

THE  
**FUTURE**»»  
**PERFECT**  
PROJECT

**Amplifying  
the Voices  
of Queer Youth**



# About Us

## Our Vision

The Future Perfect Project envisions a world where every young person feels safe, seen, and celebrated in their home and community. We believe that the self-expression of LGBTQIA+ Youth is a declaration of a better future for us all.


## Our Mission

**To amplify queer young voices, we produce and facilitate creative workshops, media projects, and live performances of original work created by and about the current generation of LGBTQIA+ youth.**

## What Is “Queer”?

At The Future Perfect Project, we use the word “Queer” as an umbrella term for the LGBTQIA+ alphabet, which includes anyone who feels marginalized due to their expression or the repression of their gender and sexual identities.

As queer author, bell hooks, describes it: “...‘Queer’ as being about the self that is at odds with everything around it and that has to invent and create and find a place to speak and to thrive and to live.”



**The Future Perfect Project is encouraging the next generation to speak their truth and sing their songs of tomorrow. Now, more than ever, we need their vision of a better world.**

—Celeste Lecesne,  
Co-Founder & Artistic Director  
The Future Perfect Project

# Online Programs



## Writer's Room

A free and open invitation bi-monthly writing workshop that focuses on developing writing skills and providing tools for creatives of all backgrounds and experiences.

Each session, we meet with youth online to study queer writers, reflect upon current events, respond to prompts, and

create original works of writing. This workshop is great for those who are just discovering their voice and want to continue expanding and developing their artistic point of view. We invite anyone to connect with the community, share, reflect, and respond. Each session is facilitated by two LGBTQIA+ artists, holding space to support the writing practice of young people and affirm their queerness.

[Learn more about Writer's Room here.](#)

**“You write in order to change the world... If you alter, even by a millimeter, the way people look at reality, then you can change it.”**

**—James A. Baldwin**



**I had never considered myself a writer. I was really good at it in grade school/middle school...and then I just kinda of dropped it... [Writer's Room] brought it back like a storm...I didn't think it was my thing, and then Future Perfect made it my thing. I can't imagine my life without FPP.**

—Sarah (Minneapolis, MN)  
FPP Writer's Room Participant



**400+**

students enrolled  
in our FPP Online  
Network



# Online Programs



## Future Perfect Records

A free online residency for LGBTQIA+ singer-songwriters, musicians and music producers, ages 14-22

Youth musicians from around the country collaborate to create a full-length album and learn the

ins and outs of the business from queer guest facilitators in the music industry. The program has assembled two cohorts that have each produced an album together: "Not What You Pictured" in 2022 and "DIVINITY" in 2023. Both cohorts met in person in New York City to celebrate their release and perform their original songs live for the very first time. We are currently seeking partnership for the 3rd season of the program.

[Listen to Divinity](#)

[Listen to Not What You Pictured](#)



**Being in touch with people in my community, though we are all so different, was eternally beneficial for me not only an artist but as a person. The growth, compassion, and guidance will always stick with me!**

—Bryan (Milwaukee, WI)  
FP Records participant

**+26K**

streams of the Future Perfect Records discography with 27 young LGBTQ+ musicians mentored



# Online Programs



## **"I'm Feeling Queer Today! Podcast**

A free online residency for LGBTQIA+ writers, journalists, voice actors and producers, ages 14-22.

FPP hands the mic over to LGBTQIA+ youth to conceive and produce their own podcast, "I'm Feeling Queer Today!,"

Through creative writing, one-on-one

interviews, media reviews, comedy segments and mor, the podcast explores current themes and issues through the queer youth lens.

Season One was released in February of 2024.

**[LISTEN NOW!](#)**



We are spreading lovely stories of queerness all over the world to people who need to hear them most.

—Wallace, Writer/Co-producer,  
I'm Feeling Queer Today



**"It's time to do more than just protect queer kids. It's beyond necessary to create a world where we not only feel safe, but feel celebrated. That's what this podcast is to me: a celebration of everything that's possible in a queer world."**

—Frankie, Writer/Co-Producer,  
I'm Feeling Queer Today





## In-Person Programs & Performance

We partner with theaters, LGBTQ Centers and schools across the United States to provide transformative creative writing, songwriting, and theater-making workshops that culminate in a live performance and/or documented media.

### ARTIVISM: A Community Speaks to Itself

As our primary in-person workshop, ARTIVISM calls on its participants to move through a series of writing and songwriting prompts to tell their own stories and express their vision of a possible future. At the end of a week-long workshop, these young people share their work in front of the student body or community at large, and document their work as shareable audio or video.

