UPDATE ON MADISON OPERATIONS

We hope that you and your family are well. The safety of Madison Square Boys & Girls Club’s 5,000 members is our highest priority. Following the Department of Education’s closure of NYC public schools, we have postponed our Clubhouse programs minimally until April 20th, and we are developing new virtual opportunities to make sure that we continue to serve our members and engage them in productive and enriching opportunities. As always, thank you for your incredible support of our kids. We know that when the dust settles, vulnerable populations in the communities we support will be hit the hardest and we appreciate you now more than ever.

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

Kemoy Hutchinson, from our Thomas S. Murphy Clubhouse, was recently chosen to represent Madison at the State Youth of the Year competition. This year, as every year, we are lucky to have a really special group of inspiring Youth of the Year finalists representing our organization. They are a testament to your positive impact and we thank you. We are excited to announce that this year, Youth of the Year will be pivoting to a virtual event experience during the week of May 18th. Stay tuned for more information!

Our Style of Life Luncheon has been postponed until September 2020.
Madison Square Boys & Girls Club celebrated Black History Month across all of our Clubhouses during the month of February. In honor of Black History month, each Clubhouse paid tribute to those men and women who paved the way and created a positive change for future generations. Thomas S. Murphy Clubhouse’s drama club performed a skit on Rosa Parks’ refusal to get up from her seat, a creative take on a well-known and critical moment in our history. Pinkerton Clubhouse junior members created a short video portraying themselves as African-American inventors from the past and present as well as prominent artists that originated in Harlem. Across our Clubs, our Teens reflected on inspirational poetry, celebrating black history, and integrated their favorite pieces into their Clubhouse celebrations. Our Explorers danced to Brown Skin Girl by Beyoncé while dressed in traditional African clothing and prints. Additionally, our Teen members danced to various songs choreographed by staff from Go Hard Dance, a community-based organization that often partners with our Grimm Clubhouse. The inspiring and creative event culminated with a singing of the Black National Anthem.
Madison was also excited to engage with some of our partners who were celebrating Black History month as well. The Garden of Dreams Foundation + National Hockey League hosted the Inclusive Empowerment Growth Conference in honor of Black History Month and the Rangers ‘Hockey is for Everyone’ theme night. Joseph Belony, Sports & Fitness Director at our Thomas S. Murphy Clubhouse, represented Madison on this panel. The goal of the conference was to share the importance of sports, especially hockey, and understand its role in under-represented communities. Joey shared his experience with bringing street hockey to our Murphy Clubhouse, thanks to the incredible donation of hockey equipment from our friends at Good Sports. The panel served as a great capstone to end our Black History month celebration. While our Clubhouses celebrated the history of African-American achievement, opportunities and events like the Garden of Dreams panel allows us to look towards the future and encourage future generations to keep pushing past boundaries toward success!
Madison prioritizes offering youth robust opportunities to partake in the arts, across disciplines, ranging from dance and fine arts to performing arts, photography, and more! Creating art provides youth with an outlet for expression and reflection. Studies encouragingly show that youth both improve their academic scores and graduate at a higher rate if they participate in the arts. Additionally, for youth who learn best outside of the classroom and struggle in school, the arts can provide an arena to showcase their talent, express their worldview, and develop discipline and positive self-esteem. By broadening their definition of success, participating in the arts teaches our members valuable transferable skills such as decision making and inventiveness.

We strive to constantly provide our members with a multitude of opportunities to experience and create art and February was no exception! Recently, some of our teens took a trip to The Metropolitan Museum of Art to learn about both ancient and contemporary art and its effects on society--a fun day for our members to explore NYC and learn at the same time! Over in Brooklyn, our Thomas S. Murphy Clubhouse put on an exciting rendition of the Wiz Musical on February 28th. About 20 juniors, teens and staff came together to create a truly memorable performance. For months members recorded music, rehearsed lines and learned choreography.
With their family and peers there to see them perform, members’ confidence soared as they received a standing ovation and created unforgettable memories along the way.

Finally, up in the Bronx, our Grimm Clubhouse hosted an art show with Space to Connect at Fordham Plaza on February 24th. After lots of hard work by our members creating and fine-tuning pieces, the artwork was displayed for local artists to critique and provide feedback to our members. Happen to miss the initial showing? No worries! Some of the art work is still up for display and can be seen from the outside of the Space to Connect location on Fordham Road, across from the Metro North stop.

Similarly, our Brooklyn members from the Thomas S. Murphy Clubhouse recently hosted an annual Art showcase at Linden Library. It featured different art mediums such as monochromatic drawings, pastels, watercolors, oil, acrylic, mixed media and collage.

Although local art activations are temporary, Boys & Girls Clubs of America provides opportunities for our members to submit their art in regional and national competitions. These exciting opportunities allow our youth to showcase their work in a virtual gallery and gain exposure to professional artists.

Because of initiatives like these, when members come to Madison, they know that they will be able to express themselves through the arts, no matter what their medium is!
Last month, 26 of our members from our Thomas S. Murphy Clubhouse, Navy Yard Clubhouse, and the Elbaum Family Clubhouse attended a trip to Washington, D.C., where members were given a guided tour of the Howard University Campus. The tour offered a great deal of information to our members about the college experience and the importance of selecting a college that best fits their individual needs and interests. Participants learned about the cost of tuition and different ways to receive financial assistance, including scholarships, grants, and more! During the visit they were able to meet up with our former Youth of the Year Ambassador Kaylynn and hear about her college experience thus far on campus. Kaylynn was all smiles and spoke of her involvement in various programs and her current journey toward becoming an RA on campus. This experience gave members another opportunity to hear about the importance of higher education. Thank you to Howard University for hosting our teens and allowing us to expose them to just another incredible opportunity!