



Community Impact Internships Program

Internship Profiles 2016





2016 Community Impact Internships Program Interns

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The Community Impact Internships Program (CIIP) is a competitive, paid summer internship program housed within the Center for Social Concern at Johns Hopkins University. The program pairs JHU undergraduate students with nonprofit organizations and government agencies to work on community-identified projects. The goal of this program is two-fold; to give JHU undergraduates an opportunity to be directly involved in a community in Baltimore City and to support the important work being done by nonprofits and government agencies.

The cohort of the 2016 Community Impact Internships Program worked throughout Baltimore City in a variety of organizations focusing on ten interest areas: **education, homelessness and poverty, criminal justice, health care and health policy, environment and sustainability, community gardens and food access, neighborhood and community improvement, arts, nonprofit management, and women, children and family issues.** After this sixth year of CIIP, 275 undergraduates and over 100 community partners have been able to participate in this program, contributing over 74,000 hours of work throughout Baltimore's communities. This program is made possible thanks to generous gifts totalling over \$2.25 million from a private donor.



The Center for Social Concern is the student life office dedicated to community service and civic engagement and is under the umbrella of Johns Hopkins University's Homewood Student Affairs (HSA).

Our Mission: The Center for Social Concern emphasizes the value of service with others, rather than the commonly accepted concept of service to others. The volunteers and community members enter into an educational process where both benefit from the interaction and reciprocal learning is the common ground for all of our initiatives. Our programs and efforts are striving to create a "better community" in and around the Johns Hopkins Campus.

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Community Partner: 29th Street Community Center

Intern: Tommy Mee

Site Supervisor: Ali Warhaftig

What is the 29th Street Community Center?

The mission of the 29th Street Community Center is to offer a space for meaningful community building and high quality enrichment programming that adds value and vibrancy to surrounding neighborhoods and the Barclay Elementary/Middle School.



Commonly portrayed and perceived as a dangerous, neglected city, Baltimore's reputation does not match its heart. The most important take-away from my experience at the 29th Street Community Center is that Baltimore is a vivacious city with a great deal to offer. The Center, for example, hosted Peace Camp, Bulldog Basketball Camp, a movie night, and tons of programming, and will shortly host a three on three basketball tournament and a block party health fair. Along with the other full-time staff, I helped other organizations advertise for their events. As a student with a heavy workload during the academic year, it is easy to feel disconnected and ill-informed about what goes on in the city. Through my internship, I have been able to strengthen my connection with the city and learn about the lively events it has to offer. My internship has been demanding and rewarding; I have attempted to recruit after-school programs for the center, advertise the basketball tournament, create a prototype website, and maintain general upkeep of the Center. The block party health fair event will take place in less than a month and has proven to be the toughest challenge and biggest responsibility of my internship. I began planning the event in July in partnership with the Charm City Clinic. It will offer free food, music, and navigational health services, such as assistance with signing up for insurance. The marketing plan has been designed to target vulnerable, low-income populations that could benefit most from the medical services. From the planning process to the outreach, I have learned what it takes to deliver an event and what challenges arise as a result. Of course, the event has not happened yet and there are plenty of obstacles yet to emerge, but unresponsiveness dominates the list of issues. Persistence has been a crucial, necessary skill to hone and is certainly a skill consistently needed for any kind of event planning. -Tommy



Tasks:

- Successfully helped plan a movie night that displayed "Inside Out" that had approximately 75 attendees.
- Assisted in planning and delivering professional development lessons for 8 Youth Workers
- Created a website for the Center
- Planned and executed a block party health fair event

Community Partner: 901 Arts

Intern: Sophie Adelman

Site Supervisor: Sarah Tooley

What is 901 Arts?

901 Arts is a community-based youth arts center dedicated to providing art and music programs to the children and teens of the Better Waverly neighborhood. 901 Arts provides a safe, creative, and empowering space for Better Waverly Youth to express themselves and develop as artists and community leaders. The art center is an integral part of our community's ongoing efforts to build a safer, stronger and more vibrant neighborhood.

This summer, through working at 901 Arts, I've learned the value of what it means to perform my job with enthusiasm to the fullest of my ability. I was given the responsibility of working behind the scenes at camp to ensure that there was enough food and supplies and that the camp was organized for children to come in and have a meaningful experience each afternoon for five weeks. I was assigned to supervise 4 Youth Workers to help me in setting up each day for camp, prepping art materials such as mosaics, paintings and flower pots for the kids to use as backdrops for their own designs. In the process of preparing for campers to come, I learned a lot about myself and my ability to be an effective leader in delegating different tasks to fit the skill set of each Youth Worker. I learned a lot about work ethic and how approaching a job with positivity and open-mindedness is needed for cooperation and having a learning experience. Additionally, I learned what it means to own up to responsibility and follow-through with full effort and make good on commitments. I am very grateful to my boss for allowing me to take initiative in planning lessons and assessing what should get completed for the day--this required me to make sure that I knew what I was doing and plan out how I wanted to follow through on things I had suggested. This was most evident in teaching the 901 Arts drumline Brazilian rhythms—I was challenged with responsibility and the task of balancing rules and guidelines with leaving room for error and things not going exactly as planned. Lastly and most importantly, I spent this summer coming to understand how community arts centers function in neighborhoods, and how 901 Arts serves the families of Better Waverly to act as a place for kids in the neighborhood to gather, have fun and create art in the process. I am very grateful to my boss and my coworkers for making this summer a memorable lesson in becoming more confident in my words and actions and learning how to overcome challenges along the way. -Sophie



Tasks:

- Supervised 4 YouthWorkers, assigning and teaching how to be of service to young campers
- Collaborated with the director of 901 Arts to build an organized online database
- Taught Brazilian rhythms to the camp's drum line
- Promoted the organization in the community by flyering and posting advertisements around the neighborhood

Community Partner: Art with a Heart

Intern: Allison Schingel

Site Supervisor: Christina Ralls

What is Art with a Heart?

Art with a Heart's mission is to enhance the lives of people in need through visual art.

My favorite experiences at Art with a Heart all came from teaching and working with the students in the summer job program. The first few days were somewhat daunting, but the teens and young adults I helped teach were engaging and interesting. I liked working with them. I'm very interested in education, but much of my past work in the subject has been based in theory. In the past, I had never really been able to put to practice my teaching skills on the regular basis. AWAH needed me to do so, though, and I surprised myself with how much invested I got. I really cared about all of my students, and it gave me so much joy to just sit and talk with them and learn about their lives. It turned out to be very easy to dismiss any preconceived idea about their lives - in most ways, I think, we related to one another as peers, and I saw them less as students and more as friends I happened to work with or teach.