### The Last Grove: Queerness & The Environment

In Spring 2022, in collaboration with Atlantic Theater and theater-artists nicHi douglas and Jeanna Phillips, a cast of eight LGBTQIA+ young writer-performers rehearsed for two weeks to create a devised theater piece about the human species and climate damage titled The Last Grove. The piece was performed outdoors in New York City.

### Future Perfect Records: Live in New York City

In June 2022, as part of Lincoln Center's Pride programming, our first cohort of ten LGBTQIA+ singer-songwriters from around the country met in-person for the very first time in New York City to perform their album live, as well as performing as part of a showcase with SoFarSounds. Then in October 2023, Future Perfect Records Season 2 celebrated the release of their album "DIVINITY" with a sold out performance at The Public Theatre in New York City.

“The work that The Future Perfect Project does with LGBTQ+ young people is amazing. Within 45 minutes the youth had written lyrics about their own life experiences and collaborated to weave the lyrics together into song. FPP’s caring spirit and great facilitation skills allow so much creativity to flow around tough, personal topics.

—Chris Paulsen,  
CEO, Indiana Youth Group

### What’s your super power?

“Hope. A never ending hope that the future holds amazing things.”

—Juliana (New Haven, CT)  
In-Person Workshop Participant



# In-Person Programs & Performance

## Where We've Been

### ALABAMA

- Magic City Acceptance Center, Birmingham

### ARKANSAS

- DYSC (Diverse Youth for Social Change), Little Rock
- Central High School, Little Rock

### CALIFORNIA

- Orange County School of the Arts, Santa Ana
- Canyon Crest Academy, San Diego
- Alan Clark High School, Glendale
- Glendale Junior High, Glendale
- Herbert Hoover High School, Glendale

### COLORADO

- Denver School of the Arts, Denver
- Strive Prep, Denver

### CONNECTICUT

- New Haven Academy, New Haven
- Hartford Stage Company Youth Program, Hartford
- Watkinson School, Hartford
- True Colors LGBTQ Youth Conference, Storrs
- PRISM LGBTQ Center, East Haddam

### INDIANA

- Greater Youth of Evansville
- Brownsburg High School, Brownsburg
- Herron High School, Indianapolis
- Indiana Youth Group, Indianapolis
- Park Tudor High School, Indianapolis

### IOWA

- Iowa Youth Writing Program, Iowa City

### KANSAS

- Lawrence Library, Lawrence
- Park Highland High, Topeka

### MAINE

- Out Maine, Rockland

### MASSACHUSETTS

- Fine Arts Work Center, Provincetown

### MICHIGAN

- Michigan GSA Network
- Stand With Trans

### MINNESOTA

- South High School, Minneapolis

### MISSOURI

- Kansas City Repertory Youth Program, Kansas City
- Winnetonka High School, Kansas City

### NEVADA

- The LGBTQIA2S+ Community Center of Southern Nevada

### NEW YORK

- Kingston High School, Kingston
- Camp Lightbulb, NYC
- Professional Performing Arts School, NYC
- Brooklyn Technical School, Brooklyn
- Ellenville High School, Ellenville
- Rondout Valley High School, Accord
- Little Island School, NYC
- Harvey Milk High School, NYC

### NORTH CAROLINA

- Time Out Youth Center, Charlotte
- Inside Out LGBTQ Youth Center, Durham

### PENNSYLVANIA

- High School of Creative and Performing Arts, Philadelphia

### SOUTH CAROLINA

- Uplift LGBTQ+ Youth Outreach Center, Spartanburg

### TENNESSEE

- Oasis Center for LGBT Youth, Nashville

### TEXAS

- HATCH, LGBTQ Youth Center, Houston
- Tony's Place, Houston

### UTAH

- Encircle Youth Summit, Lehi
- Encircle, Provo, Salt Lake City & St. Charles

### WASHINGTON

- Mercer Island High School, Mercer Island
- Garfield High School, Seattle



From the opening circle to the closing words, students were made to feel safe, included, and SEEN. The Future Perfect Project creates a safe space where they encourage students to be unapologetically themselves. This is often the first time they have met other students or adults who accept them just as they are. And this is often the first time they have really ever had hope for their futures.

—Andrea Caspari, English Teacher/GSA Moderator, Winnetonka High School, Kansas City, MO



# Media Projects



## Queer Youth Animated

An episodic series of two-minute films featuring diverse stories of the queer experience told by the youth themselves, animated by an entirely LGBTQIA+ team of professionals, most of whom identify closely to the interview subject.

Throughout 2020 & 2021, The Future Perfect Project interviewed queer youth about their lives, giving them the opportunity to talk about such topics as coming out, blended families, relationships, peer acceptance, homophobia, activism, and more. The interviews are then edited to two-minute portraits, then animated and scored by an entirely LGBTQIA+ team of professionals, most of whom identify closely to the subject. The result is this series of short animated documentaries that depict the very essence of the generation.

