MBMHMC is on a mission to empower youth to reach their greatest potential by expanding their worldview through explorations in their own backyard.
A Census data study conducted by the Manhattan Institute for Policy Research titled, “The End of the Segregated Century,” reveals Chicago as “the most racially segregated city in the country”. The residents of Chicago do not define themselves as Chicagoans - we isolate ourselves according to geographical and community boundaries, limiting our opportunities, possibilities and worldviews to our immediate vicinity. Our main program, “My Block, My Hood, My City” is designed to begin the process of making Chicago the most interconnected city in the country.
LIMITED PERSPECTIVES

• “You’ve got to be rich to go downtown, so I don’t go.”

• “You have to be white to own a business on the North Side.”

• “21st is my block, not literally, but we own all this, for real.”

• “I’ve been to the Lake, once, when I was eight or something like that.”
A CITY RICH WITH OPPORTUNITY

ECLECTIC.
DIVERSE.
NAVIGABLE.
A SOLUTION

**TRAVEL = SUCCESS**

Regardless of gender, ethnicity, and socioeconomic class, students who took educational trips between the ages of 12-18 were more likely to be academically and financially successful.

- 57% more likely to earn a college degree or do postgraduate work
- 12% personal income was 12% higher ($41,100 compared to $36,700 annually)

**TRAVEL = AMBITION**

Travel improved academic success and influenced career choices. 89% reported that educational travel had a positive impact on their education and/or career.

**TRAVEL = CURIOSITY**

Children who took educational trips enjoyed school more and felt a greater connection to their world. 86% said that educational travel made them more intellectually curious both in and out of the classroom.

- 77% reported that the local culture they experienced on their trip had a lasting impact
- 90% found their educational trips to be fun, engaging and/or inspiring
If teenagers had access, were shown their surroundings, exposed to the possibilities just beyond their neighborhood, they might, like me, understand they can amount to so much more. - Jahmal Cole
WHAT IS THE PROGRAM?

My Block, My Hood, My City is a vessel to introduce Chicagoans to places in their City they've never seen or experienced. We facilitate custom experiences designed for organizations that serve teenagers.

Every month, we take a group of interested teenagers on a city-wide exploration, visiting hidden gem businesses and artful intersections, uncovering communities and challenging preconceived notions. By taking teenagers outside of their comfort zones, but right next door in their own city, they can see what Chicago has to offer, and experience a different perspective that will awaken ownership and pride in them.

Participating teenagers receive MBMHMC T-Shirts, a one-day Ventra pass and explorers’ journals. Lunch and snacks are also included.
MBMHMC is on a mission to empower youth to reach their greatest potential by expanding their worldview through explorations in their own backyard.
OUR WORK

Empowering Success, Ambition, Curiosity amongst America’s Youth

My Block, My Hood, My City is a vessel to introduce teenagers to places in their own City they’ve never seen or experienced.

Every month we take a group of interested teenagers on a city wide exploration.
My Block, My Hood, My City’s primary target is underserved teenagers from under-resourced communities. These teens have not ventured outside of their immediate surroundings, both literally and figuratively. They have not traveled outside of their block; have not dreamed beyond their neighborhood. They haven’t been afforded the opportunity to dream bigger than their immediate environment, and therefore, their future aspirations and goals are similarly limited.

My Block, My Hood, My City seeks to broaden their worldview by facilitating explorations into communities vastly different than their own, yet within reach. We provide access to varying cultures, lifestyles, professional opportunities and more with hopes of igniting and expanding their dreams and their potential.
GIVING TEENS THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE A NEW AND EXCITING ASPECT OF THEIR CITY. So close, but yet so far away is a term that applies to the situations of many disadvantaged youth who are in close proximity to downtown Chicago, but who live in an isolated and far different environment. A new and exciting perspective of their city will enlighten them and help them perceive a world beyond their boundaries.

SEEING THE CITY IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT, A POSITIVE LIGHT INSTEAD OF A NEGATIVE LIGHT. There’s always a positive and negative perspective. The explorers club sheds a positive light on Chicago, while encouraging teens to view their roles in their own smaller communities in a positive light.

