



# PCA Blog

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## Keep it REEL at Light House Studio

JULY 2, 2015 · COMMUNITY ARTS EVENTS, WORKSHOPS & SEMINARS



Keep it REEL is a summer program offered by [Light House Studio](#) to reach students in three Boys and Girls Club locations: Cherry Avenue, Southwood, and Jack Jouett; Piedmont Housing Alliance – Friendship Court Community Center, City of Promise – Westhaven Community Center, Albemarle High School’s ESOL class, and the Greenstone on 5th Community Center. PCA spoke with Zoe Cohen, Program Director at Light House Studio, to learn more about the program and recent workshops.

### Where did the idea for the Keep it REEL Documentary Workshop come from?

Keep it REEL is an on-site, after-school program in Charlottesville. The idea for the program came out of a desire to reach students in our community who had difficulty getting to Light House Studio. Since 2003, this program has been instrumental in allowing the youth of

various neighborhoods to voice their opinions to the wider community and to build friendships among people from different segments of society. Along with engaging teens in a meaningful project, this program teaches basic production skills and, more importantly, urges youth more thoughtfully to express themselves. The Keep it REEL program is the mainstay of Light House Studio’s programming.

### What other organizations do you collaborate with to produce the workshop?

For our most recent Keep it REEL Documentary Workshop we partnered with the Piedmont Housing Alliance to offer our programming in the Friendship Court Community Center. The workshop was twice a week for three weeks. On the first day of the workshop we discussed best practices for conducting an interview, how to frame a shot, and techniques to make a interviewee feel at ease. From there, students brainstormed various types of careers and businesses they were interested in learning about and exploring.

### How did the students choose people to interview? How did they choose their interview questions?

Each student chose a topic and generated a list of questions. We approached local business people and asked if they would be willing to give an interview. Working together as a crew and trading roles, students filmed, recorded audio, and interviewed five different people about their work and life. The final week of the workshop was dedicated to editing the films. We celebrated the students’ hard work with a screening of the four mini-documentaries, which are available for viewing online.

### What feedback have you gotten from students who participated in the workshop?

We received positive feedback from the students involved and from the Piedmont Housing Alliance. In particular, students enjoyed learning the editing software on the computers in our studio. They were quick to pick up settings on the camera and audio recorder. With each interview the students conducted, I watched them become more confident and outgoing.

You can learn more about the Keep it REEL program on the Light House [website](#). And don’t miss the videos produced by the recent Keep it REEL Documentary Workshop, available below.

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