It's been this kind of shift in my general attitude that has made me look at Baltimore in new ways. A major strength of CIIP is its emphasis on Baltimore - all of the city's problems, changes, and charms. Interning at Art with a Heart has made me more aware of the nonprofit sector in Baltimore, as well as the importance of artistic expression in this city and by its residents, but interning through CIIP has made me look at the work I'm doing through a much wider lens. I feel more aware of the role I play in Baltimore, and that makes me feel even more grateful to be around people at work who are tireless in their efforts to make people here a little bit stronger. Art with a Heart stresses how the visual arts can enhance people's lives. I'm so used to treating art as a solitary activity, but it's the communal aspect of making visual arts projects at AWAH that really makes me feel like my life is being enhanced. I couldn't imagine doing anything else this summer. - Allison



Tasks:

- Assisted in teaching specific art projects, job skills, and visual art concepts to twenty teenagers and young adults in AWAH's summer job program
- Managed conflicts and disagreements between job program workers
- Tested new project ideas and created products to be sold in AWAH's HeARTwares store
- Promoted the major summer sale event, Shop & Bop, through flyers, online calendars, and contacting media representatives

Community Partner: Baltimore City Health Department

Peer Mentor: Victoria Aysola

Site Supervisor: Sonia Sarkar

What is the Baltimore City Health Department?

The mission of the department is to advocate, lead, and provide services of the highest quality in order to promote and protect the health and well-being of all of Baltimore's residents to achieve healthcare equity



Through working with the policy team at the Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD), I was able to get a glimpse of how changemaking looks from within local government. It takes persistence, creativity, and collaboration. Most of my work over the summer was researching other states' and jurisdictions' legislation, especially around violence prevention. Instead of detailing each policy's specifics, I focused around the coalition of organizations that championed the legislation to help consider which specific organizations here in Maryland could collaborate in support of a specific initiative. At every community event and meeting I attended, it was clear that a coalition of agencies and community members must come together to make things happen.

I was excited to find an atmosphere of innovation at BCHD. For example, BCHD is currently supporting a bill in City Council that would require warning labels about the health risks of sugar-sweetened beverages to be posted anywhere these drinks are sold or advertised, because sugary drinks are major contributors to childhood obesity. Only one U.S. city currently has a policy like this. To help push back against the beverage lobby's efforts, another intern and I drove through local neighborhoods to demonstrate that advertising of sugary drinks are disproportionately targeted towards Baltimoreans of lower socioeconomic status. Taking pictures of corner stores plastered with ads for sugary treats, energy drinks, and alcohol was an eye-opening reminder of yet another way neighborhoods impact health. I also enjoyed the environment at BCHD. The other interns around me worked on the city's comprehensive Zika campaign, the next Healthy Baltimore strategic plan, and social media for the agency. It was an absolute privilege to spend this summer at BCHD, working among remarkable people dedicated to a healthier and more social-justice-minded Baltimore. - Victoria



Tasks:

- Researched existing policies in other states for the Health Commissioner's next state legislative agenda
- Wrote posts about the Division of Aging and CARE Services for the BCHD blog
- Tracked current federal legislation related to health

Community Partner: Baltimore Corps

Intern: Pranathi Ganni

Site Supervisor: Liz Gomez

What is Baltimore Corps?

Baltimore Corps is a fellowship program that connects social minded leaders with nonprofits in Baltimore



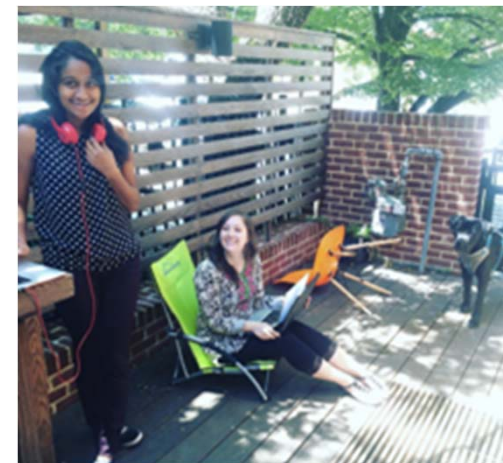
When I picture working in the social impact sector, I imagine people working till their feet hurt from walking door to door and their stomachs growling from getting so carried away in what they do that they forget to eat. At least at Baltimore Corps, I'm pretty sure the last part is true. But working at Baltimore Corps this summer has made me develop a greater understanding on the different ways creating social change can look.

Before coming to Baltimore Corps I had a certain stereotype in mind as to what a nonprofit looked like. From my first days at Baltimore Corps, its business model and data-driven focus seemed to not fit this mold precisely. Throughout my summer with CIIP, most of my work with community members was done over the phone, through e-mail or one-step away from the people themselves—building systems that would one-day support their ability to engage in meaningful employment here in Baltimore. My days were spent working in coffee shops, attending meetings relating to social innovation, and collaborating with a team of interns.

I questioned whether my work would be truly impactful if I wasn't directly connecting to populations served. I still don't know where I will be after college. But, throughout the summer I leaned in to my strengths and used them to foster innovation and impact within Baltimore Corps. I was not impressed with operational, technical work and what it could do in the social sector in the beginning. And much of what I did with my internship was technical. But the Operations team in Baltimore Corps has a motto: "It should be easier to do good". Through the use of technology, they work to provide an equitable and data-driven approach to talent—they are shaking things up in the social impact sector and making sure "doing good" can be easier. And I believe my work as a CIIP Intern made it a little bit easier for Baltimore to continue doing good. It is a wonderful mindset and one I hope to continue with in the future. - Pranathi

Tasks:

- Provided recommendations for Baltimore Corps safety and security working to build the foundation for scaling their data-driven practices
- Created and improved existing onboarding procedures, allowing Baltimore Corps to scale it's staff team and internship program sustainability
- Increased efficiency of contracting process through automation
- Provided special project support to the recruitment, program and operations team adding needed capacity in application review, orientation preparation and Salesforce database management



My time with Baltimore Green Space has fueled my passion for urban sustainability and given me insight into how neighborhoods work to be greener from the soil up. I learned the ins-and-outs of Baltimore's policies on community greening and vacant lot usage and worked to understand how these could improve to create a healthier city. Through their hard work and love of the environment, my supervisors showed me the vital role that land trusts such as Baltimore Green Space play in ensuring that community-run forests and parks remain preserved and able to be enjoyed by residents in every neighborhood. I visited countless pocket parks and community gardens, ranging from a 100 square feet to an acre, but all bringing beauty, a sense of community, and relief from the density of the city to every location. One such space is the Duncan Street Miracle Garden, in which I gardened once a week with a dedicated farmer who has worked for almost 30 years to bring healthy, organic produce to one of Baltimore's most severe food deserts. Throughout the eight weeks of my internship, the most common theme has been that dedicated and passionate community members such as these can truly increase the sustainability of this city. Whether it's local farmers, neighborhood association members that still find time to maintain a flower garden for local children to enjoy, or my supervisors that have worked long hours to help, protect, and preserve every green space possible in the city, these people have shown how every single person can play a role in making Baltimore more environmentally friendly. This experience has motivated me to continue studying and working for policies that expand opportunities for urban greening and helped me understand how impactful grassroots action can be in creating sustainable, healthy urban environments. - Hannah



Community Partner: Baltimore Green Space

Peer Mentor: Hannah Farkas

Site Supervisor: Katie Lautar

What is Baltimore Green Space?

Baltimore Green Space is a land trust that partners with communities to preserve and support community gardens, pocket parks, and other community managed open spaces.

