

FLAME YOUTH PROJECT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media Advisory:

FLAME youth project to hold first annual event
Fashion Show and Silent Auction to be held at the Seawell Ballroom on August 5th, 2006.

(Denver, CO, May 28, 2007)—Celebrating a year of serving youth throughout the metro Denver Area, the FLAME (Fashion, Leadership, and Motivation Experience) Youth Project will hold its first ever gala event, including a fashion show and silent auction. The event, titled "Fashioning Success" will be held at the Donald Seawell Ballroom in the Denver Performing Arts Center and local designer Ashara Ekundayo will M.C. for the evening. There will also be a silent auction featuring items donated from Brooks and Co, Mod Uptown, and Rave's.

The Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning recently named the FLAME Youth Project "Most Innovative Nonprofit". FLAME's mission is to provide marginalized youth with opportunities for self-determination through skill building within a social justice framework. FLAME's flagship program is its ten-week fashion institute, where youth learn not only the principals of fashion design, but explore the dress and cultures of diverse groups and attend business classes as well. Last year this program reached over thirty youth. This year, FLAME is hoping to graduate at least 50 youth from the fashion institute. In addition to completing the program, in the past year FLAME youth have also:

- ◆ Donated over 900 hours of service hours working in the FLAME boutique thrift shop
- ◆ Raised \$2,000 for a local women's shelter through sale of their creations
- ◆ Conducted six workshops with elementary-age students on fashion and culture

FLAME has partnered with the Mayor's Office of Workforce Development, The Pan-African Arts Society [de]production, inc., and other local nonprofits to create its groundbreaking program. Next months' celebration will recognize not only FLAME's accomplishments, but will also highlight this winning and unique partnership of service organizations.

Tickets for "Fashioning Success" can be reserved by emailing flame@flameyouthproject.org or calling 303-830-2401 and cost \$50.00 each. Over 200 supporters are expected to attend the event. More information about the program is available at www.flameyouthproject.org .

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About the FLAME Youth Project: The FLAME Youth Project is the only program of its kind in the country. FLAME serves youth 16-21 years old, with a focus on youth of color and queer youth. FLAME addresses the need of youth to understand their cultures and the cultures of those around them while providing hands-on work experience and skills. FLAME takes a unique approach to youth service, incorporating a social justice framework into every step of programming. For more information about the FLAME Youth Project, please contact Jennifer Samimi at jennifesammimi@gmail.com or 303-830-2401.