

Recovery Idol Toolkit



FACES &
VOICES
OF RECOVERY

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This Toolkit was developed with support from the generous donations of Faces & Voices of Recovery members. We thank Derrick Ford for his inspiration and assistance in putting the Toolkit together.

February 2013

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INTRODUCTION

Over 18,000 people watched as the 2012 Recovery Idol finalists performed at Penn's Landing in Philadelphia in September. After the judges declared Robert Washington the Recovery Idol winner, the crowd roared and Washington received his prize of time in a recording studio. Since then, he's been performing at events all over the city.

Leading up to the finals that were part of PRO-ACT's Recovery Walks!, Washington and 70 other people in recovery practiced and performed before audiences across the city. Participants received clothing, make-up, and training as they made their way through the talent-scouting process.

Derrick Ford, host of Philadelphia's *Recovery Talk 101* radio show at WURD 900 AM and Community Liaison for the City's Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual Disability, initially came up with the idea for Recovery Idol. He's a person in long-term recovery who realized that the tremendous talents of the recovery community needed to be nurtured and recognized. The goal was to keep recovery up front – from the rehearsals all the way to the final performances.

Check out Recovery Idol manager Derrick Ford talking about *How Recovery Idol Got Started* at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Kjee_wPqbM

Philadelphia's Recovery Idol has been a great success. Participants and audiences represent the entire community, spreading the word to recruit talented people, their families, and friends.

This toolkit has everything you'll need to launch your own Recovery Idol contest. One of the great benefits of Recovery Idol is the energy and enthusiasm that it generates, involving many people as excitement about the final contest builds.



2012 Recovery Idol Robert Washington



Derrick Ford, Recovery Idol Manager, and Bev Haberle, PRO-ACT Project Director, at 2012 Recovery Walks!



Bryal Bell dedicated his version of "Dance with My Father" to his own father.

BACKGROUND

Recovery Idol was founded in 2011 to showcase the talent of persons in recovery. A city agency – The Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual Disability; a recovery community organization – Pennsylvania Recovery Organization-Achieving Community Together (PRO-ACT); and a citywide coalition – the Philadelphia Recovery Coalition (PRC); came together and partnered to host the first Recovery Idol.



Here's how it worked:



- 1) The partners planned the competition, including identifying several locations around the city to hold six rounds of auditions and competitions. The final competition took place at PRO-ACT's Recovery Walk in September 2011. The winner received a plaque, studio recording time, and an opportunity to perform before tens of thousands of people.
- 2) The first round of auditions was closed to the public and started six months before the finals. Contestants were given a list of song selections to choose from to compete in each round of the competition.

ARE YOU READY FOR A RECOVERY IDOL?

Imagine doing a Recovery Idol contest in your community. We all know the importance of celebrating recovery. A Recovery Idol contest is one way to help someone grow their talents in recovery while bringing recovery to the wider community. Recovery Idol is also a great way to spread the word that recovery is fun and to invite the broader community to be part of the celebration.

Getting Started

- 1) Form a committee to delegate tasks and develop a team that will excite contestants and the community to get involved. Keep the committee's size manageable—ideally, three to ten people. The number of people should be small enough to allow meaningful participation by each person, but large enough to generate a lot of ideas and provide a variety of skills. Make sure to involve your faith and other community leaders in addition to recovery community leaders. See the Sample Timeline below for more details. According to Derrick Ford, "The timeline was the most important part of the planning as a whole."
- 2) Develop the rules before the auditions start so that contestants will know what's expected of them and how the contest will unfold. Rules should include how and where to sign up, what's expected of contestants, and how the judging will work. The Appendix includes the materials developed in Philadelphia. You can modify and change them for your community.
- 3) Develop promotional materials that are easy to use and understand. They should include information such as the contest locations, times for rehearsals, and rules of the competition.