Tasks:

- Visiting and collecting data on green spaces throughout the city so that my organization can keep track of where they are located and how to best protect them
- Speaking with community members that care for these spaces, collecting their stories of how these spaces came to be, and discussing how to sustain them
- Analyzing Baltimore City's record of adopted vacant lots to connect with community members who have adopted lots for the purpose of community greening
- Gardening every Friday at the Duncan Street Miracle Garden, a community garden protected by Baltimore Green Space

Community Partner: Baltimore Orchard Project

Intern: Anna Lindsay

Site Supervisor: Eric Sargent

What is Baltimore Orchard Project?

Baltimore Orchard Project strengthens communities through planting and cultivating orchards.



Just wait a few years, then you'll see... Prior to my internship with the Baltimore Orchard Project I had no idea what kind of impact that fruit and nut trees could have. While it takes some patience, love, and care to grow, I can't imagine planting any other trees but these. I've been able to witness first hand how much food they produce in community gardens and in urban forests, and furthermore the impact they have. Not only is it fresh, nutritious food but it is literally the fruit of one's own labor when our planting partners pursue developing their own orchard. Through my internship I have been able to see people connect with nature in healthy and sustainable ways. From hosting harvests to educating the public on the benefits of fruit in our lives, I am seeing just how possible it is for us to create a truly "edible Baltimore". Simply showing local children and community members how easy it is to harvest your own fruit, and being able to see their reaction of awe is what has inspired me to continue working in this area. Managing my organization's social media constantly reminds me of why I want to. I've been fortunate enough to be exposed to a wide array of neighborhoods in Baltimore now, seeing how much of a threat food deserts are to this city's environment and public health. I took my overall goal to create a seasonality fruit calendar into something more, a resource which ANY person in the Baltimore community could use. I went beyond the seasonality and nutritional benefits of fruit to incorporate access to local farmers' markets where they could buy this food (fresh and local), exercises that one can do without the need of a gym to stay fit, recipes that require minimal experience/spending on ingredients, and great alternative ways to use these fruits throughout the year. I've learned a great deal about this city, and even more about myself this summer. I found that I have a love or knack for urban planning, and I plan to pursue a long term project with a local community farm throughout the year to help them design and implement a community garden center. Seeing all of these community farms that my organization partners with gives me hopes that one day everyone will know about them, and Baltimore will once again be filled with fruit trees in which anyone can enjoy the gifts of.

- Anna



Tasks:

- Researched seasonality, nutritional information, recipes, and alternative ways to use fruit and nuts for "An Edible Baltimore" booklet which also features local farmers' markets and healthy living exercises
- Worked with other local nonprofits and organizations by teaching at events such as community garden planning and a smoothie making night
- Prepared recipe cards for events and potlucks to be distributed to the public
- Consulted future planting partners regarding urban planning

Community Partner: Baltimore Student Harm Reduction Coalition

Peer Mentor: Matthew Brown


Site Supervisor: Mark Sine

What is Baltimore Student Harm Reduction Coalition?

We work to build a local network of health, policy, and social service students, alumni, and professionals committed to harm reduction principles, and to serve as a conduit for community involvement, education, and advocacy in Baltimore and beyond.

Working with the Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition this summer has been an eye opening experience as to how my Public Health background can be used in an effective manner. Having learned about various behavior change theories in my classes, I was hoping to be able to see them used in real life in order to understand how effective and applicable they can be. BHRC uses the Behavior Change Theory Model to understand the best way to reduce the harm someone might cause to themselves by engaging in risky behaviors. Working with my boss and his coworkers has shown me just how effective their workshops are. They stress how important it is to meet a person where they are at in their behavior change stage in order to make the most positive impact. During my time with BHRC, my boss has allowed me to develop various workshops around mental health, women's reproductive rights, sexual consent, and illicit drugs. Being able to learn about these various topics and then create presentations around them has been a highlight of my summer. One of the trainings I helped develop is going to be used at Morgan's campus to help train their Residential Life Staff. Being able to see and I look forward to seeing them used in the near future. Another thing I valued about working with BHRC was seeing the policy and management side of nonprofit work. With only one full time member in our Coalition, it can be difficult to figure out who can come to a training or complete a task. However, every time an event or meeting is about to take place, we always have more than enough people to help us out. I look forward to watching the great work that BHRC continues to complete throughout Baltimore and I am excited to continue helping them with anything they need throughout the year to come. - Matt

**BALTIMORE
STUDENT
HARM
REDUCTION
COALITION**



Tasks:

- Created workshops that aim to reduce harm caused by risky behaviors
- Helped facilitate trainings about overdose prevention and naloxone use
- Met with university administrators to determine the best way to implement harm reduction programs on campus
- Data entry and analysis

Community Partner: By Peaceful Means

Intern: Willah Peers

Site Supervisor: Nawal Rajeh

What is By Peaceful Means?

By Peaceful Means works to create change by empowering youth and community through collective action and conflict resolution initiatives



"Show me what freedom looks like!"

"This is what freedom looks like!"

Fifty kids in green shirts stood on our side of the highway facing fifty more on the other. Some held up signs that said "Stop Police Brutality" or "We must stop hurting each other" or "Peace means I love mommy." Some stood with chests out, two fingers held high in peace signs, revelling in the honks from the cars. Some danced to the beat of the chanting and some just yelled with all their might. Some kids looked on shyly from the back, and some crouched, resting their legs and their voices in the hot sun.

This Friday, Peace Camp met with another camp in Baltimore to stage a peace rally on Martin Luther King Boulevard. The week before we had a spa day to learn about self respect, and when our weekly Peace Hero was Prince, we had a photo shoot for the albums the kids were creating. In cooking class we made magic fruit wands and banana pancakes, guacamole and FFC (Fake Fried Chicken). We wanted to give the campers healthy alternatives to foods that they liked. In addition, we coordinated with Blue Bag Baltimore to provide parents with huge bags of produce once a week.

At Peace Camp we tried to impart respect, productive communication, and positive conflict resolution on the kids. I learned from the wonderful leaders there--as well as the campers-- each day about how to better model these ideas and apply them in practice. All the while we had art and music and gym and pool days and beach days. Hopefully the kids were able to have some freedom and joy with us, as well as peace. - Willah



Tasks:

- Researched seasonality, nutritional information, recipes, and alternative ways to use fruit and nuts for "An Edible Baltimore" booklet which also features local farmers' markets and healthy living exercises
- Worked with other local nonprofits and organizations by teaching at events such as community garden planning and a smoothie making night
- Prepared recipe cards for events and potlucks to be distributed to the public
- Consulted future planting partners regarding urban planning
- Researched edibility of fruit/nuts in edible rain gardens

Community Partner: Central Baltimore Partnership

Intern: Dorothy Chen

Site Supervisor: Ashley Wallace

What is Central Baltimore Partnership?

