me that I need to always have a positive outlook and I can do whatever I want to do, as long as I have a strong mindset and work ethic. You do not have to go the path that everyone expects from you, you select the path that is best for you. You have to make good choices to get there, it is not always easy, but the hard work does pay off.

I had great DDC tutors and teachers! They coach you for the SAT, help with homework, and provide classes that are more comprehensive than what I get in my school. The poetry class in 10<sup>th</sup> grade helped me open up my imagination more and explain difficult concepts in a simple way. Classes like African-American History made me think about life in different ways. I learned it is important to have an open mind and explore all ideas before forming your own opinion. And thanks to the YANY/NBCUniversal class, I can create a story and make it come to life!

You do not get this kind of exposure in high school!

### **Mr. and Mrs. Oyede**

We would encourage any parent to enroll their children in DDC. They offer wonderful opportunities in the structured environment that children need to gain self-confidence and improve their grades so they can make it into college and graduate.

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**Partner with us to offer the gift of education! To help fund our programs and expand our outreach, click here: [“Change a Life”](#)**

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<https://ddc.college.columbia.edu/about>

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*Photo Credit: kecia hayes, Executive Director, The Roger Lehecka Double Discovery Center*

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