

For Immediate Release  
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D-PAN ANNOUNCES ORGANIZATION RELAUNCH:  
NEW IDENTITY, NEW MISSION, NEW PROGRAMS

FERNDALE, MI —D-PAN: Deaf Performing Artists Network, a Ferndale, Michigan-based 501(c)(3) organization renowned for its creation of American Sign Language music videos and its promotion of deaf and hard of hearing centric media, performers, and entertainment professionals, has announced a wide-ranging revamp of its organization and activities.

Effective immediately, D-PAN has been renamed the Deaf Professional Arts Network – a name which the organization’s management better reflects its enhanced mission and expanded range of activities and services. A new mission statement has been adopted to similarly reflect the organization’s new priorities: “D-PAN is dedicated to promoting professional development and access to the entertainment, visual and media arts fields for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.”

The new D-PAN is placing its organizational emphasis upon the active creation of professional and educational opportunities for deaf and hard of hearing individuals within these fields. D-PAN is creating a range of programs, including scholarships, exhibition opportunities, prizes, and awards designed to foster the continued achievement of both emergent and established deaf performers, visual artists, and media professionals, as well as to create heightened public awareness of their significant contributions to the worlds of entertainment, the arts, and the media.

The D-PAN Gallery, an online exhibition space highlighting the works of notable deaf and hard of hearing creative professionals, is one of the first and most visible outward signs of the organization’s transformation. Housed within D-PAN’s newly redeveloped website at [www.d-pan.org](http://www.d-pan.org), the D-PAN Gallery showcases selected works by a different trio of artists each month, one each within the Entertainment, Visual Arts, and Media Arts categories. The Gallery’s initial offerings feature works by jeweler Stefrose and digital media artist Jesse Maleh.

The relaunch kicks off an ambitious array of fall and winter activities for the organization. D-PAN is currently developing a pair of scholarship offerings, one targeted to aspiring ASL interpreters, the other to deaf and hard of hearing students interested in careers in entertainment, the media, and visual arts. D-PAN is also preparing to announce the inaugural “D-PAN Award,” an award designed to provide public acknowledgement of individuals, organizations, and corporations which have made significant contributions to the welfare of the deaf and hard of hearing community. A planned “D-PAN Prize” is intended to coincide with the presentation of the nation’s largest juried showing of creative works by deaf and hard of hearing artists.

*For further information, visit the D-PAN website at [www.d-pan.org](http://www.d-pan.org), write to [info@d-pan.org](mailto:info@d-pan.org), or call us at (248) 547-8829.*