SAMPLE TIMELINE

6 Months Out

- Form a planning committee of three to ten people with different backgrounds, such as people representing recovery community organizations, media, faith community, and public and private agencies.
- Hold committee meetings to develop a plan, including setting up sub-committees such as recruitment, publicity, and outreach.
- Set up a schedule for regular meetings including date, time, and location. Send out the schedule to everyone.
- Identify competition locations, prizes and other donations, and sponsors.

3-5 Months Out

- Finalize outreach to community organizations, treatment centers, recovery residences, mutual aid groups, after-care programs, and other places in your recovery community to identify participants and supporters.
- Begin distributing press releases and flyers, posting on social media networks to get out the word. In Philadelphia, Recovery Idol drew significant media coverage, including features on CBS News. <http://philadelphia.cbslocal.com/2011/07/21/philadelphians-in-recovery-take-part-in-tv-inspired-in-talent-competition/>
- Hold practices and auditions.
- Identify judges.

2 Months Out

- Hold Semi-Final Rounds.
- Prepare thank you letters to participants and congratulatory letters for contestants moving to next round.
- Prepare agenda.
- Schedule rehearsals.
- Announce finalists.

Day of Event

- Hold Recovery Idol final competition.
- Announce Recovery Idol.



COMPETITION OVERVIEW



PURPOSE

- Showcase talent of persons in recovery
- Promote positive self image and self expression
- Build alliances and unity within the recovery community
- Host positive social events

GENERAL PROCEDURES

All contestants are to report at the time and date assigned to them. Contestants must be at least 18 years or older and complete an entry form and consent release form. Each contestant will be required to sign a drug-free pledge. Contestants who are tardy (late), unruly or unable to follow the direction of the facilitator will be eliminated from the competition, and asked to leave the premises immediately.

CLOSED AUDITIONS

Auditions will be held in two sessions: Doors will open promptly at 9:30 am and registration will begin immediately. Contestants will register, be given a number and the corresponding number which will be placed in a basket for lottery for performance order. Orientation will begin promptly at 10:00 am, absolutely no contestant will be admitted after 10:15 am, and anyone arriving after 10:15 am will be eliminated from the competition.

Audition, Song Selections will solely be by choice of the contestant and should be no longer than 3-5 minutes. Each contestant will have an opportunity to sing only one song within the allotted time frame. The timing begins immediately after the contestant is introduced.

Competition Song Selections however will be chosen from an approved list from the Philadelphia Recovery Coalition, and will only be given to contestants chosen to move forward to the next level of competition.

After your audition, judges will vote and you will immediately be notified of your status. Either you will be invited to the next round of competition or you will be invited to join our audience participation for the next event and invited back to enter the competition next year.

COMPETITION OVERVIEW

JUDGING

Audition Judges will be 5-7 members of the Philadelphia Recovery Coalition. During the competition, individuals from the community will act as judges. This is not a popularity contest, but rather a competition based on your singing ability. You will be scored by judges in each of these areas on a numerical scale from one to five: Vocal Ability, Stage Presence/Audience Interaction, Creative Expression/Originality and Image/Style. Overall Performance high score per judge is 20 points with combined High score of 100-140 depending on how many judges are present. Decision of the judges at the audition/competitions and finale stages will be final, and are not subject to challenge or appeal. We encourage everyone to understand this is a competition in search of the best singers amongst our contestants and if you are not chosen to go on to the next level of competition that you not take it personally. We also ask that you receive the decision of the judges with respect.

All competition events will be open to the public and we encourage you to invite your family, friends, and loved ones, for support. Audience appreciation of your performance is encouraged. In the event of a tie, the audience would be a possible source of a tiebreaker.

