“Spy Hop gives a voice to youth like none other, but for me, provided a stepping stone to reach my dreams as a filmmaker.” —Spy Hop Student

Spy Hop is a nonprofit youth media arts and education center located in Salt Lake City, Utah. Our mission is to mentor young people in the digital media arts to help them find their voice, tell their stories, and be empowered to affect positive change in their lives, their communities, and the world.

Spy Hop opened our doors in 1999, serving 12 students in a documentary film class. Today we are the only youth media organization in Utah providing over 15,000 youth ages 10 – 20 with hands-on experiences in film, music, audio, and digital design. We continually seek to close the “digital divide” by reaching out to underserved youth and marginalized communities needing access and instruction in the latest digital technologies.

Our dynamic studio environment actively engages youth in an array of innovative digital media programs. All of Spy Hop’s programs encourage youth to explore issues and concerns that are relevant and meaningful to their lives, to become critical consumers of media, and to become actively involved in their communities. Youth complete Spy Hop programs with a measurable increase in creativity, self-confidence, media literacy, technical skills, and appreciation for arts and culture that in turn prepares them for a digital future.

Through the production of their own media, our students are given an opportunity to find their voice, think creatively, and work collaboratively with peers from diverse backgrounds. Their work reaches local, national, and international audiences through platforms such as iTunes, YouTube, Vimeo, film festivals, public radio, broadcast TV, on-demand cable stations, local screenings, and events.

Since 1999 our center has become a vital resource for the youth of Salt Lake and to the community at large. We are now widely recognized as one of the leading youth media organizations in the country, and are setting the standard for media arts learning across the nation. In 2015 we were named as one of seven organizations internationally to be an Adobe Creative Catalyst. This award recognizes Spy Hop as a leading youth arts organization that supports and inspires the next generation of creative youth. Additionally, we were honored at the White House as one of the nation’s best after school arts and humanities programs, receiving the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award from the President’s Committee on the Arts and the Humanities.
“I value the people. The mentors are amazing and I would not be the same person without having them in my life.” — Spy Hop Alum

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Colby Bryson — Phase 2 Productions Director
Alicia Cenaruzabeitia — Marketing & Events Coordinator
Jeremy Chatelain — Director of Programs
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Liz Schulte — Interactive Design Mentor
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Our Partners
We work with a diverse array of community partners to reach young people across Utah, including:
Adoption Exchange
BBBoy Federation
Decker Lake Youth Center
Department of Child and Family Services
Diabolical Records
Entheos Academy
Eva Carlston Residential Treatment Center
The Front Climbing Club
Gemstone Youth Center
Glendale Library
Granite School District
Kilby Court
Madeleine Choir School
Natural History Museum of Utah
Odyssey House
Primary Children’s Behavioral Center
Rowland Hall
Salt Lake Arts Academy
Salt Lake City School District
Salt Lake Community College
Salt Lake County Boys & Girls Group Home
Salt Lake County Youth Services
Salt Lake Film Society
Salt Lake Observation & Assessment
Solstice Residential Treatment Center
Uni Girls Transition Center
UNP Hartland Center
Utah Arts Alliance
Utah Arts Festival
Utah Film Center
Utah Museum of Fine Arts
Valley Mental Health
Wasatch Youth Center
Weilenmann School of Discovery
Youth In Care Arts

Our Funders
We receive support from many foundations, government agencies & corporations. For a complete list, see spyhop.org.
Ally Bank
Bowen Studios
Centeva
Comenity Capital Bank
David Kelby Johnson Memorial Foundation
Dominion Energy
ELMA Music Foundation
George S. & Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation
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Synchrony Financial
US Bank Foundation
Utah Division of Arts & Museums
Utah Film Commission
Utah Humanities
Utah State Board of Education
Willard L. Eccles Foundation

“Spy Hop does outstanding work with the youth of our community to develop their own identity in a culture where personal confidence is essential, especially for at risk young people. Youth involvement in Spy Hop programs is life-changing.” —Marijean Woolf, Granite School District
“Spy Hop dramatically altered the course of my life for the better. Because of what I learned there as a kid, I was able to pursue creative goals with confidence, and have landed a well-paying full-time job because of it. I cannot overstate how important Spy Hop was, and continues to be, for me.” — Spy Hop Alum

We believe that the next generation has a lot to say and when armed with awareness and knowledge, youth can speak more articulately and with greater impact. And the numbers prove us right. From the beginning, we’ve put digital equipment into the hands of youth from all walks of life and last year alone, 1626 students in our core and community programs created 920 films, songs, radio plays, poems, designs, and games. Additionally, we reached 13,051 students statewide, at 123 schools in 23 districts, through our In-School Programs.

