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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, June 29, 2017

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Get HYPE Philly! Young Leaders Award \$74,000 in Mini-Grants to Local Youth-Serving Organizations

Awards announced at annual event on June 9; Philadelphia Student Union and Philadelphia Wooden Boat Factory received special recognition and checks for \$10,000 each

On Friday, June 9, at its second annual year-end celebration, [Get HYPE Philly!](#) youth leaders announced the winners of their **Spring 2017 Youth Leadership Council Mini-Grant Awards**. Fifteen youth-serving nonprofit organizations were awarded a total of \$74,000 to support a variety of projects promoting food access, urban agriculture, safe streets, job creation and other issues important to Get HYPE Philly!'s Youth Leadership Council.

The largest mini-grants, in the amount of \$10,000 each, were awarded to **Philadelphia Student Union** for its continued advocacy around water access in schools; and **Philadelphia Wooden Boat Factory** to support youth environmentalism.

“Being a part of the Get HYPE Philly! mini-grant process was a welcomed break from the norm,” says **Hiram Rivera**, executive director, Philadelphia Student Union (PSU). “For the first time, our members were a part of a funding process led by other young people. A process like this creates space for not only PSU leaders to speak directly about their issues to other students who would understand their urgency, but gives the young people of Get HYPE Philly! meaningful decision-making power that they use to actively engage in supporting work that’s beneficial to all students of Philadelphia.”

Adds **Brett Hart**, executive director, Philadelphia Wooden Boat Factory: “Get HYPE Philly!’s authentic approach to building healthy communities through youth-driven, youth-built initiatives was visible from our very first interactions. Our youth were excited to see that their peers at Get HYPE Philly! needed to hear about *their* project in *their* own words. When the grant was awarded, it became that much richer, as there was a deeper connection between our youth leaders and Get HYPE Philly! already baked in.”

Other 2017 awardees include **GALAEI, Mighty Writers, Students Run Philly Style, Teens for Good, Tiny WPA, Urban Creators** and more (see below for a complete list of grantees and their projects).

Made possible by generous support from GSK, Get HYPE Philly! brings together 10 nonprofits and thousands of youth from across the city to improve their own health and the health of their communities. As part of the Youth Leadership Council, 11 Get HYPE Philly! high school students learned about

philanthropy, reviewed applications and granted awards to organizations working with young leaders in at least one of the following priority areas: food access and urban agriculture; safe and inclusive streets and parks; school climate; and support systems and job creation for young people.

“Before the mini-grant process, I was not aware of how many wonderful youth-led programs there are in Philadelphia,” says **Eva Low**, a rising senior at Masterman High School. “It was very difficult to decide which organizations should be awarded the \$10,000 grants, but I am glad that every single one of our nominees got to walk away with some money. I am so incredibly honored to be a part of the mini-grant process, and getting a chance to learn about the amazing work done by students all over the city makes me happy that the HYPE Youth Leadership Council got a chance to help them out!”

All awardees include:

Asian Americans United (\$2,000), to support 40 mostly recent immigrant youth to find their voice and develop as leaders in their community through the Chinese Youth Organizing Project

The Attic Youth Center (\$6,000), to create opportunities for LGBTQ youth by offering summer and school year internships, providing support for college applications, and providing continuing life skills programming

Bicycle Coalition (\$4,000), to teach healthy habits, foster independence, and build leadership through cycling Tour Teams for 20 youth

The Farm at Bartram’s Garden (\$4,000), to employ 25 paid high school interns, host three youth-led farm stands, and host 15 gardening and cooking workshops led by youth

GALAEI (\$4,000), to expand its Leadership Academy, providing more youth with individual coaching sessions including college and career access coaching

Mighty Writers (\$4,000), to host writing workshops for teens, pair them with an adult writing mentor, and prepare them for college through SAT prep and college visits

Neighborhood Bike Works (\$2,000), to pilot the expansion of the Ride Club, a four-week entry-level afterschool program, targeted specifically to girls

Philadelphia Student Union (\$10,000), to develop campaigns to improve water access at local schools and create an accountability system for School Resource Officers

Philadelphia Wooden Boat Factory (\$10,000), to provide stipends to 25 youth RiverGuides learning environmentalism

Students Run Philly Style (\$6,000), to host 400 students at four “Run Your Park” events throughout the city to encourage physical activity and introduce students to their neighborhood parks

Teen Leadership Corps at Awbury Arboretum (\$2,000), to expand the “Make It, Build It, and Cook It Days” led by youth interns and a Master Carpenter, Master Gardener, and Master Chef to help new youth build a farm structure, cook a meal, and make a product from crops harvested in the farm

Teens for Good (\$4,000), to engage youth to develop healthy snack recipes to be shared through social media and a video commercial competition as part of the Healthy Snack Challenge

Tiny WPA (\$6,000), to work with 25 young people after school to design and build youth-led projects to be sold online and used to improve community spaces

University Community Collaborative at Temple U (\$6,000), to work with 50 high school junior and senior interns through the POWER program to create films to raise awareness of social justice issues

Urban Creators (\$4,000), to provide 20 youth with full-time summer jobs, share best practices with other youth urban farmers, and teach food justice workshops for the community

The Get HYPE Philly! Story

How do you make the biggest impact on young people's health? Welcome to Get HYPE Philly!, a citywide initiative promoting positive youth development in Philadelphia. Funded by GSK, administered by The Philadelphia Foundation and led by The Food Trust, Get HYPE Philly! brings together 10 nonprofit Collective partners to empower Philly's young people as leaders, preparing them to live healthier lives and create healthier communities. This year, Get HYPE Philly! was named a winner of the inaugural Health Means Business Healthy 10 Awards from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation under the category of "healthy education and workforce." To learn more, visit gethypephilly.org.

About The Food Trust

The Food Trust, a nonprofit founded in 1992, strives to ensure that everyone has access to healthy, affordable food and information to make healthy decisions. To learn more, visit thefoodtrust.org.