

Rahula J McGaffey

Objective

I hope to build my skills as an organizer in a challenging environment, while strengthening the movement to take back Congress in 2006.

Experience

2005 Freedom School New York, NY

Founding Learner

- Raised \$5,000 budget and in-kind art supplies and food for one-month.
- Successfully implemented non-authoritarian learning model.
- Acted as administrator, outreach coordinator, manager for staff of six educators.
- Co-taught dynamic, experiential workshops on drama, studio engineering, documentary video and editing, and photography, with heavy focus on dialogue.

2004 Song of Savior Tour Los Angeles - New York

Co-director / Performer

- Co-wrote a multimedia performance art piece on Liberation Theology, incorporating drama, poetry, hip hop improvisation and documentary.
- Performed Song of Savior at over 25 churches, theatres and clubs in the US and Canada.

2002 - 2004 Working Families Party Brooklyn, NY

Field Manager

- Supervised WFP canvas for Annabel Palma's (Bronx) landslide democratic primary campaign.
- Canvassed door-to-door, speaking with voters on crucial issues including access to housing, education and healthcare for campaigns including Annabel Palma (Bronx), Joe Farmer (Yonkers), and Hiram Monseratte (Corona).

2001 - 2002 City Year (Americorps) Chicago, IL

Corps Member

- Developed and implemented 2 semester-long service learning workshops, focused on social justice, leadership development through art and mentorship at Farragut High School and Spry Grammar School, impacting about 50 youth.
- Completed over 1900 hours of community service in Chicago.
- Served as liaison between Americorps and Little Village community, including parents, Farragut administration, local organizations and activists.

Education

Sept 2002 - May 2006 New York University - Gallatin New York, NY

BA, Revolutionary Education / Video Activism

- Radical, popular, alternative education; youth empowerment; service learning.
- History of social movements; critique of neoliberal agenda; grassroots organizing;
- Tisch Film: focus on acting/directing, with cinematography, editing & sound design.

Skills

Proficient at graphic design (Photoshop), video editing (Final Cut Pro), sound recording and editing (Pro Tools), websites, word processing, spoken Spanish.

References

- Dr David Moore, Acting Dean - Gallatin (NYU) - (212) 998 - 7328
- Erica Bushell, Outreach Coordinator - Freedom School - (914) 523 - 8261
- Joanna Kocab, Co-organizer - Ku'umba Fundraiser - (917) 226 - 6170

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Rahula J McGaffey

November 7, 2005

Grassroots Campaigns
59 Temple Place, Suite #402
Boston, MA 02111

Dir Sir or Madam:

I am writing to inquire about the canvas director position with Grassroots Campaigns. I am interested in all facets of organizing from base building and fundraising to direct action and large-scale coalition building. If we are to effectively challenge the right wing power structure in Congress and the White House, we must employ a rich diversity of tactics. I bring vital experience from many different fields to the table.

As an experienced canvasser, artist, and workshop facilitator, I offer a rare combination of skills relevant to our field. I have over three years experience canvassing, both in formal and grassroots settings, across New York. Workshops I have led tend to focus around power analysis, action planning, dialogue, and leadership development. I also have a strong arts background, with experience in graphic/web design, photography, theater, and film. I have been involved in New York City's hip hop and spoken word communities since I came here in 2002, and along with building many contacts I have particularly cultivated the canvasser's most important skill: storytelling.

I am currently in my senior year at New York University, and plan to graduate this May with a BA in Revolutionary Education. Under Hany Khalil, national director of organizing for UFPJ, I am currently exploring the Alinskyist model and how to integrate these techniques with current antiracist and feminist critique. Later this month I will begin an internship under Rosa Clemente as a white ally at the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement.

Most recently, I have been working with Grassroots Artists Movement (GAME) and the ad hoc StormWatch coalition to organize hurricane benefit events, one at Hunter College and one at the Crash Mansion, where we raised \$1200 for the Ku'umba Academy, a freedom school in New Orleans that was destroyed. This summer I opened a small youth empowerment day camp on the Lower East Side called Freedom School 2005, where I learned to balance many roles, including principal, teacher, outreach coordinator and cook.

The American left must find its unity, reframe the debate and inspire itself to act. Now more than ever before, charismatic young people with initiative must rise to the challenge presented to us by the State. That said, I believe I would be an invaluable asset to your organization. References are available on request. Please contact me at (313) 268 - 3016.

Sincerely,



Rahula J McGaffey