Central Baltimore Partnership's mission is to galvanize the renaissance of Central Baltimore by partnering with neighborhood organizations, nonprofits, educational institutions, business and government agencies



My summer internship at Central Baltimore Partnership has blessed me with the unique opportunity to gain exposure to the administrative, back end process to community organizing and nonprofit management. Through working with CBP representatives to implement the first phase of the Equitable Development initiative, I have had the extraordinary privilege of being able to interact with representatives from anchor institutions, developers, and community associations alike. Coming into this internship, I was unaware of the sheer amount of diplomacy and compromise that this type of work requires, and am grateful to have had exposure to one of the essential aspects of operating a nonprofit organization. During my time here, I was responsible for working with the Projects and Program Services Coordinator on designing and coordinating a Resident Satisfaction Survey, in which we aimed to gauge the quality of life in 6 residential neighborhoods: Harwood, Old Goucher, Barclay, Charles North, Remington, and Greenmount West. Not only has this experience expanded my personal map of Baltimore, but it has also given me a newfound appreciation for the neighborhoods directly bordering the Homewood campus. I am excited to be a part of the dialogue surrounding equitable development and affordable housing, and am eager to see how the neighborhoods will change during the rest of my time at Johns Hopkins University.

- Dorothy

Tasks:

- Clean neighborhood parcel data from the Baltimore City Department of Planning and organize into sub-neighborhoods to create walk routes for surveyors
- Work with the Projects and Program Services Coordinator to design the structure of a resident satisfaction survey, to be administered to 718 households in the neighborhoods of Harwood, Greenmount West, Barclay, Old Goucher, Charles North, and Remington
- Develop unique language to describe the resident survey process (to be used in all communications and in future publications) and develop unique training process for participants
- Create original promotional material and work with the Marketing Coordinator to publicize the CBP's July Partner Meeting
- Solicit local businesses on Waverly Main Street, Old Goucher, Charles North, and Barclay for raffle prizes to provide incentives to residents who complete the residential survey

Community Partner: Charm City Clinic

Intern: Vijay Ramasamy

Site Supervisor: Tulha Siddiqi

What is Charm City Clinic?

We work hand-in-hand with our neighbors to advance a vision of equity in health care access for all Baltimore residents by building and maintaining resources and removing barriers to care



My morning walk to work from the medical campus used to always go the same way. I would quietly make my way down Jefferson Street, diffidently passing the lines of colorful row houses and bustling corner stores that adorn the neighborhood until I reached the small brick building that housed Charm City Clinic. I was an outsider, unable to offer anything more than a simple “hello,” or “how are you,” to the many community members that I would see outside going about their day. As weeks passed, however, things started to change. Basic salutations gave way to brief conversations, and my morning walk transformed from a daily chore to a cherished part of the day. I would get off the JHMI hoping that I could catch Mr. P on the stoop in front of his house, or Ms. G on her morning walk. The beautiful sense of community that fills every inch of McElderry Park began to instill in me an enduring sense of hope and purpose that I will hold for the rest of my life. Our experiences tend to shape the way we perceive humanity, crafting our identities and igniting our respective passions for change. This experience has illuminated for me, more than any lecture or class ever could, the incredible inequities sewn into the fabric of our expansive healthcare system. Charm City Clinic was established to combat these inequities, and this summer I was able to see first hand the caring, amazing health advocacy work the folks at the clinic engage in everyday. At times the work can be difficult or frustrating, but even a small breakthrough like a newly insured client can make it all worthwhile. It has been a summer of many mistakes, lots of lessons, and a great growth. I have truly become a better listener, a stronger advocate, and a more understanding person. These past eight weeks have been quite the journey, I can’t be more thankful for all the wonderful people who have made this a truly life changing experience and helped me fall in love with Baltimore, one morning walk to work at a time. - Vijay



Tasks:

- Worked with clients as a health resource counselor, assisting folks with a wide array of needs ranging from health insurance to housing and social services.
- Developed a pop-up clinic and block party event with the CIIP intern at the 29th street community center to help build outreach and health access in neighboring communities.
- Analyzed health data and clinic practices as a part of the Clinic’s operations committee with the goal of developing more effective outreach and client care.
- Supported the clinic in day to day operations by staffing outreach events, serving as a temporary member of the Auxiliary Board, and working with fellow staff members and volunteers to serve client needs.

Community Partner: Chase Brexton Health Care

Intern: Joyce Lin

Site Supervisors: Ken Ruby III and Emily Stiles

What is Chase Brexton?

Our mission is to provide compassionate, quality health care that honors diversity, inspires wellness, and improves our communities.



**Chase Brexton
Health Care**

Looking back at my experience with CIIP, I feel that I have had a very full summer at Chase Brexton. Although I often felt underused and didn't have a longer term project to work on like I had hoped, I do think I've learned a lot from my experience. I've learned to be independent and manage tasks while helping out around the office as much as I can. I was able to dabble in a variety of different tasks such as indexing, scheduling, organizing and managing the front desk. It was my first time being exposed to a health care center like Chase Brexton and I have always wondered what working in such an organization would be like. This summer answered all of my questions and I was very intrigued by the processes and people that go into making such a big "clinic" run. I spent all of my time in the Case Management department and wasn't able to do any actual case management, but I did learn a lot about how case managers work, how they help their clients and more about how the health system works and affects Baltimoreans.

One downside that I felt deeply throughout the internship was that it was relatively passive. I learned primarily by observation and through that experience in itself was very valuable, but I would have liked to be a little more hands on with the clinical aspect of Chase Brexton. Instead I spent much of my active work doing organizational tasks in and around the office.

After just completing my CTR training to conduct rapid HIV testing, I wish I had more time at Chase Brexton to practice these newly acquired skills. But nevertheless, this summer I got to witness and observe a lot of tests and am confident in my abilities to do the same in the future. I am very excited to share my newfound knowledge of HIV, testing, PrEP and PEP with family and friends and possibly implement this information in my future endeavors either in school, work or research.

Overall, a summer full with self reflection, HIV education, and work opportunity - a very productive experience. Very thankful for CIIP for connecting me and giving me the chance to explore career options in my field. - Joyce



Tasks:

- Power Community Outreach Action Plan (identifying potential outreach locations, community centers, parks, etc... surrounding each CBHC location)
- PrEP Cascade (visual representation of PrEP usage and retention with CBHC company data, identified adherence to medication by gender, age, race, and sexual orientation)
- Online Store (researched potential items that could be in a POWER online store for the POWER Project at Chase Brexton)

Community Partner: Chase Brexton Health Care LGBT Health Resource Center

Peer Mentor: Victoria Chen

Site Supervisor: Kate Bishop

What is Chase Brexton?

Our mission is to provide compassionate, quality health care that honors diversity, inspires wellness, and improves our communities.



Tasks:

- Provided HIV Counseling, Testing, and Referral for walk-in clients and clinic patients
- Assisted in front desk coverage and shadowed intakes for people who were newly-diagnosed with HIV
- Helped moderate support groups and TransCare focus groups hosted by the LGBT Health Resource Center
- Conducted community outreach at various health resource fairs and Baltimore Pride



Since working at STAR TRACK last summer, I have wanted to continue my CIIP experience by serving a similar demographic through a different, but equally as effective, care model. On paper, Chase Brexton and STAR TRACK are similar in many ways: both are healthcare providers, both advocate for the LGBT community, and both are leaders in providing primary care to people living with HIV/AIDS. The LGBT Health Resource Center at Chase Brexton is unique because of their ground-breaking work in providing affirming care for gender-diverse youth. Additionally the POWER Project in the case management department not only offers HIV testing, but also works to ensure that people living with HIV have a strong support network.

