The Problem

The COOL Cooperative believes that all children have tremendous potential - regardless of their backgrounds or environment, every child deserves the opportunity to discover their talents, find their passion and have success.

We chose to use the word "cooperative" in our name because we also believe that cooperative partnership with other like-minded individuals gives us the greatest chance of affecting the change we wish to accomplish here in New Orleans, and eventually around the world.

- In Louisiana, 173,749 children are left on their own in the after-school hours
- 57% of Louisiana families with juveniles under the age of 18 lack full-time parental supervision
- The rate of functional illiteracy in New Orleans stands at a staggering 44%
- New Orleans' total graduation rate is only 72.8%
- Peak hours for violent juvenile crimes are between 3 pm to 8 pm according to the FBI
- Harmful peer pressures peak during high-risk after-school hours

** To read more about the statistics, please visit: www.thecoolcooperative.org/resources:*

The Plan

Our objective is to serve "at-promise" youth of New Orleans through academic support, mentorship and the magic of hands-on film education. Our plan is to:

- Provide an immersive workforce development program through the most innovative, engaging, fun-filled and inspiring film-based curriculum in a safe after-school environment.
- Offer responsible adult supervision, constructive activities and insulation from harmful peer pressure during high-risk after-school hours, significantly reducing the risk of becoming victims of crime or unwanted pregnancy.
- Utilize the collaborative world of filmmaking to develop teamwork and positive leaders who will contribute to our local workforce or go on to higher education.
- Improve attendance, behavior, grades, literacy and graduation rates.
- Empower the youth of New Orleans by equipping them with the skills, knowledge, resources and enthusiasm to live productive, self-reliant and successful lives.

the Cool cooperative

The Solution

Our **COOL Creators Film Program** promotes literacy, integrity, social skills, professional work ethics, cultural exchange, intergenerational collaboration, mentoring, research techniques and a hands-on initiation to the filmmaking process.

Our "whole-person development" approach focuses on the strengthening of our "**FACES**" Philosophy:

Family First
Aptitude for Film
Community Service Learning
Education
Self

We provide a six year long after-school enrichment program starting with 7th graders, then adding a grade each year thereafter. Our goal is to imbue these young wellsprings of potential with the ability to see opportunities for their future through film, while developing their innate artistic abilities.

If Not You, Who? If Not Now, When? | Creating Outstanding Opportunities Locally | Empowering Kids Through Film