LYRICS

Lyrics to songs auditions should not contain lyrics that are sexually explicit, suggestive, or vulgar. If contents are unacceptable, Judges have a right to disqualify contestants. **ABSOLUTELY No profanity is allowed.**

ATTIRE

Each contestant is responsible to choose his or her own attire, but please remember this event is designed to promote positive self image and self expression. So, PLEASE dress appropriately. Clothing should be modest. No short shorts or skirts, overly revealing shirts, in appropriate slogans, or anything that will encourage inappropriate attention. If attire is inappropriate, Judges have a right to disqualify contestants.

ENTRANCE FEE

There is no entrance fee or application/registration fee for this competition.

PRIZES

1st place winner will be selected by a series of competition eliminations. 1st place winner will receive Trophy, opportunity to perform with a live band center stage at Recovery Walks! 2012, Professional Studio recording sessions, and public appearances. My signature below is and will be deemed as agreement to the terms set above.

Contestant Signature

Date

Contestant Printed Name

Date

Coalition Representative Signature

Date

Cheer on and Support Your Favorite
Recovery Idol Contestants

Six rounds of competitions will be held at several locations around the city with the winner to be announced at the 2012 National Recovery Walks!
The winner will receive an award and time in a recording studio.



For more information
contact: Derrick Ford
215-546-1200 ext 4780
Dford@pmhcc.org

COMPETITION Open to the Public:

Thursday, **May 17** First Round
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Community College of Philadelphia
17th and Spring Garden Street
Bonnell Building, Main Auditorium

Friday, **June 1** Second Round
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Yesha Banquet Hall
23rd and Snyder Avenue

Friday, **June 15** Third Round
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Boys Latin School
55th and Cedar Avenue

Friday, **July 13** Fourth Round
12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Phila. City Hall Court Yard
Juniper Circle

Thursday, **July 26** Fifth Round
8:00 p.m.
The Dell Music Center
33rd and Ridge Avenue

Friday, **August 31** Sixth Round
Recovery Concert
8:00 p.m.
The Dell Music Center
33rd and Ridge Avenue

Saturday, **September 22** Finale
8:00 a.m.
Recovery Walk
Penns Landing, Great Plaza



COMPETITION ENTRY FORM

PHILADELPHIA RECOVERY COALITION RECOVERY IDOL COMPETITION

Consent/Release Form

I, _____ do hereby warrant that I am the individual who signed the Registration Form and/or have allowed another individual to complete the Registration Form on my behalf.

I do give my permission for Philadelphia Recovery Coalition/Recovery Idol Competition (PRC/RIC), to use my name, photograph/video, and quotes from me, relating to my participation in the PRC/RIC for publicity. I understand that these may be used in newspapers, TV, radio announcements, internal publications and films. Locally they may be used in a wide variety of settings including such places as Recovery Walks 2012 and beyond, local media sources and advertisements. The publicity displays may be attended or unattended.

I hereby release the PRC/RIC and any of its operating divisions, programs or affiliates from any and all claims, demands, actions or causes of action that may arise as a result of my participation in such activities. I understand that even though I hereby give my permission to PRC/RIC and any of its operating divisions, programs or affiliates to use my name, images, comments and performance, I am not an official representative of these entities.

This consent will remain in effect for as long as PRC/RIC and any of its operating divisions, programs or affiliates may need to use my name, photograph/video or statement for publicity. I understand should I not follow the rules of the competition or direction from any appointed facilitator, I may be eliminated from the competition. I agree if I am eliminated, PRC/RIC may still choose to use my name, photos/videos, statements, etc. at their discretion.

I will release the PRC/RIC and its members, agents and anyone related to them from and against any and all claims, liabilities and expenses with respect to said Registration Form, the contest rules, the performance, auditions and all events and activities related to PRC/RIC. This is a general release of any and all liability howsoever caused.

I agree with all of these terms and further agree to hold the PRC/RIC and its members, agents and anyone related to them harmless from all claims and causes of action howsoever occasioned on my behalf.

