



## The EFEX Project: Encouraging the Filmmaking Experience

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**Project Coordinator**

Terri Sarris and Sultan Sharrief's project contributes to NCID's core priority area of **Politics, Culture, and Social Justice**. Sarris and Sharrief are collaborators on the Encouraging the Filmmaking Experience (EFEX) project. EFEX is a community outreach effort that brings together University of Michigan students with middle and high-school students from metro-Detroit, engaging them in the production of film projects. Combining filmmaking with service learning and community engagement, EFEX serves as a new model for interaction between academic units and their surrounding artistic communities to provide pathways for underrepresented students to the University of Michigan. With NCID support, the project coordinators will seek to form a partnership with university admissions to use the film *Bilal's Stand* as a college recruitment vehicle and to foster dialogues between underrepresented, diverse K-12 students who are considering their post-secondary educational options.

Terri Sarris lectures in the university's Department of Screen Arts and Cultures and is a choreographer, videographer, producer, director, and editor of several videos, films, and CDs. As part of her work with the university's Arts of Citizenship Program, she has collaborated with other artists in providing arts and media workshops for K-12 students.

Sultan Sharrief is the director of the full-length film *Bilal's Stand*. In the last four years, he has been very active in the arts programming community in Michigan. He has been the producer of *The Spiral Project* (a 35 mm feature film nominated for an MTV Student Film of the Year Award, filmmaker of *Mural* (a feature documentary) and *Relief* (a documentary about the University of Michigan rugby team's visit to Thailand to help with tsunami relief), and producer of *Fulfill a Hankering* (a 25 minute 16 mm film). He has also served as student representative to the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and the Cool Cities Conference.

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