INSPIRE TEENS TO GET INVOLVED IN NEW SITUATIONS. By revealing to them that they are a part of something bigger, they will want to become involved. When you show a child that there is something to dream about, they will be more likely to aspire toward that dream.
THE IMPACT

“Definitely showed me things I wouldn’t have saw had I never taken this trip.” - Jevon, YMEN

“I like the art work at the Museum, I want to do graphic design.”
- Chris, By the Hand

“I enjoyed it. Going to the Advertising firm was the best part for me because they offer internships.”
PARTNERING TO AMPLIFY OUR EFFORTS

We rely on our greater Chicago community to make our work possible.

Corporate Sponsors
Partner Organizations
Merchandise Sales and Partnerships
Hosts
Volunteers
Donors
COSTS

COST PER EXPLORER: $77.00

- MBMHMC Discounted Hoodie: $32
- One-Day Ventra Pass: $10
- Lunch: $10
- Explorers Journal: $5
- Activity Expense: $10
- Chaperon Expense: $10

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

You can sponsor an individual explorer or take advantage of our sponsorship packages. (Each explorer receives the perks mentioned above).

"MY BLOCK" SPONSORSHIP ($500)
- Covers explorer club expenses for five teenagers.
- Includes (2) chaperons.
- Receive a personal thank you note from Jahmal Cole
- Sponsorship recognition in our monthly newsletter
- Invite to culminating party where explorers reflect on what they learned.

"MY HOOD" SPONSORSHIP ($1000)
- All the perks of the "My Block" Package
- Covers explorer club expenses for ten teenagers.
- MBMHMC creator Jahmal Cole will come speak at your school, business, or organization.

"MY CITY" SPONSORSHIP ($2500)
- All the perks of the "My Hood" Package
- Give twenty teenagers an opportunity to explore Chicago and visit the sky deck at the top of the Willis Tower.
PARTNERING TO AMPLIFY OUR EFFORTS

Partner Organizations
YMEN
By the Hand
St. Frances De Sales High School

Merchandise Sales and Partnerships
Interested in Selling M3 Apparel at your store, contact us
PARTNERING TO AMPLIFY OUR EFFORTS

Hosts
Havas World Wide
National Hellenic Museum
Athena Greek Restaurant
Edgewater Work Bench
Ethiopian Diamond Restaurant

Volunteers
We’re always looking for chaperons and volunteers to help with explorations.

Donors
WH Trading LLC
Swirlgear
Brianbits LLC
WHAT OUR PARTNERSHIP COULD LOOK LIKE

Picture of teens at Havas World Wide
Thank you for your consideration. A chain is only as strong as its weakest link, and Chicago is only as strong as its most under-resourced community.

We look forward to changing our blocks, our hoods, and our city, together.

Jahmal Cole
President
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A CITY UNITED

“Chicago is a city full of culture and diversity, but there are many inner-city kids who have never explored the richness of the city; never ventured further than a few blocks from their home.”

-Hosea Sanders, ABC 7 Chicago

POPULATION

“Chicago is a city full of culture and diversity, but there are many inner-city kids who have never explored the richness of the city; never ventured further than a few blocks from their home.”

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POPLATION

Chicago population

Racially similar areas

more than 66% black

more than 66% white

more than 66% Hispanic

33.6% avg. poverty rate of black Chicagoans

23.3% avg. poverty rate of Hispanic Chicagoans

10.2% avg. poverty rate of white Chicagoans

INEQUALITY

VIOLENCE

2634

number of homicides from 2010-2015

66.2% of homicides occur in black neighborhoods

12.4% of homicides occur in Hispanic neighborhoods

1.8% of homicides occur in white neighborhoods

A CITY DIVIDED

“Chicago is a city full of culture and diversity, but there are many inner-city kids who have never explored the richness of the city; never ventured further than a few blocks from their home.”

-Hosea Sanders, ABC 7 Chicago

"To truly make our city a better and more interconnected place we need more people, young and old, to visit community areas outside of their own.”

-Jahmal Cole, founder

EXPLORATION

Educational trips improve students’ academic and financial success:

57% were more likely to go to college

89% reported travel had a positive effect on their education & career

80% stated that travel made them more interested in school

86% reported that travel made them more intellectually curious

"My block my hood my city has made me want to go to college because it makes me want to explore my opportunities and network with different people.”

-Tiffany Payton

18 year old explorer

ACTIVITIES

Willis Tower

Jewelry Making

Business Development

Photography Tours

Rock Climbing

Sources: *ACS 2013, 5 year estimate; **ACS 2014; ***City of Chicago, 2015; ****Wagner Group, 2014

Created by: Matthew Pietrus