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LOCAL FILMMAKERS HOST BLACK PANTHER SCREENING FOR AREA STUDENTS  
Discussion About Representation Inspires Future Storytellers

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bowie, Maryland (February 16, 2018) – An alliance of local filmmakers hosted students from two area high schools and two colleges at a premiere screening of the Marvel Studios release of **Black Panther** (2018). Students from Richard Wright Public Charter School for Journalism and Media Arts (Washington, DC), Suitland High School (Suitland, MD), Prince George's Community College (Largo, MD) and Bowie State University (Bowie, MD) heard a panel discussion featuring special guests, professor and artist Tewodross Melchishua Williams and actor, director, and producer Clayton LeBouef, prior to watching the film. The panelists discussed the concept behind the cultural aesthetic "Afro-futurism" - the genre that made Black Panther, the history of the Black Panther character and its significance regarding representation of Black people and the African diaspora in the superhero and animated universe.

Four film production companies, A Just Perspective Photo, Koalaty Entertainment, Prosperity Media Enterprise, and Workscinematation, sponsored the screening of Black Panther for the students. The event was designed to provide history and background, and to inspire young future filmmakers. The idea for the event was initiated by Brendan Lyn, founder and owner of Workscinematation. "Chance the Rapper bought out movie theaters so kids could see **Get Out**. That inspired me to do the same with **Black Panther** because I believe everyone should see this film" Lyn said.

The screening held on Friday, February 16 at the Regal Bowie Stadium 14 Cinemas in Bowie, MD, was free for the students to attend. Cheryl Hawkins, Founder and CEO of Prosperity Media, says that, "The **Black Panther** film offers African Americans, more specifically African American youth, the gift of a mythical story that can help connect them as individuals, if understood, to a deeper and larger collective understanding of the significance of ancestral vision and memory."

"It is important for young people to see positive images onscreen of people who look like them," said Sherelle Williams, President of Koalaty Entertainment. "We are excited to host this event in hopes that it will encourage the next generation of filmmakers, and to emphasize the significance of telling stories from the strength of their perspective."

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## Local Filmmakers Host Black Panther Screening

The four film companies, whose members have worked together on previous projects, plan to collaborate to hold additional events with the intention of working with youth, and to join forces on future film productions. Justin Walker of A Just Perspective Photo reflected on the endeavor: “We believe in the power of the collective, and that together creativity can be inspired. We motivate and support each other and we want to encourage the students to do the same.”

Based out of the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area, A Just Perspective ([www.ajustperspectivephoto.com/](http://www.ajustperspectivephoto.com/)) is available for corporate, event, and portrait work. The company also provides small form media services aimed towards capturing events, brand marketing, or telling a unique story. Koalaty Entertainment ([www.koalatyentertainment.com](http://www.koalatyentertainment.com)) is a full-service video and film production company that specializes in producing documentaries, docudramas, feature films and cultural programs about people of color. Prosperity Media ([www.prosperitymediaent.net/](http://www.prosperitymediaent.net/)), an award winning 501(c)3 nonprofit organization based in Washington, DC, is committed to using the power of media arts to highlight the good in humanity and to make media more accessible to other nonprofit organizations and underrepresented individuals of all ages and ethnicities. Workscinematic Productions ([www.workscinematic.com/](http://www.workscinematic.com/)) specializes in post-production of the filmmaking process.

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