



## **Teens Celebrate Freedom of Speech at the Hive NYC 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment Hack Jam**

**Brooklyn, NY – April 30, 2012** – Nearly every week, we read a story about a student whose statements or actions raise questions about where 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment rights end and school rules begin. On Saturday, May 12, Hive Learning Network NYC, a coalition of 39 non-profit organizations dedicated to creating new digital learning opportunities for youth, and the American Constitution Society (ACS) are hosting a hack jam to explore with youth their constitutional rights and responsibilities while embodying the maker spirit and celebrating freedom of speech on the web.

As an extension of the ACS Constitution in the Classroom program (CITC), the event will feature innovative, hands-on activities that are guided by youth interest in mixed media and the web. Youth will explore core 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment issues like free speech and fair use, increase their digital literacy skills by tinkering with web sites and videos, explore non-verbal expression, and more.

“We want to give teens the floor, the mic, the web – a virtual soapbox to empower them to make their voices heard,” said Chris Lawrence, Director of Hive Learning Network NYC. “This hack jam will provide many opportunities for youth to learn and try new things, gain valuable web skills, and get introduced to some of the incredible organizations across the city that offer unique youth programs.”

“We’re looking forward to this event, which at its core honors the dynamic nature of the Constitution,” said Anne Fornecker, Attorney and a New York ACS CITC Coordinator. “We hope this experience provides youth with a greater understanding and appreciation for some of their core rights as U.S. citizens.”

### **Event Details**

Hive NYC 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment Hack Jam  
Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 1:00pm – 5:00pm  
West Side YMCA, 5 West 63rd St., New York, NY

Participating organizations:

- **Common Sense Media** ([www.common sense media.org](http://www.common sense media.org))
- **Global Action Project** ([www.global-action.org](http://www.global-action.org))
- **The LAMP** ([www.thelampnyc.org](http://www.thelampnyc.org))
- **Mozilla** ([www.mozilla.org](http://www.mozilla.org))

- **New York Civil Liberties Union** ([www.nyclu.org](http://www.nyclu.org))
- **People's Production House** ([www.peoplesproductionhouse.org](http://www.peoplesproductionhouse.org))
- **World Up** ([www.worldup.org](http://www.worldup.org))
- **YMCA of Greater New York** ([www.ymcanyc.org](http://www.ymcanyc.org))

Upon arriving, youth will receive a brief introduction to the available activities and can choose to sample them all or only participate in those that interest them most. They will leave having made something, be it an edited video, a URL for a website they remixed, and/or other digital artifacts.

Media interested in attending the event should contact Lainie DeCoursy at [lainie@mozillafoundation.org](mailto:lainie@mozillafoundation.org) or 917-607-2525.

**About American Constitution Society:**

The American Constitution Society for Law and Policy (ACS), is one of the nation's leading progressive legal organizations, and is a rapidly growing network of lawyers, law students, scholars, judges, policymakers and other concerned individuals. Founded in 2001, ACS' mission is to promote the vitality of the U.S. Constitution and the fundamental values it expresses: individual rights and liberties, genuine equality, access to justice, democracy and the rule of law. For more information about the organization or to locate one of the more than 200 lawyer and law student chapters in 48 states, please visit [www.acslaw.org](http://www.acslaw.org).

**About Hive Learning Network:**

Hive Learning Network NYC is a Mozilla project that was founded through The MacArthur Foundation's Digital Media & Learning initiative to examine how cultural organizations can collaborate to create new learning pathways and innovative education practices together. The Network is comprised of thirty-nine non-profit organizations – museums, libraries, media and other youth-facing organizations – that create opportunities for youth to explore their intellectual and skill-based interests using digital media and other technologies. Network members have access to funding to support this work through The Hive Digital Media Learning Fund in The New York Community Trust. For more information please visit [www.explorecreateshare.org](http://www.explorecreateshare.org).

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