NYC Arts and Entertainment Worker Resource Center

**Mission**
The mission of the Arts and Entertainment Worker Resource Center is to provide resources to improve the lives of workers, especially those who are early in their careers, in the arts, entertainment, fashion and media industries in New York City.

**Why we need an A&E WRC**
Evolving economic models and technology present new challenges for A&E workers as they strive to launch careers and establish themselves as productive members of the New York arts community. The growth of the “gig” economy complicates workers' ability to find commonality and share strategies. Both early and mid-career workers struggle to secure stable work at a fair wage, have difficulty finding affordable housing, healthcare, and work spaces, and lack critical information about their rights as workers and standards in the industry that could assist them in advocating for themselves. These challenges occur in a playing field already tilted away from workers of color, women and others who have historically had less representation and social power. Creating and promoting a diverse, dynamic culture that accurately reflects our rich American tapestry is especially unlikely when these workers find it difficult to access or create opportunities in the industry.

**Vision**
Our goal is to help the tens of thousands of workers in the NYC arts, entertainment, fashion and media industries build sustainable careers in the context of our rapidly changing work environment.

We will create a space for emerging talent working in the A&E industries to form community, access information and resources, develop skills, identify common challenges and issues, and create strategies for addressing these issues. We will assist and advocate for all workers, particularly those who face barriers based on ethnicity, race, class, sexual orientation, ableness, gender, and gender identity.

Many resources and support organizations already exist that workers are not accessing because they simply don’t know they are available. In step with emerging technologies, the A&E WRC will aggregate information, create new resources, and promote and partner with these organizations to give young workers the greatest chance at a strong start.

**How we’ll build the A&E WRC**
We will partner with artists, organizations, advocates and labor unions from the arts, entertainment, fashion and media industries committed to working collaboratively to improve the lives and support the development of emerging A&E workers.

We will engage the young workers we wish to serve and support in the design, development, and management of the A&E WRC.

We will secure funding for the WRC from a variety of sources, including arts organizations, foundations and government agencies.