

THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

NURTURING AWARD-WINNING YOUTH LEADERSHIP



MENTOR

DESIGN

FUND

EMPOWER

CAPITAL DISTRICT KIWANIS • 2026 DISTRICT CONVENTION

WORKSHOP AGENDA

Today's Program

01 — Setting the Scene

The director's role behind the camera

02 — From Manager to Mentor

Shifting how adults lead

03 — Auditions & Casting

Spotting leadership potential

04 — Directing the Story

Designing student-led service projects

05 — Funding the Production

Guiding youth-led philanthropy

06 — And the Award Goes to Them

Building confidence to lead

SCENE 01



Setting the Scene

“Our role isn’t to take center stage—it’s to direct the ones who do.”

1

Set the Scene

Frame the vision and the “why,” then hand students the creative reins to shape the project.

2

Call Action

Cue students to lead, make the calls, and run the show while you coach from the wings.

3

Step Back

Resist taking over; let students own the outcomes, the credit, and the lessons learned.

Setting the Scene

Capital District Kiwanis • Lights, Camera, Action!

SCENE 02



From Manager to Mentor

THE MANAGER

Where many of us start — hands-on and directive.

- Makes the decisions and assigns the tasks.
- Solves the problems before students can.
- Own the plan, the timeline, and the outcome.
- Step in the moment things start to wobble.

Necessary at the start — but it keeps the spotlight on the adult, not the student.

THE MENTOR

Where we're headed — strategic and empowering.

- ★ Asks questions instead of handing out answers.
- ★ Hands students' real ownership and real choices.
- ★ Coaches through setbacks rather than removing them.
- ★ Measures success by their growth, not your control.

SCENE 03



Auditions & Casting

“The strongest leaders aren’t always the loudest in the room—often they’re the ones making sure everyone else is heard.”

1

Hold Open Auditions

Give every student a small role first, then watch who steps up, organizes, and lifts others.

2

Look Past the Loudest

Notice the quiet anchors and connectors — leadership often shows up as steadiness, not volume.

3

Cast to Strengths

Match each student to a part that fits their talent and stretches them just past their comfort zone.

SCENE 04



Directing the Story

Six moves for guiding students to design service projects they truly own.

1. Start with Their Why

Let students name a problem they care about — ownership begins with their idea, not yours.

2. Scout the Need

Coach them to research the community and talk to the people they hope to help.

3. Cast the Roles

Help each student find a job that fits their strengths and stretches them a little.

4. Build the Plan

Guide them to set goals, a timeline, and a budget — then hand them the pen.

5. Roll the Cameras

Let them lead the day; you support from the wings, never center stage.

6. Review the Footage

Reflect together on what worked, what didn't, and what they'd direct next time.

SCENE 05



Brick x Brick: Côte d'Ivoire

Costumes on. Coins collected. *Lives changed.*

Through the Brick x Brick initiative, our **K-Kids** are turning plastic waste into classrooms in Côte d'Ivoire — reaching some of the 1.6 million children out of school, easing poverty, and creating safe spaces to learn.

Every dollar donated to the Brick x Brick initiative in Côte d'Ivoire supports a sustainable circular economy that simultaneously addresses the global plastic waste crisis, empowers local women entrepreneurs, and builds durable, safe schools for children. Below is a detailed breakdown of how different donation tiers directly impact the community.

Building schools with plastic bricks

Funding the Production

Collective Goal \$3,500.00

Plastic Waste Diverted: Removes and recycles over 2,400 pounds (1.08 metric tons) of plastic waste, drastically cleaning up the local environment.

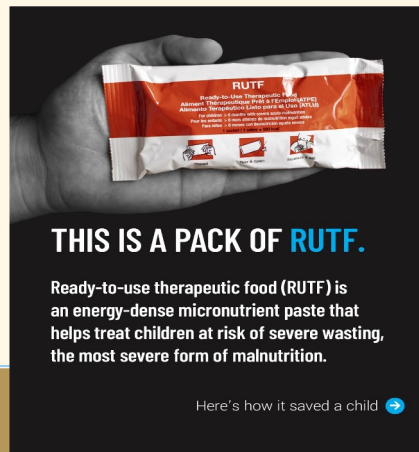
Classroom Construction Footprint: Funds 25% (one quarter) of a complete classroom from foundation to roof, directly securing classroom space for 12 to 13 students.

Economic & Community Impact: Provides a substantial economic injection into a women's cooperative, funding a month of fair-trade income for dozens of workers and strengthening the local circular economy.

Funding the Production

Capital District Kiwanis • Lights, Camera, Action!

SCENE 05



Start Strong: Zambia

Trick or Treat. Three small words. *A world of difference.*

Why It Matters:

In Zambia, many children begin school without preschool experience, proper nutrition, or adequate health care. Start Strong: Zambia addresses these challenges during the critical early years of life, when most brain development occurs, helping children become healthier, happier, and better prepared for the future.

Through the Start Strong: Zambia initiative, our **Builders Club** members are giving children the tools to succeed from day one — promoting early education, healthy development, and brighter opportunities for the future.

The life saving peanut paste

Funding the Production

Collective Goal \$1,500.00

Community Insaka Hub Infrastructure: Finances the tools, seeds, and irrigation supplies to establish a community vegetable garden attached to an Insaka hub.

Care Network & Volunteer Training: Provides advanced training for local healthcare workers and educators to identify early signs of malnutrition

Direct Health & Nutrition Interventions: Procures ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) and essential childhood vaccines to save dozens of infants from stunting.

Capital District Kiwanis • Lights, Camera, Action!

SCENE 06



And the Award Goes to Them

Four ways to help every student step into the spotlight and claim their own Oscar.

I

Name Their Wins

Call out specific strengths and growth — students believe what they hear repeated.

II

Hand Over the Mic

As students lead meetings, pitch ideas, and speak for the group out loud. Encourage collaboration

III

Celebrate the Stumbles

Treat setbacks as part of the script — reflection turns mistakes into mastery.

IV

Roll the Credits

Recognize every contribution publicly so students see their name in lights.



Coming Attractions



Global Service Project 2026

Your next reel — turn today's ideas into action on this release schedule.

I

This Week

Pick one task you usually own and hand it to a student instead.

II

Next Month

Run a meeting where students set the agenda and lead the room.

III

First Quarter

Help students design and launch a service project end to end.

IV

This Year

Nominate a rising student leader and celebrate their growth publicly.



The End

THAT'S A WRAP!

*You now hold the director's chair — the vision, the patience,
and the trust to help students claim their own spotlight.*



CAPITAL DISTRICT KIWANIS

Lights. Camera. Action. — Now go direct.