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**CATALYST CT AND PARK CITY PRESENTS LAUNCH PROGRAM TO EMPOWER
BRIDGEPORT YOUTH THROUGH MUSIC PRODUCTION CAREERS**
“LIVE MUSIC PRODUCTION APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM” OFFERS OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH

(Bridgeport, CT) - Catalyst CT, in partnership with Park City Presents, is excited to announce the launch of the Live Music Production Apprenticeship Program, aimed at providing Bridgeport’s youth with real career opportunities in the music industry. Funded through the Greater Bridgeport Grant: Arts in the Service of Equity, this three-year initiative, supported by the Fairfield County Community Foundation (FCCF), will invest up to \$285,000 to empower under-resourced youth with experience in the professional production and creative arts space.

This innovative program will offer hands-on training in careers in live event production technology, like lighting and sound engineering, specifically targeting 16- to 18-year-olds from under-resourced communities. With access to state-of-the-art equipment and on-the-job experience at Park City Music Hall, teen apprentices will learn directly from industry professionals in a vibrant live music setting.

"Our goal is to turn student passions for music into professional opportunities, opening doors that weren't previously available," said Marc Donald, CEO of Catalyst CT. "These young people will gain practical skills, positioning them for jobs in live music venues locally and beyond."

The Apprenticeship Program addresses the challenges facing Bridgeport’s youth, who often lack the same educational and career opportunities as their peers in surrounding areas. Learning from industry professionals at Park City Music Hall will allow young participants to develop critical skills that can lead to sustainable careers as lighting technicians and sound engineers.

"As the non-profit associated with Park City Music Hall, we have the unique opportunity to bring youth into a working live music venue to get hands-on experience on state-of-the-art equipment, all while getting instruction from industry professionals," said Brandon Clark, Executive Director, Park City Presents. "Connecting the young people of Bridgeport to career pathways with low barriers to entry like the ones we will be offering apprenticeships for is a win-win for us and the community we seek to serve. We are beyond thrilled to get started."

Catalyst CT and Park City Presents are committed to serving under-resourced communities and ensuring that this program reaches those who will benefit the most. Together, they are creating meaningful pathways to career success in the creative arts industry.

Applications for the Live Music Production Apprenticeship Program will be available in early 2025. To receive updates and for more information about the program, please follow @parkcitypresents or @catalystinct on Instagram.

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About FCCF

Fairfield County Community Foundation (FCCF) is committed to creating a thriving community where every resident has the opportunity to succeed. Through innovative grant programs and partnerships, FCCF works to advance equity, inclusion, and opportunity across the region.

About Catalyst CT

Catalyst CT works diligently to be a part of the solution to reduce youth and gun violence, advocate for healthier communities, and create a positive impact that extends far beyond today for the under resourced and underserved youth, families, and neighborhoods throughout Southwestern CT and beyond.

About Park City Presents

Park City Presents is committed to enriching Bridgeport through creative arts and music, offering high-quality, immersive music and technology education to the city's youth and bringing live performances by world-class musicians to residents. Founded in 2022 by Board Chair John Torres, a dedicated Bridgeport native with deep familial roots in the community, Park City Presents embodies his family's enduring legacy of community building. Learn more at www.parkcitypresents.org.