Some of the most insightful learning for me this summer came from working with people of trans experience. Especially since I grew up surrounded by all cis-gendered people, it was extremely poignant for me to hear the widespread discrimination trans-patients faced at their provider's office. From being mis-gendered by front desk staff to being called the wrong name at the pharmacy, these simple competencies can make or break a care experience. Instead of feeling dejected by the health care system's general neglect for people of trans-identity, many within the community made an active choice to speak about their positive experiences by participating in a TransCare focus group. Together, they composed a list of necessary provider competencies that every medically-trained staff should know before entering the field.

By far the most memorable moments of my internship have come from providing HIV counseling and testing for walk-in clients. Most of them are not patients at Chase Brexton, but came because they wanted a safe and anonymous place to get tested. Though the conversations surrounding each person's sexual history can feel awkward at times, it's also when clients feel most vulnerable. A large part of my work was learning how to be a supportive ally--both in the office and out. I've realized now that the answer is simple: to treat everyone with the same respect, love, and compassion that I want for myself. - Victoria

Community Partner: Code in the Schools

Intern: Serena Thomas

Site Supervisor: Charlotte James

What is Code in the Schools?

The mission of our organization is to expand access to computer science education to underserved and underrepresented Baltimore City youth.



If you have met me in the summer of 2016, then you know that I love my internship. Although I was originally hesitant about working for Code in the Schools because my coding skills are mainly Google based, it has been a perfect fit and I am beyond grateful that I ended up here. Closing the diversity gap in STEM has been a passion of mine as a female engineer. It has been an easy next step to narrow that focus to computer science with Code in the Schools as we work to provide access to quality computer science education to the underserved and underrepresented Baltimore City youth. To that end, I've been helping coordinate CodeWorks, the pilot program of a 5 week coding bootcamp for sixty 17-21 year old YouthWorkers. This summer I've been thrown into roles I had not anticipated, such as a treatment writer for short films, a sponsorship searcher, a social media curator, a quarterly report author, and an instructor to a large group of 17-21 year olds. It hasn't always been easy but it has always been worth it and there has always been someone around to give me support when needed. I have loved exploring the Baltimore that exists outside of our campus walls as well as growing relationships with its residents and finding out about their passions while discovering my own. I am so thankful to CIIP and Code in the Schools for helping me grow during the best summer of my life. Thanks especially to Charlotte, Gretchen, and Amy for all the help, free rides, laughs, and love. I look forward to continuing to see what great things you have in store for Code in the Schools over the coming years.

- Serena



Tasks:

- Helped coordinate 5 week coding bootcamp for 60 YouthWorkers in the 17-21 year old range
- Helped organize the nonprofit's Artscape tent where children came in and created their own video game to be played on the largest LED screen in the mid-Atlantic by Penn Station
- Data collection from staff and students

ESPERANZA CENTER

CATHOLIC CHARITIES IN ACTION



After a week of interning at the Esperanza Center, I knew that it was the perfect fit for me. I say that not only as a pre-med student or as a Spanish speaker, but as a member of an immigrant family. Coming from that background made the experience all the more personal to me and drove me to work harder every day. The patients that come to the clinic are all undocumented and uninsured, so to be in that situation and have a health concern, it can be very nerve-racking for them. The amazing thing about the Esperanza Center, however, is the commitment everyone there has to helping this community whether they are a paid employee or simply a volunteer. To be in an environment where it's not all about the medicine but about helping the patient in whatever way possible, it really made going to work every day a lot better. My supervisor also had me on a rotation schedule so that I could be exposed to every part of the clinic. For example, Mondays and Tuesdays were front desk duty, Wednesdays I spent with the nurse, Thursdays with the TAP referral program and Fridays were a kind of free-for-all. While at first it was difficult, by the end of it I was running all over the clinic, filling in where they needed me. This proved to be very useful since you never knew what to expect. Some days dragged on while others were flew by and sometimes unexpected things came up. In the end, all I knew was that in some way, I would be making someone's life a little easier – whether it be finding a handout on carpal tunnel for the nurse to give out, dealing with being put on hold for forever to make appointments for our patients, or just giving a little kid a sticker to distract her since she's scared to death of the blood pressure cuff. This internship has given me so much that I can only hope to have done the same for them. - Eileen

Community Partner: Esperanza Center

Intern: Eileen Ramirez

Site Supervisor: Bibi Hackshaw

What is Esperanza Center?

Our bilingual staff works with Hispanic and other immigrants to provide health care, social services, referrals, employment counseling, English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, and Immigration Legal Service (ILS).

Tasks:

- Assist the front desk administrator with qualifying and discharging patients, organizing patient charts, and answering phones
- Work with the nurse to triage patients - taking vitals, checking blood sugar levels, and/or performing a urine analysis when needed
- Make appointments for patients to be seen by specialists at Hopkins under the clinic outreach coordinator/TAP navigator
- Create fliers for school physicals and flu shots as well as handouts for patients to learn more information about certain diseases or conditions

Community Partner: Eubie Blake National Jazz Institute and Cultural Center

Peer Mentor: Kennedy McDaniel

Site Supervisor: Troy Burton

What is the Eubie Blake Cultural Center?

The Eubie Blake National Jazz Institute and Cultural Center brings artists and audiences from diverse backgrounds together. We support, develop, promote and advocate for cultural and educational programming in the visual and performing arts.



My internship at the Eubie Blake Cultural Center was beneficial to both my personal and professional development as well as the organization itself. I worked directly under the Executive Director, Troy Burton, and throughout the internship period he welcomed any ideas I had about improving the center. He gave me a lot of freedom in terms of programming and administration, and I was able to enact several changes around the center that will push us into a more forward thinking direction. Some of the projects I worked on included creating an online voting platform and online calendar for the Board of Directors, switching to Google for Nonprofits, updating the logo of the center, and strengthening our relationship with Bromo Arts + Entertainment District in order to attract more millennials to the center. I was also able to put together 'Sounds of Black Love,' a concert where several Baltimore School for the Arts students and other Baltimore musicians and poets came together and performed in order for the Black community in Baltimore to heal after this recent upsetting news cycle. I really loved working at the Eubie Blake Cultural Center this summer, and my internship allowed me to feel like I was truly making a difference in my community. Troy and I have an excellent working relationship, and he has decided to offer me a part-time job at the center during the school year. Now, I can work in the community year-round and incorporate community service into my lifestyle. I couldn't be more enthusiastic about continuing my work at the Eubie Blake Cultural Center, and I am so grateful to CIIP for giving me this opportunity. - Kennedy



Tasks:

- Assist the front desk administrator with qualifying and discharging patients, organizing patient charts, and answering phones
- Work with the nurse to triage patients - taking vitals, checking blood sugar levels, and/or performing a urine analysis when needed
- Make appointments for patients to be seen by specialists at Hopkins under the clinic outreach coordinator/TAP navigator
- Create fliers for school physicals and flu shots as well as handouts for patients to learn more information about certain diseases or conditions

Community Partner: FORCE

Intern: Aisa Moreno-Megui

Site Supervisors: Hannah Brancato and Shanti Flagg

What is FORCE?

FORCE: Upsetting Rape Culture is a creative activist collaboration to upset the culture of rape and promote a culture of consent. We believe that a more difficult and honest conversation needs to happen in America to face the realities of sexual violence. FORCE is currently working on the Monument Quilt, a public healing space by and for survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence.

