

# From the United States to Soweto

Palesa Chidi

Pathways to Production, a non-profit organization from the United States in partnership with Sharing Hope And Leadership in Klip-town (SHALK) have once again brought hope to the Youth of Soweto.

February 27 marked their first day of the camera workshop at the US embassy at Rosa Parks library in Jabavu. The workshop seeks to equip the youth of Soweto with the right skills of photography and pave their way in the media industry.

The founder and executive director of Pathways to production, Orla Manning explains that she chose to do this program in South Africa because it shares similar issues as America.

"I realized that a lot of issues we have in terms of diversity and inclusivity in the television and film industry, we have the same issues in America that South Africa have," said Manning.

She continued to say that children in townships are not exposed to new technologies a lot. "I realized that most of the kids don't have access to things like computers or even a cellphone so we go into the townships and expose them to new developments."

Students who form part of the program have an interest in film and television production and the program aims to introduce them to the different jobs in television and film.

Kofi Zwana who is a volunteer at the program mentioned that he concurred with the program because of his journey. "I was interested mainly because it's been so hard for me to get where I am. It's a really long and hard road so I did this because I wanted to be the help I wish I had."

"I am hoping to create a new generation of content makers because these kids might not have resources but they have ideas and I believe in those ideas," further explained Zwana.

The film and production industry is one of the most influential industries of our time hence Lindsay Selokane, a student at the program mentioned that she yearns to equip herself with new camera skills.

"I need to learn more about media. I hope to learn more about the skills, how to broadcast messages via production and filming."

Selokane continued to say that her end goal in the program is to know how to use a camera and become a beast in film and production.

Pathways to production hopes to grow it's wings in the near future and be able to work with a lot of other townships across the world.

They have an editing workshop on March 2, and the screening is on March 15 following the camera workshop.



Founder and executive director of Pathways to production, Orla Manning poses with Kofi Zwana.



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