My signature confirms agreement to the above as well as confirmation that I have not ever as an individual, as part of a group or choirs recorded, or have had a contractual agreement as a singer. I relinquish my rights to any media footage and confirm all footage is and will remain the property of Philadelphia Recovery Coalition. I am signing with the understanding that breaching any portion of this agreement will be cause to be disqualified from the competition.

I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE FORM.

Contestant Signature

Date

Contestant Printed Name

Date

Coalition Representative Signature

Date

OFFICIAL ARTIST AND SONG SELECTION

All contestants from this level of the competition forward must choose their selection from this list. We encourage you to be creative and original, however all lyrics must be memorized and obtained by contestants. Please select 4 different songs for each level of competition, in the event you are chosen to move from level to level. This is meant to challenge your diversity and range throughout the competition. If you make it to the finals, you will be informed of the final song selection.

TINA MARIE

1. Square Biz
2. Out on a Limb
3. Behind the Groove
4. Springtime

DIANA ROSS

1. I'm Coming Out
2. Mahogany
3. Upside Down
4. Always and Forever

PHIL COLLINS

1. Take a Look at Me Now
2. Easy Lover
3. Against All Odds
4. In the Air Tonight
5. Sussudio

LUTHER VANDROSS

1. Dance with My Father
2. House is Not a Home
3. Always and Forever
4. So Amazing
5. Never too Much

STEVIE WONDER

1. Ribbon in the Sky
2. My Cherie Amour
3. You are the Sunshine of My Live
4. Isn't She Lovely

BARRY WHITE

1. Never Gonna Give You UP
2. Playing Your Game Baby
3. You're My First, My Last, My Everything

FREDDY JACKSON

1. Rock Me Tonight
2. I Don't Want to Lose Your Love
3. I Want to Know Your Name

NATALIE COLE

1. Love on My Mind
2. Sophisticated Lady
3. Are Love

BEYONCE

1. Love on Top
2. Hayloe
3. Single Lady

ADELE

1. Don't You Remember
2. Rolling in the Deep
3. Best for Last

WHITNEY HOUSTON

Artists's Choice

MICHAEL JACKSON

Artist's Choice

SCORE SHEET



JUDGE NAME _____
 Thursday July 14 Friday July

AUDITION SCORE SHEET

JUDGES Please score all contestants honestly and without bias on a scale from 1 (lowest)-5 (highest) in the following areas:
Vocal Ability, Stage Presence/ Audience Participation, Creative Expression/Originality, Image/Style.
 Be sure to record numbers only, total your score for each contestant and any memorable details in comments area.

#	Name	Vocals	Stage	Creative	Image	Score	Comments
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10							
11							
12							
13							
14							
15							
16							
17							
18							
19							
20							

Thank You!

Contestant,

Thank you for participating in the Recovery Idol audition. The committee greatly appreciates your time, efforts and your talent.

Unfortunately, your audition performance did not score high enough for you to move on to the next level of this year's completion. We encourage you to come back again next year to enter the competition.

The remainder of the competitions is open to the public and we invite you to be a part of the audience participation. We have attached a flyer with the dates, time and locations.

Hope to See You There!

Philadelphia Recovery Coalition

Congratulations

Contestant,

Thank you for participating in Philadelphia's Recovery Idol completion. We greatly appreciate your time, efforts and talent.

We have agreed that your audition performance has been scored high enough for you to move on to the next level of completion.

The next round of completion will be held on _____ at _____ from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm. Please be prepared to stay the entire time. The lottery system will be used to determine the order of performance with no exceptions. We encourage all contestants to arrive no later the 9:00 am to register. Instructions will be given promptly at 9:30 and the show will begin at 10:00 am sharp. Any contestant arriving late will be eliminated from competition.

From this level forward, your song selection must be chosen from the members approved list that is attached. We invite you to be creative and original in your performance, however the song lyrics must be memorized.

This competition is open to the public and audience participation is important. We encourage you to invite your family, friend and loved ones to support you.

Good Luck! See You at the Next Level!

Philadelphia Recovery Coalition