This summer I had the unique opportunity to work at two sites. Below are my experiences with each:

To say I was not nervous and afraid on my first day would be a lie. I was embarrassed to feel that way, but to deny my involuntary prejudices would not be genuine. I was afraid, excited also, but afraid nonetheless. From a young age, I heard many strong messages about people suffering from addiction and mental illness but even if a notion is wrong, it is hard to shake ideas that have been shoved down your throat. People who suffer from addiction are dehumanized all over the media, and I wanted to do my part to fight against that stigma. Talking and working with the woman at Martha's Place showed me once again that there is little reason to be scared. I enjoyed sharing meals with the staff and residents as well as learning about the women's lives. It is not an experience that I would trade for the world.

Red – that is the first thing that I saw when I entered the studio at Force. Red everywhere and sewing machines on the tables. Boxes placed around the room with paper and pen, so that people have the opportunity to share overwhelming memories and emotions that may come up for them during the creative process. To the left, a quilt, hanging from the wall, with self-care tips stitched into the red fabric and rules demanding the maintenance of a safe and welcoming environment. Ninety-five percent of what is done at Force is creating the quilts. Weaving together four survivors' stories to be added to the collection of stories that will be shared with the world at different locations across the United States. I always thought that I had to have a face to face conversation to support someone, but sewing 4'x4' pieces of red fabric together. -Aisa

force : upsetting rape culture



Tasks:

- Assisted Martha's Place program director with updates of database of resident outcomes
- Assisted during the intake procedure for new residents
- Assisted studio coordinator at FORCE with upkeep of the studio
- Learned basic sewing techniques and created a quilt
- Set up and broke down displays across Baltimore
- Assisted with FORCE flyering and outreach

Community Partner: Franciscan Center

Intern: Victoria Lui

Site Supervisor: Meg Ducey

What is The Franciscan Center?

The Franciscan Center offers continuum of care, including emergency services, health services, counseling and technology training to help clients become as self-sufficient as possible.

My time spent at the Franciscan Center this past summer was truly an eye-opening and enjoyable experience. I've learned so much about the homeless community in Baltimore and enjoyed listening to the stories I hear from clients I have interviewed. Being able to help our clients when they are at their most vulnerable gave me a sense of satisfaction. It felt good to have done something that could change someone's life for the better. I was able to form relationships with clients who regularly come by the Center and looked forward to those small conversations everyday. In addition, I was able to work closely with the Franciscan Center staff and volunteers. We worked as a team and supported each other when needed. I'm extremely grateful for the chance to be able to work with such a great group of people who are passionate about what they do. Without them, I wouldn't have been able to learn so much, from registering clients into the Center's ClientTrack system to managing a nonprofit to hosting a fundraiser. I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity to participate in CIIP; I've learned so much about Baltimore and met such incredible people. Even though I will be going back to my usual Hopkins routine soon, I hope to come back to the Franciscan Center and continue to help the homeless community in Baltimore like I have the past eight weeks. - Victoria



Tasks:

- Worked in the Responsive Services department where I worked as a client interviewer and aided clients in obtaining mail, food bags, and forms of identification, provided financial assistance with rent and evictions, and other services
- Assistant to the Director of Development and Marketing
- Worked as the Volunteer Coordinator for two weeks, assigning groups of volunteers jobs around the dining room in order to serve 300-500 people lunch per day

Community Partner: FreeState Justice

Intern: Osiris Mancera

Site Supervisor: Patrick Paschall

What is Freestate Justice?

FreeState Justice is a legal advocacy organization that seeks to improve the lives of low-income lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) Marylanders.



The second I walked in I knew it wouldn't be a cookie cutter internship. Bodies were moving to and fro, stacks of papers shuffled and stacked, shredded, and printed. The beeping of the printer was distinct and rhythmic and I could feel the sweat beginning to gather above my hairline. However, I found a rhythm immediately- a rhythm I didn't expect until my 5th, maybe even 6th week of working. I felt comfort and my fears of being useless were quickly squelched. Essentially, I headed our Marketing and Communications sector which entailed meticulous purging of our database and communications system for the purpose of direct engagement with our donors and supporters. In doing so, I became well-versed in programs including Adobe Illustrator, Publisher, and Excel as well as gained writing skills for professional platforms. I co-drafted several press releases and statements following both legal wins and LGBTQ/Baltimore tragedies. Outreach engagement included involvement with the Transgender Action Group (T.A.G.) by canvassing for trans sex workers and distributing legal literature and safe sex resources as well as assisting during the Youth Equality Alliance (Y.E.A) retreat which involved a discussion of the previous years' successes and plans for future progress in queer youth equality. My favorite aspect of the internship was being able to utilize my creativity and organizational skills gained through event planning by crafting attention-drawing legal factsheets and assisting with the celebration in late June.

At FreeState Justice, I learned that there are advocates for LGBTQ people in this country and that these people not only exist but devote their lives to ensuring LGBTQ people of color, youth, minorities, etc. are able to live freely and equally just like everybody else. I learned that the work that I do and the skills that I offer- no matter what they may be- are valued and do make a difference. This internship really made me rethink where I see myself going in the future and allowed me to ponder various career paths that I had before never considered and, quite frankly, never knew existed. Initially I had some doubts about this internship because I didn't know much about law and would have preferred being more directly engaged with the LGBTQ community in Baltimore, but in the end I was not disappointed at all. Who knew I would feel at home with a bunch of



Tasks:

- Assisted in the coordination, planning, and execution of the merger celebration of Freestate Legal and Equality Maryland
- Identified target media personalities
- Created a brand of communications through various media outlets including press statement and release templates and email guidelines
- Created a social media distribution plan which including the creation of legal factsheets, social media guidelines, and a supporter engagement plan

Community Partner: Fusion Partnerships

Intern: Molly Hirshik

Site Supervisor: Keith Gavazzi

What is Fusion Partnerships?

Through collaborative action, including fiscal sponsorship, Fusion Partnerships, Inc. works to be a catalyst for justice and peace. Our vision for Baltimore is thriving communities with equitable resources, modeling collaborative processes and organizational structures which foster social justice, peace and love.



Tasks:

- Updated and formalized internal processes and forms
- Analyzed Fusion partners' income trends from donations, grants, and contracts
- Spearheaded the adoption of new CRM software for contact management
- Developed content for board members and potential funders



The magic of Fusion didn't truly hit me until I had the chance to visit some of their 70+ partners in week six of my internship. Yes, I understood the scope of their work in theory, but I could not grasp the tangible impact until I had a chance to witness it myself. One of the benefits of fiscal sponsorship is that it allows these small grassroots organizations to focus on their mission instead of getting tied up in the "business" side of things, which Fusion handles. Applying for 501(c)3 status is costly in both time and money, but Fusion allows their partners to avoid this process. Fusion extends its non-profit status to their partners and handles all their finances. I visited two very different organizations: Baltimore Youth Arts (BYA) and The Station North Tool Library. At BYA, I sat in on a powerful Know Your Rights presentation given by a public defender to black youth who all had personal experiences with law-enforcement. I watched people trickle into the Tool Library to rent tools for home improvement projects that they otherwise could not have afforded. Visiting these two organizations gave me merely a glimpse of the dedicated and passionate work all of the partners do. It also made me realize how important Fusion's behind-the-scenes work really is.

