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***Mayor Fulop Announces the Launch of the Fourth Annual Saturday Jump Start Series Offering Jersey City Youth a Variety of Free Career Development and Skill-Building Sessions***

***The Summer Series Kicks Off this Saturday with a Drama Workshop Hosted by Art House Productions and a Studio Tour for Young People at Mana Contemporary***

JERSEY CITY – Mayor **Steven M. Fulop** and the **Jersey City Economic Development Corporation (EDC)** announced today the return of **Saturday Jump Start**, a free, educational series providing youth a variety of career readiness and skill-building workshops as well as college preparatory sessions offered in partnership with local companies, colleges, universities and nonprofit organizations. The program is part of Jersey City Summer Works, a comprehensive youth employment and enrichment initiative, supported by the Allergan Foundation and Investors Bank.

“The more we invest in our youth, providing them with these types of opportunities they may not otherwise be exposed to, the more we invest in our communities and the city as a whole,” said **Mayor Fulop**. “This program has an outstanding reputation of providing career and college readiness at no charge. Over the past four years we’ve seen thousands of city youth successfully participate in this program to better their future.”

This year, Saturday Jump Start will again offer residents ages 15 to 21 enrichment opportunities, including training and certification in adult and pediatric first aid, workshops to develop coding skills with NPower, experiential wilderness education via day trips with Outward Bound, visual and theater arts activities, and tours of colleges throughout the state. Lunch is provided and participants can also earn community service credit from the Jersey City Public Schools.

The program will be kicked off this Saturday, July 15, 2017 with two offerings: a spoken word and theater workshop offered by Art House Productions at the Bethune Community Center at 140 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; and a studio tour at Mana Contemporary located at 888 Newark Avenue from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. Youth must enroll on line at [www.jerseycityyouthworks.org](http://www.jerseycityyouthworks.org). Space is limited.

The goal of the Saturday Jump Start Program is to expand horizons for younger Jersey City residents by providing them with real opportunities to learn new skills and to network with professionals and peers. This year, through the generous support of the Allergan Foundation and Investors Foundation, the program has expanded the range and diversity of its events, including more college tours in partnership with Saint Peter’s University, The College of New Jersey, Seton Hall University, and Farleigh Dickinson University. Additional program partners include Jersey City Medical Center, American Red Cross, NPower, Outward Bound, and the Jersey City Public Schools.

JC Summer Works is a summer employment and enrichment initiative that has served over 3,000 Jersey City youth since its inception. In addition to Saturday Jump Starts, JC Summer Works includes the Jersey City Summer Internship Program, which places young residents in competitive internships and leading companies and institutions; City Youth Jobs program, a municipal jobs program in various municipal departments, including Recreation, Law, the Human Resources Department, Communications, Cultural Affairs and others, as well as the Jersey City Public Library; and the Summer Works Arts Program, which provides arts enrichment and financial compensation for participants who support the public mural arts program.

Jump Start workshops are offered every Saturday through August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The series will conclude with a youth justice conference on August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017 in collaboration with the Jersey City Youth Counsel, the city's youth court program.

To participate in the workshops, youth must register in advance at [www.jerseycityyouthworks.org](http://www.jerseycityyouthworks.org). For the most up-to-date information about Saturday Jump Start workshops and access to our Eventbrite invitations, follow @JCSummerWorks on Twitter and #JCSummerWorks on Instagram, or like JCSummerWorks on Facebook.

**All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Steven M. Fulop at [jenniferm@jcnj.org](mailto:jenniferm@jcnj.org) or 201-376-0699.**