

First class of NYC's TV and film postproduction training program graduates *Postproduction jobs in the city grew 35% from 2004 to 2015*

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The first 17 participants in the Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment's postproduction training program will graduate this week. They enter the workforce as the postproduction industry is growing at a rapid rate in New York.

The program—run together by the city Department of Small Business Services and Brooklyn Workforce Innovations—was developed earlier this year to help unemployed or underemployed New Yorkers find jobs in the burgeoning film and television postproduction industry, which includes jobs related to film work after shooting has ended, such as editing and dubbing. A similar program that was launched in 2006 to train people as production assistants—for work related to shooting such as sound and lighting— has 711 graduates so far, 94% of whom are people of color.



The local postproduction industry is undergoing a period of significant expansion. Since the state designated \$25 million of the \$420 million film and TV production tax credit to postproduction work in 2010, New York has become a national leader with 20% of all the postproduction firms in the country based here. A recent study from the Post NY Alliance, a trade group with 65 member companies, found that employment in New York's postproduction field grew by 35% from 2004 to 2015, supporting more than 23,000 jobs and generating \$1.87 billion in income.

"Postproduction is a fast-growing sector of the larger film and television industry here in New York City, which continues to experience record-breaking growth," said the city's film commissioner, Julie Menin. "We want to make sure that New Yorkers from all walks of life have the ability to access job opportunities in this exciting field."

Indeed, more than 40% of postproduction jobs in do not require a bachelor's degree.

The training program offers a full-time, five-week school that prepares people for entry-level positions in animation, editing, motion graphics and visual effects. Upon graduation the participants will be placed in paid internships in local postproduction companies working with film, television, commercials and music videos. The trainees will receive \$15 per hour for up to 280 hours of work. The city will provide 80% of the participants' wages for the first six months. The names of the companies were not disclosed.

"The city is breaking down barriers to support an entertainment industry that reflects the talents and diversity of all of our people," said Gregg Bishop, commissioner of the Department of Small Business Services.

The majority of the program graduates have high school diplomas and about half have bachelor's degrees. Ten out of the 17 are also graduates of the city's production assistant training program.

David Edemeka, one of the program participants, has a B.A. in economics from City College of New York, but wanted to break into the postproduction industry and saw this as a way to do that. He is most interested in working in editing, visual effects, or 3-D compositing and titles, but he will "consider anything," he said.

"I'm getting my résumé together and will start applying to different companies," Edemeka said. "The city made a commitment to work with me and help me with jobs for two years."