Fusion has been so much more than my summer workplace; it has been my summer family. I have gained immense knowledge and respect for grassroots organizations, nonprofit management, and how harmoniously intertwined they are in the city of Baltimore. I have developed professional skills and awareness of how a small yet rapidly expanding organization works. And I have also celebrated the 70th birthday of one of our managing partners with not one but two cakes, and welcomed a former AmeriCorps intern as a full time employee by decorating her desk while she was away on vacation. While these things may seem unnecessary, this spirit is exactly why Fusion has thrived and continues to be a trusted partner amongst communities in Baltimore. Fusion realizes that it can effectively spread love and respect throughout this city only after spreading love amongst itself.

- Molly

Community Partner: Historic East Baltimore Community Action Coalition Youth Opportunities

Intern: San Tripathi

Site Supervisor: Jamille Pitts

What is HEBCAC YO?!

In 1999, the HEBCAC Youth Opportunity Center was founded to address the education, counseling, and career development and training needs of out of school youth in East Baltimore. The HEBCAC YO staff also connects youth in need of other services such as housing, family support, and health care with partnering public and community-based agencies.



My summer with HEBCAC YO! has surpassed all the expectations I remember having when I started CIIP. The biggest thing I hoped to gain from this experience was to understand Baltimore as a city – to learn more about its history, its people, its places and parts – and maybe also to find my own niche here, to figure out what role I can play in the city. That’s a lot to ask for in 8 weeks, but when I reflect on the moments (big and small) that punctuate this summer, I do feel this heightened sense of understanding. I do feel as though I’ve found a place here. I feel it in the weekly field trips I took with the students, which allowed me to see this city through the eyes of people who’ve lived here their whole lives. I feel it in the joy of helping a student (whose history and educational struggles I’m well aware of) master balancing chemical equations. I feel it in my irrational irritation with a fellow passenger who made fun of Baltimore as soon as our train entered it. I feel it sitting on top of Federal Hill, watching the sunset. I feel it when I get a simple text from my supervisor – “Want Popeyes?” – that turns my whole day around. This summer, I found a family at the center, and a home in Baltimore. My understanding of the city – its structure and its quirks – grows increasingly nuanced every day. As for my understanding of my place here, this summer has helped me realize that I’m not finished with Baltimore – my time here is just beginning, not ending. We live in a complicated and beautiful city, and thanks to CIIP I’ve just started to get to know it more closely. It would be a shame to stop now. - San

Tasks:

- Helped plan and direct programming for the center's summer Youthworkers
- Taught a biweekly computer and keyboarding skills class to two groups of students as a part of Youthworks
- Planned and directed weekly field trips to various museums and events in Baltimore City, as well as a trip to the Smithsonian Museums in Washington D.C.
- Assisted with tutoring GED and pre-GED students
- Managed the Summer Food Service Program (coordinated daily delivery and distribution of free breakfasts & lunches provided by the Maryland State Department of Education)



Five. Point. Six!

The patient shot his fist into the air, and the room exploded into applause and cheers of encouragement.

A common measure of how well a patient manages their Type 2 diabetes, which 70% of our patients at the Joy Wellness Center suffer from, is by recording their hemoglobin A1C levels (HbA1c). A reading above 5.6% indicates pre-diabetes, while one above 6.4% indicates diabetes. The patient above started the Life Balance and Weight Management program with a HbA1c level of 6.2%. The ability to decrease the reading, even by 0.1%, already requires a serious commitment to lifestyle and dietary changes. To see a patient put so much effort and determination into lowering his blood sugar levels was powerful. This moment embodies my experiences at the Wellness Center this summer. I am used to observing hospital visits where the provider focuses on the pain and later prescribes medications to help alleviate the suffering. Here, however, the emphasis is on holistic healing. The providers work together, invest time into learning about the root cause of the patient's ailment, and create a welcoming community. While here I have interacted with a patient population that is mostly uninsured but still insists on donating their change for the care they receive. After harvesting vegetables and preparing meals with the patients, I have also had honest conversations with them about how hard but important it is to make the choices that are better for our health. Coming into this internship as a Taiwanese-American and as a neuroscience and anthropology double major I was struggling with two questions: How can integrative medicine be a part of our biomedical society? Should it be? I posed my question to the doctor who co-founded the center. Her answer was simple but impactful, "Absolutely. Integrative medicine promotes resilience." My experience at the Joy Wellness Center has taught me that what is truly beautiful about the medical field is its ability to offer care regardless of one's background and inspire individuals to help themselves: lessons that will remain with me for years to come. - Lucinda

Community Partner: Joy Wellness Center

Intern: Lucinda Chiu

Site Supervisor: Kerry Martinez

What is the Joy Wellness Center?

At the Joy Wellness Center we offer programming in four areas: Movement Education, Healing Arts, Stress Reduction, and Nutrition Education. All programs and therapies are designed specifically to create transformative, healthy, life-affirming changes in the lives of our patients.

Tasks:

- Created lesson plans and taught nutrition classes and food demos for patients and visiting students at the center
- Tended to the garden by leading the weekly gardening class as well as through daily watering, weeding, and harvesting of the vegetables to be distributed to the patients
- Administered wellness orientations to new patients interested in private appointments at the center
- Recruited patients for the Center's weekly classes and services

Community Partner: Impact Hub Baltimore

Peer Mentor: Dikshant Malla

Site Supervisor: Pres Adams and Michelle Geiss

What is Impact Hub?

Impact Hub is part innovation lab, part coworking space, part civic forum. We provide an inclusive, inspiring, and functional space that connects our members to the ideas, resources, and people they need to make tangible social impact. We also serve as a gathering place for the global movement towards stronger cities and a new economy.



As a longtime resident of Baltimore, I am passionate about social impact that produces equity within our city. However, being passionate about social issues is a double edged sword because while you become cognizant of the intersections of injustice in urban spaces like Baltimore, it becomes extremely difficult to narrow the area of injustice you want to devote your time, energy and ultimately your life to. Working at Impact Hub has helped me resolve some of the conflicts I have been having about life after college, or more accurately what I want to do with my life. With its focus on incubating social impact in Baltimore, Impact Hub has provided me with the opportunity to connect with a diverse group of organizations and individuals who are all working to produce meaningful change in Baltimore. Working alongside 10+ organizations and 140+ members has made me realize that narrowing the "area" of social injustice is not always necessary to create meaningful change, and that by focusing on all components that produce inequality is a perfectly viable method of channeling one's passion to create a positive change. Working at Impact Hub has also changed my view of the work nonprofits do. Usually when we attempt to describe the work of a non profit, we always point out the flashy, "sexy" work people do with programming or youth mentoring yet we always tend omit the work of individuals developing systems that make sure the visible work can be done effectively. Working with Pres on tracking performance metrics made me gain a new appreciation for data, and see how important data is to support the work of a non-profit. For a long time, I thought the only way to create meaningful change was either to work within the grassroots or doing the sexy, visible work through non-profits, but after spending a month with Pres, Michelle, Jermaine, and Lindsey, I can confidently say that working within the intersection is what I want to do with my life. - Dikshant



Tasks:

- Data quality and optimizing usability of membership management platform (Nexodus, Freshbooks, Eventbrite)
- Aggregated data from multiple sources for quarterly performance report for the Abell Foundation
- Developed content for bi-weekly qhiz v0nwhu1#

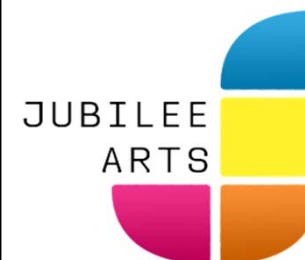
Community Partner: Jubilee Arts

Intern: Simon Jackson-Forsberg

Site Supervisor: Nora Howell

What is the Jubilee Arts?

