



ECP Community Journalism: Hong Kong Farm to Table **Student Recruitment**

WHO: Elephant Community Press (ECP)

TARGET STUDENTS: Students in Hong Kong ages 15-17 interested in learning journalism skills and participating in a community service project (maximum 12 students). Preference is for students with bilingual English/Cantonese skills, with Chinese writing skills also an asset, but English-only students will also be considered.

WHEN: February - April 2017

- 9-week course for 2 hours/week (Mondays 5:00-7:00pm) PLUS
- 2 on-site visits and 2 on-site interviews to be scheduled with your partner

WHERE: Elephant Community Press, Unit 704, 6-8 Pottinger Street, Central and site visits at interviewees' places of business

Project Summary

ECP is offering a writing and photojournalism project that will help share stories about the lives and businesses of local Hong Kong food producers. Despite being a highly-urbanized city, Hong Kong is still home to local farms and producers of traditional products such as soya sauce and Chinese noodles. We aim to arrange interviews and visits with different stakeholders, including farmers and traditional food producers, as well as NGOs, social enterprises, and chefs who are committed to sourcing food locally.

ECP would like to recruit students ages 15-17 to participate in this project. A maximum of 12 students—ideally from both local and international schools—will partner to develop interviewing and photography skills over 9 weeks of classroom workshops interwoven with on-site interviews and site visits. Preference is for students with bilingual English/Cantonese skills, but English-only students will also be considered.

The transcripts and notes from these interviews will be written up in English to create profiles of different local food producers in Hong Kong. The skill building workshops will be led by students in the Master's of Journalism programme at Hong Kong Baptist University as an internship opportunity, supervised and supported by their professor, Robin Ewing.

At the end of April or early May 2017, the Street Team project will culminate in a final exhibition of the profiles and photo portraits to share these stories of the Hong Kong farm to table movement with the wider English-speaking community in Hong Kong.

Project Objectives:

- Encourage students to engage in the community in a variety of ways including partnered work across communities, both with each other and among the local farmers/producers.
- Demonstrate the power of learning experiences that reach beyond the classroom and out into the local community.
- Provide guidelines and tools for journalistic interviewing and profile writing
- Draw on a multimedia approach to literacy (Workshop will include photos and potentially other multimedia elements)
- Exhibit work in a public space to share the stories collected with the greater community



Commitment and skills required by students:

- Ages 15-17
- **Bilingual Cantonese / English speakers preferred***
- **Proficiency in writing Chinese is an asset**
- Available for all 9 sessions Monday after school (5:00-7:00pm) from 13th February to 24th April and for 2 site visits and 2 on-site interviews to be scheduled with a partner
- Interested in writing, journalism, documenting community stories and collaborating with peers outside their school
- Able to show initiative; must be collaborative and responsible
- Willing to represent ECP in this community project
- As a community project, this workshop is offered at no cost to the participating students, but they must cover their own transportation costs to the workshop sessions and are asked to contribute \$500 towards the exhibition costs. Applicants can apply to ECP for a program subsidy for the exhibition cost.

Project Schedule:

Jan 27	Application deadline
Feb 13, 20, 27 Mar 6, 13, 20, 27 Apr 3, 24	9 classes – Mondays, 5:00-7:00pm at Elephant Community Press in Central with 2 on-site visits and 2 on-site interviews to be scheduled with your partner
End of April / early May	Exhibition event

Background about ECP and Street Team

Elephant Community Press has been providing creative writing education to young people in Hong Kong for the last 8 years. At local public schools, ESF schools and international schools, ECP brings unique curricula to spark the imagination and develop confidence in project-based workshops geared towards publishing. Since 2011, ECP launched Street Team to take their learning concepts out into the streets by bridging communities that might not otherwise get to know each other.

In 2011, ECP’s Street Team created *Envision It*, a mixed genre book with photos and writing. Older students from Canadian International School mentored younger kids from refugee communities served by the non-profit organization Vision First and together they created all of the content for the book, which was sold to raise funds for Vision First.

In 2013, bilingual students from different schools collaborated to interview elderly residents of Hong Kong and shared their profiles and photo portraits in an exhibition at Culture Club Gallery in Central.

In 2015, the “Behind the Storefront” exhibition at Culture Club Gallery featured the profiles and portraits of small business owners from a range of traditional industries, including slipper embroiderers, funeral and festival product suppliers, antique dealers and preserved meat specialists.