

Firelight Newsflash! 11 May 2009

Call for Application: UN-HABITAT's Opportunities Fund For Urban Youth-Led Development

Deadline: 1 June 2009

Is your organisation working on innovative and sustainable projects that will improve your community and the lives of those around you? If YES, your organisation could be eligible!

- The purpose of un-habitat's Opportunities Fund for Urban Youth-Led development is to provide resources to address adequate shelter and secure tenure, employment, environment and good governance for the urban poor.
- Youth-led development projects are eligible for small grants up to USD 5,000 and large grants up to USD 25,000.
- Applications from organisations partnering with government agencies, the private sector and non-governmental organisations are encouraged.
- Projects promoting gender equality are particularly welcome.

To download the application guidelines in English or French, see: <http://www.unhabitat.org/opfund>

Front Line Small Grants Program

Front Line has a small grants program which in 2008 awarded 142 grants worth €288,403 to Human Rights Defenders at risk around the world. Grants are given to organisations working for human rights as well as to individual human rights defenders at risk. Grants are given for the specific purpose of strengthening the protection of human rights defenders at risk. Grants are for amounts up to a maximum of €6,000.

Front Line also offers fellowships for human rights defenders to take time out from their normal work to undertake a project which will further develop their capacities and contribute to the protection of human rights defenders internationally.

For more information, see: <http://www.frontlinedefenders.org/front-line-small-grants-and-fellowships>

Nominate your project for the BBC World Challenge

Application deadline: 22 May 2009

The World Challenge is a global competition aimed at finding projects or small businesses from around the world that have shown enterprise and innovation at a grass roots level. It is about championing and rewarding projects and business which really make a difference. The awards are broadcast annually on BBC World News.

For details and to submit a nomination, see: <http://www.theworldchallenge.co.uk/>

An e-course for aspiring social innovators and learn project management

Application deadline: 22 May 2009

Sprout is an e-course designed for aspiring social innovators and environmental entrepreneurs who want to grow their project ideas and learn to create lasting changes in their communities.

Sprout provides young people aged 16 to 30 with the project management and leadership skills they will need to build personalized project e-portfolios while learning alongside other aspiring youth leaders online. Sprout also teams course participants with experienced e-mentors to help guide and support them during their e-course experience. So this year make the change YOU want to see happen by sprouting your ideas, growing your projects, and cultivating leadership all with the help of the SPROUT e-course!

For more information please visit our website at www.sproutecourse.org or feel free to contact our team by email at: sprout@takingitglobal.org.

2009 Women Peace Makers Program

Application deadline: 1 June 2009

The Women PeaceMakers Program invites four women from around the world who have been locally involved in human rights and peacemaking efforts to take part in an eight-week residency for leaders who want to document, share, and build upon their unique peacemaking stories.

Women accepted into this program are seeking ways to further their peacemaking efforts in their home countries. Women on the frontline of efforts to end violence and secure a just peace seldom record their experiences, activities, and insights as generally there is no time, or, perhaps, no formal education that would help women record their stories.

Selected peacemakers will receive round-trip airfare, housing, and a small stipend to cover expenses for the duration of their stay in San Diego, California.

For more information please visit

<http://peace.sandiego.edu/programs/women.html> or

email erika.lopez@sandiego.edu.

10 Tips for Powerful Presentations

The ability to communicate well is vital in today's competitive climate. When you are called upon to make a presentation on behalf of your organization, remember that your organization's image varies directly with the effectiveness of your presentation. That is, your ability to get through to your audience and convince them of your organization's impact.

To make that winning presentation, here are ten power packed suggestions that can bring your presentation from good to fascinating, with your audience hanging onto every single word you say.

1) A famous speaker once revealed his secret:

"First, tell them what you are going to tell them, then tell them; finally, tell them what you told them."

In other words, have 1-3 key messages for your presentation. Repeat and reinforce these points throughout your presentation.

2) Choose your words carefully to make certain that you make the positive impact you desire. While your words can stimulate, inspire and encourage, they can also deflate, discourage and damage.

3) Once in a while, get the group's attention with some sound or an expression of enthusiasm or by speaking more quietly. It is important to change the tone in your voice. Otherwise, you are singing a song with only one note.

(Remember: Humour always spruces up even the most boring audience.)

4) Watch your group closely. Are they with you? If eyes wander, feet shuffle, and pencils doodle, you are losing their attention. So back up and re-engage them.

5) Watch your speed. Tension and the clock may make you want to hurry, but you can lose your group's attention by talking too fast.

6) Use a dramatic beginning. As is said, the first impression remains the best. So

grab your audience's interest with a good story or challenging questions that will make them think.

7) Use short sentences and short words, however learned you or your audience might be. The KISS principle (Keep It Short and Simple) helps give vigour and clarity to your thoughts.

8) Remember that visual aids cannot take your place as the presenter! It solely rests on your shoulders to reinforce the message of the presentation. People should be listening to you, not reading.

9) Use a strong ending. Do not say, "I guess, that's about all" or "I can't think of anything else". It would be great if you could wrap up your presentation, ending on your original key message.

10) Well, to summarise, remember the phrase:

"Get up, speak up, shut up and sit down!"

This means exactly what it says: 1) getting up to speak with an air of confidence, 2) speaking up so that everyone can hear you, clearly and convincingly; 3) shutting up on a strong note after the point(s) are made; and 4) sitting down promptly before you begin to lose people.

It is not too difficult to make people pay attention to every word you say if you know the right ingredients to spice up your presentation. Only then will you have ready a delicious presentation that will be eaten up by the audience!

"Without the right presentation skills, you are like an uncut diamond."

Briefing on Vulnerability in Southern Africa from the
International Food Policy Research Institute

Increasing poverty, AIDS, and food insecurity are some of the threats that make households more "vulnerable" to different stressors. [Experiencing Vulnerability in Southern Africa](#) condenses research findings on how parents in Southern Africa are planning and acting to secure their children's future in the face of vulnerability. The intention was to paint a broad picture of people's livelihoods to understand their perspectives and experiences, what is affecting their families and welfare, which interventions they are benefiting from, and what are the causal factors of family instability.

To download the 2-page research briefing,
see: <http://www.ifpri.org/renewal/pdf/RFbrief06.pdf>

As part of the Firelight Foundation's Monitoring, Evaluation and Technical Assistance (META) Program, Firelight provides "Newsflashes" to share relevant resources and information with our active grantee-partners via weekly emails and via post on a monthly basis. We hope that by facilitating access to information for grassroots, community-focused organizations, programming for children and families, as well as organizational development, is enhanced. Past editions of the Firelight Newsflash can be found on our website: <http://www.firelightfoundation.org/newsflash.htm>.

We welcome your comments, feedback and ideas for upcoming Newsflashes at newsletter@firelightfoundation.org.