

First Exposures, a project of Tides Center, is a Bay Area photography mentorship program for youth ages 11-18 who have been impacted by socio-economic inequity. Serving 140 youth annually, First Exposures uses the power of art and creativity to cultivate courage, confidence, and wellbeing in young people. Over 60% of program participants show an increase in markers of resiliency for and over 95% of our youth graduate from high school to pursue a college education.

SF Arts Commission has been in communication with the Treasure Island Parents Council over the past few months, resulting in a proposal consisting of two sessions that will each meet two times per week, for two different age groups over a period of six weeks this summer. First Exposures has been a pioneer in photography mentorship since 1993, nearly 30 years, and their programs enable their mentees to thrive, express themselves creatively, and foster leadership and community-building.