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Media Inquiries:

Danya R. Steele

danya@theshivagroup.co

914.510.7648

**D.C. Teens Are Being Trained on Creativity & Resiliency
In First Citywide Youth Improv Slam**

(Washington, D.C. – April 1, 2023) On April 15, 2023, the multi-award-winning Canady Foundation for the Arts (CFA) will produce its first annual citywide Youth Improv Slam competition at the culturally historic Theater J in Washington D.C. from 1-3:30pm. The event is free and open to the public through online registration, with special encouragement for D.C.-based and visiting families: <https://www.canadyfoundationarts.org/improv>.

The slam will be the first of its kind for Washington D.C.: gathering four D.C. area high schools to publicly battle, present and compete in the art of improv: thinking creatively and constructively on your feet even in the face of the absurd, outrageous, ever-changing or unknown – life skills no doubt useful for youth and adults alike.

Since 2015, CFA has trained and supported more than 8,000 youth and families across the D.C. metro area and beyond with highly innovative, culturally competent and deeply relevant arts programming. With real-world creative professionals at its helm, CFA alum have already gone on to commercially successful careers including internships and full-time job offers from the likes of Sesame Street, Kokila Books (Penguin Publishing) and the Manhattan Theater Club.

The Canady Foundation is the namesake of Marjuan Canady, a native Washingtonian, Broadway producer and arts educator. While many do not yet look to Washington D.C. as an arts capital, Canady is out to change that. In March 2023, Canady was named a *2023 Woman to Watch* by the Broadway Women’s Fund, highlighting “extraordinary” female talent now shaping the future of Broadway.

The Canady Foundation is a natural expression of its founder: doing her part to inspire, train and prepare the next generation of creative minds in Washington D.C. to shape their world for the better, using arts, culture – and improv readiness! – as powerful tools for personal empowerment and social change.

Audiences of all ages are sure to enjoy this year's inaugural Youth Improv Slam competition. With generous support from the DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities, Theater J and the DC Awesome Foundation, this year's event is the hopeful first in many years to come.

The CFA 1st Annual Youth Improv Slam will start promptly at 1pm on Saturday, April 15, 2023, offering a red carpet welcome and reception to all attendees at Theater J in Washington D.C., followed by a showtime of 2pm. All are invited to RSVP for free entry at <https://www.canadyfoundationarts.org/improv>.

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About Canady Foundation for the Arts

The Canady Foundation for the Arts (CFA) is a 501(C)3 Washington, D.C.-based cultural arts organization that uses the power of story to connect professional artists to youth of color through arts education, community, live theater, mentorship and professional development. The organization often intersects training in the arts with lessons in activism, public policy and social change.

The organization has been recently selected as a 2023 recipient of an "Awesome Grant" by the Awesome Foundation, a global network of autonomous philanthropists providing no-strings-attached grants to those "devoted to forwarding the interest of awesomeness in the universe."