Our Core & Community Students 2017-18
14,677 students served in Utah
Languages spoken: 24
58% male, 41% female, 1% transgender
Students came from 123 schools

What They Think
70% of students improved their motivation and confidence in their academic performance.
74% Improved their internal sense of self worth as they explore who they are.
81% Improved their ability to make choices, take positive risks, and persist through life’s challenges.

Our Alumni
100% of surveyed alumni graduated from high school.
96% of surveyed alumni are in school full time or employed full time.
82% credit Spy Hop for helping them have a positive view of self and their contributions.
72% of alumni surveyed completed college or a certificate program.

Selected Recognition for Our Work
2017 Creativity Award for One Defining Dot: The America I Am Youth Film Competition
2015 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award, presented by the President’s Committee on the Arts and the Humanities
Adobe Creative Catalyst Award
2014 Utah Governor’s Leadership in the Arts Award for Education Leadership
2012 Best Documentary for Even Handed from Westport Youth Film Festival
Regional Emmy for Navigating Freedom, 4 short films produced in partnership with local PBS affiliate, KUED
First Prize (and a trip to the Grammy’s) from the Grammy Foundation for the song Psychological Cool Guy
Community Awareness through Media Award from the American Probation & Parole Association for Sending Messages
2011 First Prize at the Adobe Aspire Awards for the song Big Feet
2010 Citizens Service Award from the Salt Lake County Unified Police Department
2006 Peabody Award in television broadcasting for Beyond Borders: Personal Stories From a Small Planet
“I definitely think more critically when I consume media, in both technical and creative aspects. My eyes have also been opened to more perspectives and lifestyles and cultures.” — Spy Hop Student

Mentorship lies at the heart of everything we do. Whether it’s a two-hour workshop, or a yearlong experience in film, music or game design; students at Spy Hop feel valued, encouraged and respected.

**Introductory**

**MEDIA LABS** offer in-depth instruction at an introductory level in areas like filmmaking, beatmaking, and game design that give students the basic skills to take the next step. **OPEN MIC** gives teens free access to our music recording studio every Friday afternoon.

**Intermediate**

**APPRENTICESHIPS** in film, design, music, and audio production give youth hands-on experience and work-based learning while honing their craft in the medium they love. **REEL STORIES** is a free, intensive film class with a unique opportunity for students to make their own 5-min documentary, which premieres on the big screen. **RESONATE** is an alternative hip hop production program that celebrates the use of rap as a vehicle for storytelling and social change. **WOODSHEDDING** is a songwriting workshop giving students the opportunity to write and perform original songs.

**Advanced**

**PITCHNIC** is an intensive program where students write, shoot and edit a short documentary or narrative film that screens at a red carpet, public screening. **MUSICOTOLOGY** gives young musicians a one-of-a-kind opportunity to form a band, write original songs, produce an album and perform around Salt Lake City. **LOUD & CLEAR YOUTH RADIO** is Utah’s only youth-produced radio show where students DJ a Saturday night show on community radio station 90.9 FM KRCL. **POWER UP!** students design, illustrate and code a game focused around a social issue and release it to the public. **WATCH THIS** is a youth produced, civic-minded documentary series in which students between the age of 15-19 create a series of short videos on community relevant topics.

**Summer**

Spy Hop’s summer programming provides fun weeklong experiences in film, audio, music, and design. Reaching younger students, ages 9 to 12, these classes prepare the next generation for Spy Hop’s core programming.

**Spy Hop in the Community**

**YOUTH IN CARE:** Spy Hop’s Youth In Care programs are for young people in the foster care system, residential treatment programs, secure care facilities and those in state’s custody. This includes Spy Hop’s award-winning Sending Messages podcast program.

**VOICES OF THE WEST:** In partnership with John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Spy Hop brings weeklong digital media programming to rural communities in Utah including Blanding, Tooele, and Vernal.

**SPECIAL PROJECTS:** Spy Hop offers all day workshops to middle school classes for up to 40 students. These intensive experiences allow youth to collaborate on projects in film making, digital design, video game production, audio engineering and music making on site at our studio.

**Spy Hop’s In-School Programs**

Our In-School Programs bring teaching artists to a single classroom, grade level, or an entire school, to introduce students to the language and concepts of media arts as well as career opportunities in digital media, all while having fun with state-of-the-art technology.