

Christie's Partners with Futures and Options to Extend Work-Readiness Training to the Art Market

First Arts Sector Partnership for Model Program



Futures and Options Internship Program students. Photo credit: Michael Yorkes

New York - Christie's announces a new collaborative partnership with the New York-based non-profit organization **Futures and Options** focused on expanding access and reach into the art world and associated careers. In an art industry first, the model program that enables New York's underserved youth to gain much-needed access to the economic mainstream with work-readiness training and support will initiate new internship placements at Christie's, as well as with other leading arts organizations.

In the initial phases of this long-term partnership, Christie's and Futures and Options will partner to offer paid internships to students from New York City public high schools during the Fall of 2021 and beyond. In addition, Christie's will look to help sponsor paid internships in the 2021-2022 academic year for identified youth candidates with fellow arts organizations and institutions in New York. Future initiatives will include development of annual programming with Future and Options, in the form of Career Days and related workshops for students.

"Futures and Options is eager to support Christie's as it launches a truly innovative and needed paid internship model in the art world, opening doors of opportunity for young people to careers they might not yet have imagined. Christie's investment in furthering diversity sets a high bar for preparing youth to be productive and contributing members of the workforce, and provides a guiding light for others in the art industry," said **Patty Machir**, Executive Director, Futures and Options.

"We are excited to support Futures and Options to connect to talented, motivated young people," said **Ben Whine**, Development Director, Christie's Americas. *"The internships will have a strong*

educational component and focus, and we all look forward to welcoming the selected students to an instructive and inspirational experience at Christie's. As we proceed, we hope to inspire other organizations in our field to consider the model program and amplify Futures and Options' positive impact."

Since 1995, Futures and Options has empowered more than 10,000 of New York City's underserved youth to explore careers through career development and paid, mentored internships. The organisation has its roots in partnering with financial services companies. The partnership with Christie's is the first of its kind in the commercial art sector.

About Futures and Options

Since 1995, Futures and Options has *empowered* New York City's underserved youth to explore careers through our career development programs. Its flagship programs include Career Essentials, a work-readiness and career exploration program for middle and high school students, and The Internship Program, which provides high school students with paid, mentored internships at businesses, non-profits, and government agencies. Futures and Options reaches out to teens who are primarily young people of color at a formative time of their lives, guiding them to further their education and become contributing citizens. Its model makes it possible for youth to gain much-needed access to the economic mainstream, work-readiness training, college guidance, and support from caring adults. At the same time, businesses are connected to a pipeline of talented, motivated and diverse young people. Since its inception, upwards of 11,000 New York City teens have participated in Futures and Options' programs, with more than 90% of all participants graduating from high school on time and pursuing higher education.

For more information:

Web: <http://www.futuresandoptions.org>

Instagram: @futuresandoptions

Twitter: @FAONYC

About Christie's

Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and international expertise. Founded in 1766 by James Christie, Christie's has conducted the greatest and most celebrated auctions through the centuries providing a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers around 350 auctions annually in over 80 categories, including all areas of fine and decorative arts, jewellery, photographs, collectibles, wine, and more. Prices range from \$200 to over \$100 million. Christie's also has a long and successful history conducting Private Sales for clients and online sales are offered year-round across all categories. Christie's global presence is spread across a network of international salerooms and 61 representatives and offices. Christies.com provides detailed articles and videos on the objects offered for sale alongside the latest advances in digital viewing tools to make Christie's accessible to all.

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