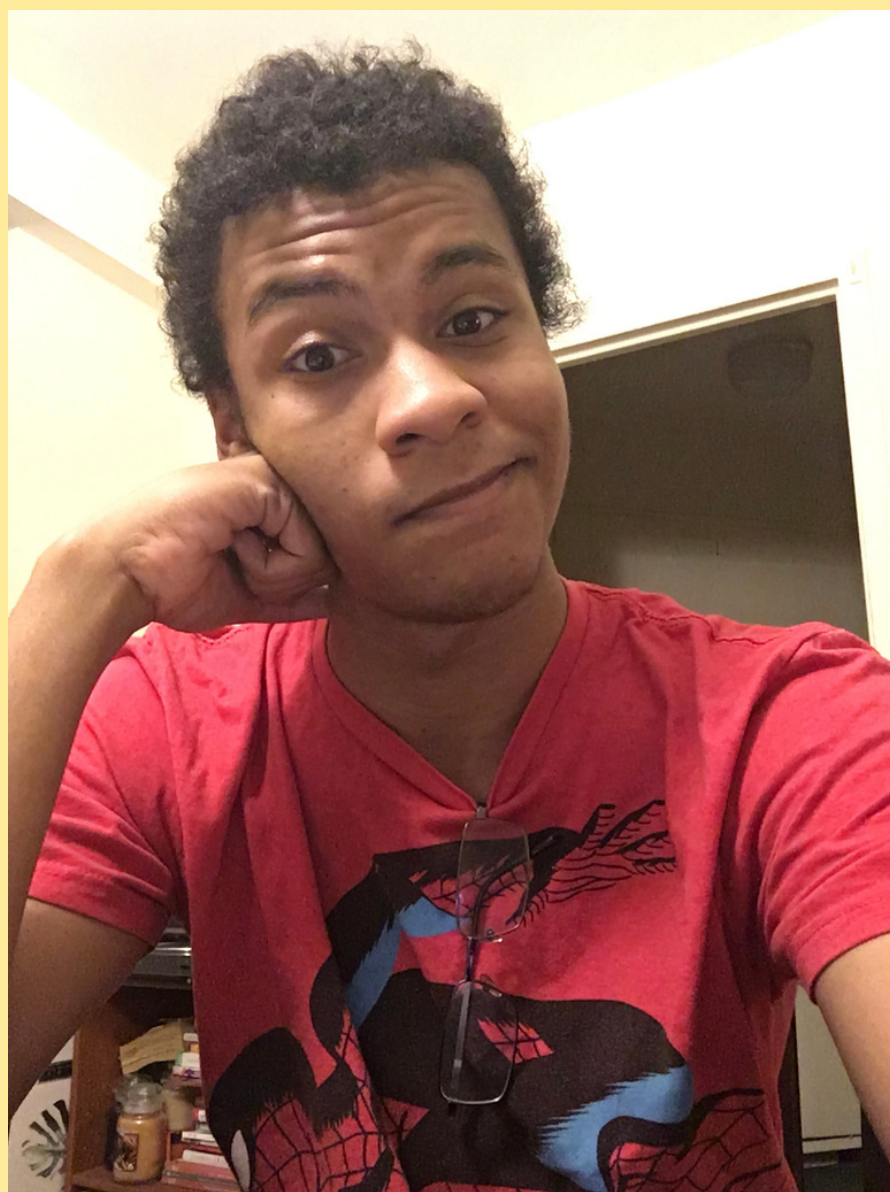


WELCOMING OUR FIRST SUMMER INTERN

As we enter the first phase of our OPWDD SDM implementation grant (Good News [12/17/2021]) and the increased activity that brings, we are delighted to welcome our very first intern, and what a great fit he is.

Justin comes to us from Tech Kids Unlimited, (TKU), a NYC-based organization we have admired for some time. TKU empowers neurodiverse students' lives through computer science and technology skills. It has long been funded by the FAR Fund, who helped make SDMNY's "bridge year" possible, so we're doubly grateful.



Justin is 20, born in Manhattan but now living in the Bronx, he graduated from Legacy High School on Roosevelt Island and is currently studying new media technology part time at LaGuardia Community College (another CUNY connection!). He discovered TKU while he was still in high school and thought it would be good to have classes/experience outside of school and socialize with like-minded people around his age. Fortunately for us he was accepted into the summer program which offered him this internship with SDMNY.

Justin loves being outdoors and comic books; growing up, his favorite was Spiderman. He's already made a short indie horror film in which he is featured for one of his classes at LaGuardia. He's into the arts in general, loves rock music, and his favorite band is Nirvana. We think all of this makes him the perfect person to help us create more effective outreach to younger adults with I/DD, introducing them to SDM, the SDMNY facilitation process, and for those who may already be under guardianship, to the process for restoration of rights. He's begun by researching what's already out there, and will work with our Media Specialist, Simge, to create social media post templates in an image and GIF form, and to expand our video repertoire through the use of animation. So

THANKS TKU AND WELCOME JUSTIN!