



Teens creatively cultivating  
the next generation of leaders!

# THE MOVEMENT

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## FUSE Fest Celebrates Urban Life, Igniting Hope and Positive Energy in the Community

(Norfolk, VA) - The non-profit organization, TWP (Teens with a Purpose) - The Youth Movement is creating a safe and healthy community in Norfolk with F.U.S.E. Fest, (*Focus on Unity, Spirit and Edutainment*) a free celebration of Norfolk urban life through interactive art, music, food & more! Fuse Fest is sponsored by a national organization, Youth Speaks and the City of Norfolk. In its fourth year, this interactive event has transitioned from a teen-led event to a teen and community led experience. Fuse Fest celebrates the heart of inner-city Norfolk through this intergenerational festival in the downtown Church Street District on September 3<sup>rd</sup>.



Through this community festival, Teens With a Purpose and its numerous collaborative partners, plan to affirm the beauty of community. Residents from Young Terrace, Calvert Square, Olde Huntersville, and the surrounding neighborhoods are the primary honorees for this unique arts and cultural experience that includes back to school giveaways; children's activities hosted by Park Place Ministries; with WHRO STEM Interactive Van and Curious George; YWCA at Granby host the Sports Zone; empowerment workshops by Norfolk Reentry Council, Slover Library and Chef Damon; community open mic, health screenings, artist performances from Masego, The Fuzz Band, Hampton Roads Youth Poets, free food, haircuts and so much more. The festival will also feature an outdoor gallery with a special exhibit addressing juvenile justice, [Performing Statistics](#) giving voice to incarcerated youth and will feature Prize Fighter and local hero Rocko Robertson. Fuse Fest aims to dismantle negative attitudes and beliefs held by and about this community, elevate spirits and foster stronger bonds between every segment of community to help increase peace and harmony in Norfolk.

[Youth Speaks](#) awarded Teens With a Purpose a grant to expand Fuse Fest through the [Life is Living Project](#). The Life is Living Project Grant exists to support organizations that are focused on engaging specific underserved segments of their city to create a transformative experience by developing community projects centered on the lives and experiences of urban communities. Life is Living Festivals are happening in cities around the United States, including Oakland, Chicago, Houston, New York, Atlanta and Philadelphia.

Hodari Davis, National Program Director at Youth Speaks said: "We selected Teens With a Purpose for the Life is Living Program Grant largely because of the work they are already doing within a cross sector of the community. By using poetry and music as a gateway to critical conversations and action they are improving the health and wellbeing of young people in Norfolk and throughout Hampton Roads" Fuse Fest will take place Saturday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> from noon until 8pm on the open lots at Church Street and East Olney Road across from the Vivian C. Mason Art and Technology Center for Teens 700 E. Olney Road.

**Collaborative Partners:** GEICO, Art180, ER Camp, Norfolk Police Department, WHRO, ForeRunners, Slover Library, Be Your Own Beautiful, The Y at Granby, New Calvary Baptist Church, Metro PCS, Norfolk Reentry Council, Norfolk Department of Utilities, Norfolk Community Services Board, Garden of Prayer Worship Center, Q5TV, Godchild, ICO Services, No Fine Print Clothing, Fruit of Islam; 7 City Panther Party; Keep Norfolk Beautiful, Park Place Ministries; Chef Damon Armstrong, Urban Culinary Institute, Chef Ponder 5 Point Farm Market, Hot 91.1, Mia Lauray; DJ Bee, The Mission Continues For additional, information visit our website [www.TWPTheMovement.org](http://www.TWPTheMovement.org).