

# Empowering teen filmmakers

*Harwood Museum of Art offers filmmaking workshop for teens*

By Yvonne Pesquera

**T**aos teens are makers. Whether they jailbreak today's phones or overlay traditional arts and crafts onto 3-D printing — teenagers know how to apply technology to get their point across.



## F Y I

### Three-week program

■ **When:** Monday (June 16), 10 a.m.-noon

■ **Where:** Harwood Museum of Art, 238 Ledoux Street

■ **Admission:** \$100, \$80 members

■ **Information:** (575) 758-9826

And now, over 100 years later since the birth of film, teens can use their hand-held electronics to bust away from canned Hollywood storylines and tell their own stories.

Beginning next week on Monday (June 16), the Harwood Museum of Art will

offer a filmmaking workshop for teens aged 13-19. This program welcomes all teens — those who live here full time or are just visiting for the summer. A smart phone (with video camera capability) or a traditional video camera is required.

The time commitment is not intensive. The program runs for just three weeks; and meets two days a week for only two hours each day. When not in the class, the teens are encouraged to be out in the real world filming.

Then on July 8, the Harwood Museum will host a reception (open to the public) to show the student films in the Arthur Bell Auditorium.

The cost per student is \$100 general/\$80 members. A limited number of scholarships are available through the Harwood Museum, thanks to the Fasken Youth Arts Outreach and Scholarship Fund.

The filmmaking workshop is taught by Steven Gootgeld, who directed his own film, "PromoHobo FreeheART." This documentary won the 2013 Peo-



Steven Gootgeld, pictured in May 2013 at the Harwood Museum in front the Curator's Wall installation featuring works by Promo Hobo artists.

ple's Choice Award at the Taos Shortz Film Festival. Gootgeld will work with the teens as the leading teaching artist. A Harwood Museum education assistant will also be on hand.

Aside from being highly credentialed in the arts and digital media, Gootgeld is perhaps best known around Taos — for his commitment to Taos.

"When I turned 60 this year," Gootgeld said, "I decided that if I want to leave a legacy, it's not a house full of my sculptures. It's by planting seeds in the minds of youth."

Gootgeld acknowledges that on the surface level, Taos offers limited opportunities for young people. So, after high school graduation, many frustrated young Taoseños leave for

bigger cities. "My goal is to foster innate creativity," he explains. "Creativity not just for art. It's being creative about how you live your life."

Teens will use their video cameras to tell whatever story they want. Those with similar ideas will be encouraged to group together for team building.

The filmmaking workshop will follow this set structure of classes.

Storyboarding will teach teens how to take the story in their hearts (or the one that keeps spinning around their heads) and break it down into small sections. This will help the teen filmmaker identify what kind of shots are required, as well as narration and sound. This is the first step before a teen goes out and shoots film.

Composition will help the teen

directors set up scenes. "When you walk, you see the whole world around you," Gootgeld explains. "This class will teach you how to capture shots through a little lens and only the shots you want."

The class will meet in the Alcade Room of the Harwood Museum at 238 Ledoux St. Gootgeld will bring a piece of cardboard with a small rectangle cut out right in the middle. "That way the filmmakers can practice shooting, by obliterating the rest of the scenery," he says.

Lighting illustrates mood. Teens will learn how to compose a scene and use available lighting to get the best quality footage. "It's a no-brainer to have your subject amply lit," Gootgeld says. "But at the same time, if the lighting is not perfect, it creates visual drama."

In basic editing, teens will learn how to put all of their scenes together. Working with a computer's video software, they will create film titles and end credits, as well as the transitions between scenes. They will create a final DVD to take home.

"The Harwood Museum of Art wants teens to activate and occupy the museum this summer!" says Rebecca Aubin, Director of Museum Learning and Public Programs at the Harwood Museum of Art. "Teens bring with them a highly developed curiosity and a willingness to experience new ideas. We look forward to seeing their stories unfold through the documentary film class."

The teenage years are a transformative period. Not yet independent, not yet old enough to vote — teens often burn with something important to say, but few outlets for communication. This workshop is a safe environment for story ideas and it's an opportunity to get solid skills on how to express oneself through film.

For more, call the museum at (575) 758-9826 or visit [harwoodmuseum.org](http://harwoodmuseum.org).