



light house studio

at VINEGAR HILL THEATRE



The Story: Light House Studio

Light House Studio is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit filmmaking center founded in 1999 by a group of artists and educators passionate about teaching children self-expression through the art of film. Over the past 19 years we've developed a national reputation, served more than 1,500 children, and produced countless (and award-winning) films. Light House remains the **only dedicated youth film center in Virginia**. We believe in the importance of collaboration and community, the creativity of young minds, and the lasting benefits of our hands-on mentor-based approach to teaching the art of filmmaking.



The Need

With our community's support, Light House has grown dramatically since our first pilot workshop in 1999. Last year we taught **1,787 students** from **86 schools** in **130 hands-on workshops**. We collaborated with **59 nonprofit partners** and schools, and contracted with **35 filmmakers** and artists to teach our students.

As our community partnerships have broadened and our class offerings have grown, we have expanded to occupy three separate spaces. The renovated Vinegar Hill Theatre will allow our growing organization to house all of our needs in one location. Thanks to the generosity of our community, we have already converted the former restaurant into a film library and staff offices, and completely updated the theatre's screen, speakers, acoustic panels, and projector

We are currently fundraising for Phase II of the campaign—an addition of two film studios and a roof terrace—and Phase III—our Preservation Fund. Please contact us to tour the space and learn about the ways Light House and Vinegar Hill benefit our community.



The History: Vinegar Hill Theatre

Light House Studio has taken advantage of a unique opportunity to put down deep roots in a Charlottesville landmark while keeping Vinegar Hill Theatre alive. Forty years ago a pair of movie lovers converted a motorcycle showroom into a 200-seat theatre. For 37 years Vinegar Hill Theatre served as a singular venue for screening independent and international films and a community gathering spot for art lovers. But after a long battle with the big movie chains, Vinegar Hill closed its doors for good in 2013.

In June of 2016 Light House reopened Vinegar Hill as a film center in this highly-visible and convenient location on the downtown mall, which serves as a movie lot for our young filmmakers. In addition to serving more than 1,000 children each year, the theatre also benefits our many (50+) nonprofit partners. Vinegar Hill once again screens independent and documentary films.

"[Light House Studio is an] outstanding organization with a compelling mission of helping youth to tell the stories of their lives and of the community through documentary filmmaking... [Their] outreach to at-risk youth, recent refugees, and children with special needs is impressive."

—Virginia Commission for the Arts



The Plan



Light House's new home at Vinegar Hill will include:

- 2 new film studios
- Editing stations
- Film library and meeting room
- Staff offices
- Full-screen cinema theatre

The Numbers

COSTS

Phase I: Purchase and Renovation	\$1.32M
Phase II: Addition of 2 Studios	\$968K
Phase III: Preservation Fund	\$1M
Project Total	\$3.32M

FUNDS RAISED

Phase II Remaining	\$262K
Preservation Remaining	\$884K
Total Remaining	\$1.35M

"Vinegar Hill Theatre is a very special place. It was always about bringing film to the people, films that otherwise would be difficult to see. I believe that Light House carries on that mission in a different light, through education and an introduction to the medium for kids."

—Reid Hildebrand, Alum and Mentor

Support

Contact

For more information about Light House Studio or our Vinegar Hill Capital Campaign, contact:

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434.293.6992



Donate Now

Send a check to:

Light House Studio

121 East Water Street

Charlottesville, VA 22902

Or give online:

www.lighthousestudio.org/support-vinegar-hill-campaign

Our Team

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