

2010/11 Worldstudio AIGA Scholarships Target Award



ALLAH EL HENSON

Interactive Design + Motion Graphics
Junior
Academy of Art University



My name is Allah El Henson and I am a twenty-two-year-old student attending the Academy of Art University in San Francisco. I have lived in Oakland, California, all my life and graduated from Castlemont High School in 2006. My dream has always involved art. I have been homeless at multiple stages of my childhood. My home and belongings came and left, but my desire to succeed as an artist never strayed. Being homeless for years inspired me to draw the rugged outdoors, vegetation and unusual individuals I came across.

I began my studies as a 2D animation major in spring of 2007. The belief my mother and father instilled in me encouraged me to work very hard to not only pass each class but to learn and understand the subjects I was being taught. The instructors and staff soon discovered the extraordinary skills I possessed as an artist. The confidence they all had in me made me feel at home at the University.



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In the spring of 2008 my father passed away. The man my siblings and I once came to for advice, inspiration and encouragement was taken away from us before he got the opportunity to see us graduate college and accomplish our goals. But I tried my best to not allow that to affect my performance at school. I persevered and gave it my all each semester and continue to do so today. In the future I see myself as the director of an animation studio like Pixar. As the director, I would create feature films with a team of animators and story artists.

Ideally I would also start an after-school program, which will be a classroom-like environment with 10–20 computers. The computers will have 3D animation and compositing software. Also a projector and chalkboard for note taking and lectures. The program will be for dedicated youth in my hometown. They will be taught basic drawing principles such as perspective and anatomic structure along with covering the steps taken to complete an animated feature film. The first step they will learn is writing a cohesive story or script. Then creating visuals based on each important plot point of the script. The next step will be creating 3D characters and environments according to the storyboards, then begin animating. Lastly rendering the scenes and compositing all of the shots.



The youth of Oakland will learn to collaborate with each other and feel a sense of accomplishment. Not only that, they will feel more value with their existence as artists. The wonderful feeling of self-value will ultimately diminish the violence and soon bring unity to my community which has been long overdue.

