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**Digital Arts
Festivals**



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PHOTO ATTACHED: From left to right: Digital Opportunities Trust (DOT) Instructor -Darimon Thompson and Teen Instructor, Jurnishia Edwards, East Biloxi Unit members Ta'shun Whitlock and Donterius Durden.

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Gulfport Teens Win Film Award

Boys & Girls Club Members to Compete in National Club Tech Digital Arts Festival

GULFPORT, MS (April 20, 2011) – Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast East Biloxi Unit members Ta'Shun W., 14, Daniel C., 14 and Donterius D., 14 were tasked with creating their own fictional movie trailer for the Club Tech Digital Arts Festival contest. Recently their short horror piece, [Afterschool Hours](#), was named a regional winner for the global contest. For their regional win, they will receive certificates and a gift valued at \$50 and move on to compete at the national stage.

The Club Tech Digital Arts Festival is presented by Boys & Girls Clubs of America through its partnership with founding sponsor Microsoft and Comcast. The annual competition aims to give local Club members an opportunity to engage in artistic expression through the use of technology in five categories: music, photography, design, movie animation and film.

"We are so proud of the creativity and technical skills our teens showed when they entered the Club Tech Digital Arts Festival and excited that they were named a winner for our region," said Dr. David L. Spinks, Executive Director. "Through programs such as the Club Tech Digital Arts Festivals, we give young people the tools they need to be creative and succeed in school and even the workplace." The teens were assisted by Digital Opportunities Trust Instructor, Darimon Thompson. "It is great to see such enthusiasm and imagination at work," commented Thompson, "I think we may have some future movie directors in our Club."

Afterschool Hours will be judged by a panel of distinguished judges and the Gulfport team will have a chance to win an expenses-paid summer trip to Denver that includes sightseeing and job-shadowing experiences. In years past, winners have visited the headquarters of Microsoft in Seattle and Boys & Girls Clubs of America in Atlanta to get a behind-the-scenes peek at potential careers.

Through Club Tech, members are introduced to the world of clay animation, robotics, game design, digital movie making, photo illustration, graphic design, music production and Web design. Youth follow an interactive, age-appropriate curriculum and complete various projects throughout the year. To learn more about Boys & Girls Clubs' commitment to technology education, visit www.bgca.org/clubtech or contact Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast at 228-896-3770 or www.bgcgulfcoast.org.

About Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast

In 2010, Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast had approximately 2800 registered members and served 1500 youth through Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast New Hope Program, which is a school based therapeutic behavioral facilitation program. Our mission is to enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.

About Boys & Girls Clubs of America's Club Tech Program

Club Tech was created by Boys & Girls Clubs of America (www.bgca.org) and Microsoft (www.microsoft.com) in 2000 to technologically enable Clubs worldwide, transforming Clubs from "swim and gym" to "point and click." Partnering with longtime supporter Comcast (www.comcast.com) and Microsoft, BGCA provides technology program access to some 4 million youth served through Club membership and community outreach at some 4,000 Clubs. By leveling the virtual playing field, kids of all ages and circumstances now have access to the same resources and skills to help them discover their world, expand creativity, perform better in school, and eventually take their technology know-how into the workplace.

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