Thank you for your interest in partnering with My Block * My Hood * My City!

WHAT IS MY BLOCK * MY HOOD * MY CITY?

MY BLOCK * MY HOOD * MY CITY (M3) is a community based social impact organization that provides youth with new experiences, exposing them to possibilities beyond their own communities. The M3 mission is to help teenagers overcome the poverty and isolation they face, boosting educational attainment, and opening them to opportunities that make a difference in their lives.

WHAT IS THE EXPLORER’S PROGRAM?

MY BLOCK * MY HOOD * MY CITY’s Explorer’s Program takes teens from divested communities on explorations around the city of Chicago. The explorations are focused on educational themes such as Vocation & Entrepreneurism, Food & Culture, Art & Expression, and Recreation & Play.

EXPLORATION VALUES

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- Confidence
- Generosity
- Reciprocity
- Trust
MY BLOCK * MY HOOD * MY CITY acts as a vessel to connect Chicagoans to places in their City they’ve never seen or experienced. The Explorers Program facilitates custom experiences between youth and partner organizations focused on experiential learning. Every month of the school year, MBMHMC takes a group of teenagers on a city-wide exploration, visiting hidden gem businesses and artful intersections, uncovering communities, and challenging preconceived notions. M3 believes that 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.

For MBMHMC, the Explorers Program continues to grow in scope and impact. Youth leave the program with altered perception and what is possible to achieve.

THE EXPLORATION SPECIFICS

MY BLOCK * MY HOOD * MY CITY brings 10 – 12 high school age youth, along with 2 - 3 adult chaperones, to a host organization to engage and learn from those who work there.

The explorations occur during the school year (October - May) after school hours, starting around 4:00 / 4:30 PM on weekdays (Monday - Thursday) and typically last for three (3) to four (4) hours.

The explorations typically consist of the following components:

* Learning about the organization
* Hearing from employees about their vocational journey
* A tour of the facility (if applicable)
* A hands-on activity relevant to youth
* Food and informal networking
HOST EXPLORATION EXPECTATIONS

* A $500 donation
* Provide food
* Available for after school hours during the business week
* Hands-on activity during exploration
* Connection to future internship opportunities for select youth

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Please contact Nathaniel Viets VanLear, Program Manager Explorer’s Program at nathaniel@mbmhmc.com for more information about how to get involved with.

If you are interested in hosting an MBMHMC exploration, please submit the following information:

* Host Organization Name
* Host Organization Contact Name and Information
* Available dates

www.formyblock.org  @myblockmyhoodmycity
@formyblockchi  @myblockmyhoodmycity
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW ARE STUDENTS CHOSEN?
* M3 partners with Level 3 high schools in Chicago and works alongside school staff to select students to participate for the length of the school year.

HOW DO STUDENTS GET TO EXPLORATIONS?
* Students are picked up from school using M3’s company van and are dropped off at home after the exploration.

WHAT TYPES OF EXPLORATIONS DO STUDENTS GO ON?
* Explorations focus on exposing youth to new careers, communities, cuisines, and/or cultures.
* Exploration themes are categorized as follows: STEM, Business, Arts & Culture, Citizenry & Volunteerism, Health, Community Development, Culinary Arts, and Entrepreneurism

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS TO PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS?
* Explorers receive access to internships and job opportunities and exposure to different neighborhoods in Chicago.

IS THERE A COST FOR EXPLORERS TO PARTICIPATE?
* No, all of the students participate in the program free of cost. The expenses are covered by apparel sales, grants, and donations.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR EXPLORATION SITE HOSTS?
* M3 staff meet with the site host contact prior to hosting an exploration to decide upon the date and agenda for the exploration.
* M3 requests that site hosts provide a hands-on, engaging activity that gives explorers a deeper look into their career field and provides them with new knowledge and skills.
* Hosts are also asked to provide dinner for the students and time for formal/informal networking with their staff members.
EXPLORATION EXAMPLES

In previous years, the MY BLOCK * MY HOOD * MY CITY Explorer’s Program took students to tour art galleries, to learn how to sail, to serve meals to the homeless, to explore The National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C., and to engage in many more educational and life experiences, including the following organizations / events:

* STEM – Facebook, Pandora, Google
* Citizenry & Volunteerism – RTW Veteran Center, Feeding the Homeless, Barack Obama Farewell Address
* Health – Modern Aligned Health, Walgreens
* Community Development – Chicago Architecture Foundation
* Culinary – Cooking with Chef Jen Gavin, Bon Macaron
* Entrepreneurism – Small Business Owners

“THANKS TO MY BLOCK * MY HOOD * MY CITY, I HAVE BEEN VERY OUTSPoken AND HAVE GOTTEN INVOLVED IN A LOT OF ACTIVITIES [IN COLLEGE]... THANK YOU JAHMAL FOR HELPING ME COMMUNICATE AND BREAKING ME OUT OF MY SHELL TO BE MORE OPEN.”