[Watch Season 1](#)

[Watch Season 2](#)



“ We’re always changing, striving to better ourselves, finding new things that work for us. I’m over the moon to see this snapshot of my life immortalized by such a great team.

—Fletcher (Kansas City, MO)  
Queer Youth Animated Storyteller



Still from  
“Fletcher’s  
Story”  
featured in  
Queer Youth  
Animated

**+46K**

YouTube channel  
views of original  
FPP content  
produced by and for  
LGBTQIA+ youth



# Media Projects



## Queer Comics

The Future Perfect Project provides a chance for participants to turn their kryptonite into their superpower by creating empowering animations that center themselves as the heroes.

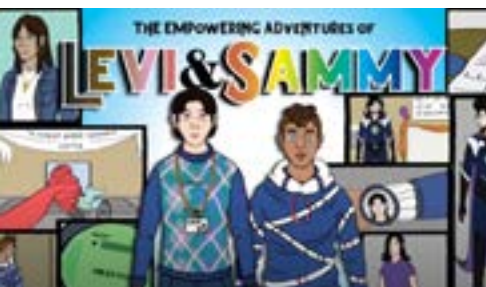
Within this workshop, participants write their own superhero stories based on their experiences navigating the world as LGBTQIA+ young people, and ultimately turning their tragedy into triumph, their self-consciousness into self-confidence and their pain into power.



### **Super Queeroes**

Tired of their middle school's policies on gender and sexuality, Ian and Tristan use their superpowers in order to secure a gender-neutral bathroom in their school and a much-needed curriculum change in their heteronormative sex-ed class.

[Watch Super Queeroes](#)



### **The Empowering Adventures of Levi & Sammy**

The Anti-Queer Ableist has been wreaking havoc on the city, destroying initiatives put in place for the disabled population. For Levi, this is deeply personal, and so he and his best friend, Sammy, both transgender young men, use their superpowers to put a stop to the AQA's destruction.

[Watch The Empowering Adventures of Levi & Sammy](#)



“As a trans ostomate, I didn't get to see heroes like me. This animation gave me a chance to see myself as the hero, and I hope that others will see themselves here as well. I am so thankful for this workshop, and so glad that it allowed me to bring my inner hero to life.

—Simon (Iowa)  
Writer/Creator, The Empowering Adventures of Levi and Sammy



# Media Projects



## FPP Live

An Instagram Live series featuring one-on-one interviews with notable LGBTQIA+ icons

Between 2020-2021, The Future Perfect Project presented FPP Live, an exclusive Instagram series that introduced young people to LGBTQIA+ artists, musicians, actors, and activists. Past guests include: Zachary Quinto, Rahne Jones, Theo Germaine, Nate Berkus and Jeremiah Brent, Isabelle McCalla, Bob The Drag Queen, Frankie Grande, Alison Bechdel and others.

[View episodes of FPP Live here.](#)



“ Be brave and know that just being your authentic self is helping change the world.

—Todrick Hall, 10/5/20

“From the age of 13 I was online finding other LGBTQ artists who [said], ‘what you have to say is important.’ No one in my life was saying that. That is the magic of queer and trans young people... Amidst that oppression, they are enduring, surviving and creating.”

—ALOK, 9/28/20



# Press

[Listen: “Not What You Pictured” puts LGBTQIA+ youth in the spotlight](#)

[Queer Youth Animated - Through the Lens of the LGBTQIA+ Youth](#)

[Vydia partners with LGBTQ+ pop visionary John Duff and The Future Perfect Project for Pride Month](#)

[Pride and passion: LGBTQ+ artists meet for the first time after making album together](#)

[#LGBTQ: The Future Perfect Project is Amplifying Young Queer Voices Across America!](#)

[The Story Behind Future Perfect Records](#)

[Stories from Encircle with Stacey Harkey: Episode 22 | The Joy of A Better Future](#)

[NY1 Celebrates Pride: The New Generation | Interview with Celeste Lecesne](#)

**The Future Perfect Project [works] hard to cultivate a safe, supportive environment for young artists to express themselves.**

—Allison Moses, USA Today



“ Each track on this emotive and powerful album is spoken from the heart... There is something raw and strong about each song that connects our experience as queer people.

—Michael James, Q News

[With] these heartwarming stories [featuring young people] from various walks of life, Queer Youth Animated has inspired many to share their own journeys.

—Tejasvi Pradeep, Jejune Magazine



# Our Story



I've been fortunate as co-founder of The Trevor Project to be on the front lines of change as several generations of young people have come of age. But in 2017, I noticed a change in the LGBTQIA+ youth themselves. They were building a network of connections, finding

one another online (as well as in person), offering one another encouragement, and redefining what it means to be queer. And so, I teamed up with singer-songwriter, Ryan Amador, traveling the country, and providing LGBTQIA+ Youth with a safe space to engage in creative writing and performance. When possible, we facilitated a live performance for a larger community audience in an effort to help queer, trans and allied youth become more safe, seen and celebrated.

We soon added producers/facilitators, Julie Novak, Emma Seslowsky and Jon Wan and activated a close network of queer artists, writers, mentors and co-facilitators. During the pandemic we continued to offer online opportunities for youth to create art, and we began to produce and broadcast their work to a larger audience. In this way, our community has continued to grow and we are empowering the young people to speak their truth and sing their songs of tomorrow. . While lawmakers are busy passing laws and proposing measures to limit the self expression of LGBTQIA+ youth in their schools and communities, FPP has handed the mic over to the next generation. So we can hear from them directly.

It seems the world is never quite ready to know what a younger generation sees or feels, but change happens when young people begin to age-up and make the future happen. The Future Perfect Project is amplifying the voices of LGBTQIA+ youth and broadcasting a future in which every person gets to be perfectly and fully themselves.

—Celeste Lecesne,  
Co-Founder and Artistic Director,  
The Future Perfect Project

# Our Team



## **Celeste Lecesne (he/they) Artistic Director / Co-Founder**

Celeste wrote the short film TREVOR, which won an Academy Award for Best Live Action Short. They are the co-founder of The Trevor Project, the only nationwide 24-hour suicide prevention and crisis intervention Lifeline for LGBT and Questioning youth. They have written three novels for young adults, and created The Letter Q, a collection of letters by queer writers written to their younger selves. An actor as well as a writer, Celeste has created several award winning solo shows including The Absolute Brightness of Leonard Pelkey, Word of Mouth and One Man Band. [celestelecesne.com](http://celestelecesne.com)



## **Ryan Amador (he/him) Associate Artistic Director / Co-Founder**

Ryan is a recording artist, songwriter, and theater-maker with three full length albums and five EPs of original music online. He is best known for his song "Instead" which has over six million listens on Spotify, as well as LGBTQ-related music videos "Define Me," "Spectrum," and "Loverboy," which have been featured in Huffington Post Queer Voices. Ryan is the recipient of a 2013 ASCAP Award for Songwriting and is a graduate of NYU's Theater Department. Ryan and Celeste are currently working on a musical about queer youth. [ryanamador.com](http://ryanamador.com)



## **Jon Wan (he/they) Managing Director**

Jon (Kiko) is a drag artist, host, comedian and songwriter performing all over New York City. They've been named by Time Out and Paper Magazine as a noted queer performer and feature in Gregory Kramer's DOWNTOWN, a portrait documentation of downtown life in New York City. At The Future Perfect Project, they weave together their passions for self-discovery, artistic expression, and arts administration to elevate and amplify the voices of young people and the collective future. [kikosoiree.com](http://kikosoiree.com)



## **Julie Novak (she/her) Producer / Facilitator / Graphic Design**

Julie is a performer, writer and activist who enjoys making people laugh, feel loved and consider their role in making the world a better place. Trained with a background in theatre, comedy and improv, she is co-founder of TMI Project, a non-profit offering transformative memoir workshops and performances where participants are encouraged to share the parts of their stories that they usually leave out. She is the host of [No One Like You](http://No One Like You), a radio show and podcast where she interviews everyday heroes who share uplifting stories about turning their kryptonite into their superpower. [julienovak.com](http://julienovak.com)



## **Emma Jayne Seslowsky (she/they) Producer / Facilitator / Social Media**

Emma is an Emmy-nominated singer-songwriter, and Webby nominated podcast host and editor who's been featured everywhere—from Justin Bieber fragrance commercials to Coca Cola digital campaigns. Her single "Morning" premiered on PRIDE.com, who called it "a literal ball of queer sunshine." When she's not podcasting or singing, Emma's performing all around the country, hosting comedy and music variety shows, and taking on song commissions for private clients. [emmajaynesings.com](http://emmajaynesings.com)

# Get Involved!

For more information about how to support our programs or partner with us in amplifying the voices of LGBTQIA+ youth, contact us at:

[contact@thefutureperfectproject.org](mailto:contact@thefutureperfectproject.org)



I can honestly say that we weren't prepared for the depth of love, empathy, and genuine care that The Future Perfect Project provided to our youth over those two days. I feel that many of our youth experienced a sense of healing provided by the activities that FPP shared. We love the Future Perfect Project!

—Deb Foreman, President / Co-Founder  
Uplift Outreach Center, Spartanburg, SC



visit us online  
[thefutureperfectproject.org](http://thefutureperfectproject.org)