Jubilee Arts is a community program providing arts classes to the residents of the Sandtown-Winchester, Upton, and surrounding neighborhoods in Baltimore



While studying at Hopkins, I have come to feel deeply indebted to the broader Baltimore community. My experiences in Baltimore have informed my personal convictions, politicized me, and charted the direction of my studies, so I came into my internship with Jubilee Arts this summer hoping to substantiate my connection to the city I increasingly call home. I had the opportunity to work with an amazing group of artists and young people on Jubilee's Art @ Work: Upton summer mural program, which aims to empower youth artistically and professionally via the creation of eight public art projects throughout Upton. Upton has a central place in West Baltimore's historical narrative as a hub of African-American art and culture, but the neighborhood also grapples with social issues related to poverty, disinvestment, and the aftermath of the Baltimore Uprising in 2015 and earlier unrest in 1968. It was an informative setting to say the least.

On the first day of my internship, I was sent out into the neighborhood with a clipboard and tasked with engaging local business owners and residents with the mural project. Canvassing on Pennsylvania Avenue challenged my perspective on Baltimore and my own privilege, but any initial discomfort dissipated as I put faces and names to the abstract notion of community. People who had initially been reserved to talk to me came to know me by name, and I began to feel that the community had afforded me a position of trust, for which I am immensely grateful.

When it came time to start painting, I shifted gears to support Miami-based mural artist Ignacio Mariño Larrique and his team of youth workers with the installation of an original mural of daunting proportions. The mural was designed holistically, reconciling creative input from the youths and the lead artist with feedback from stakeholders. Ultimately, the design captured an idealized Baltimore landscape with colorful references to Upton history depicted alongside powerful social messages. Residents were overwhelmingly supportive of the project, but where controversy arose the youths defended their creative choices and took a stand against defeatism and the status quo in their community. Working on the mural exposed me to the powerful role art can play in sparking discourse and revitalizing disinvested neighborhoods, and it's incredibly rewarding to have the final product to show for it. Plus, I had a ton of fun using spray paint. - Simon



Tasks:

- Supported administrative functions of the Art @ Work: Upton mural program; canvassed local businesses and property owners to engage them with the mural program
- Contributed to the design and installation of an original mural on historic Pennsylvania Avenue; worked as the mural artist's assistant and apprentice
- Directly supervised the work of a group of 8 Youth Works participants at the mural site; mentored youth in their professional and artistic development
- Served as a Baltimore City Summer Food Service Program site coordinator; ensured the distribution of surplus food to members of the Upton community

Community Partner: Liberty Elementary School

Intern: Chelsea Zou

Site Supervisors: Joseph Manko

What is the Liberty Elementary School?

Liberty Elementary School #64 is a part of the Baltimore City Public Schools System located in Northwest Baltimore. Under the direction of Principal Joseph Manko, Liberty Elementary has become one of the top performing schools in the city.

“At Liberty, it never feels like you’re doing the job alone, even when you’re in the trenches. It really feels like a family.” This is part of Ms. K’s answer when I ask her why she loves teaching at Liberty. After working at Liberty, I would definitely agree that the teachers, students, and surrounding neighborhood all come together as a family. Even more, I am grateful that this community adopted and welcomed me for 8 weeks this summer.

So much of my internship, aside from the tangible projects and responsibilities, has been about learning how a school, given challenging conditions, can best educate its students. I’ve been involved in preparing for the new school year. I’ve felt frustration at the inefficiency of higher administration, especially when it comes to improving the conditions of school buildings. I’ve seen the impact that a strong public school can make on an urban community that is largely poor and African-American. I now recognize how crucial it is to serve the ‘whole’ student by framing education outside of simply math reading, which Liberty does through field trips, technology, and its outstanding educators.

I’ve also been lucky enough to spend this summer around teachers who show unparalleled dedication to their students, some of whom have been in the classroom for over four decades. These teachers clearly love what they’re doing and love Baltimore’s children. With regards to the principal of the school, he’s probably the most incredible educator I’ve ever met. He knows the names of almost all 460+ students and cares deeply about the needs of his team of teachers. His one guiding rule, above all else, is to always do what’s best for the children, even if it means getting in a bit of trouble. He’s exposed me to so many different aspects of running a school, be it budgeting, discipline, or simply getting classrooms ready for September. And, of course, there are the students themselves. I’ve received countless hugs from the sweetest children. They’ve told me stories about the awesome experiments they do in science class or what they’ve eaten for lunch, and I’ve never been more excited to become a teacher in the future. Liberty isn’t only a school; it’s a genuinely friendly and caring community. It’s been such a wonderful experience working there this summer. - Chelsea



Tasks:

- Helping to coordinate the summer camp program at the school (including monitoring attendance, payroll for teachers, communicating with teachers and parents)
- Working with the principal to prepare for the new school year (reviewing documents, ordering supplies, organizing classrooms)
- Projects like creating calendars, putting up a school timeline on the wall, keeping track of student reading levels, building out the school website, etc.

Community Partner: Living Classrooms Foundation

Intern: Chijioke Oranye

Site Supervisors: Maritza Dominguez

What Living Classrooms Foundation?

Living Classrooms Foundation strengthens communities and inspires young people to achieve their potential through hands-on education and job training, using urban, natural, and maritime resources.

This summer, I had the chance to serve as a camp counselor to the students of the local Patterson Park middle school community under the Living Classrooms organization. I was in charge of an after school soccer club, a cooking club, and giving a helping hand towards the regular flow of summer school wherever help was needed. I remember my first day of work; complete confusion...until one of the staff gave me advice on not how to look like I'm not doing anything. Mr. Hubbard, a black young adult Baltimore native in his late twenties, told me that in the working world it's all about taking initiative. He told me that working with kids is the same as working any other job, what you put in is what you get out. He told me to start doing my own things that would allow me to focus on my interests, grow a stronger relationship with the kids, and not allow my supervisor to occupy me with busy work. I heard him...I'm not sure if I listened right from the start. However, with the last week of my internship a day away, I can say that I've helped bring heart and enthusiasm to the after school soccer club I run for the local middle school youth. We started with 5 people, and now have expanded to 16, which excludes kids that don't show up on a daily basis. Last week I saw one of my students from my cooking club making zucchini chips for lunch instead of eating the not so good box lunches provided by Baltimore City. She used the Zucchini grown in the camp garden and the same method in which I taught them to make Zucchini fries. My biggest takeaway from the summer camp is the role I play in reference to fostering maturity and character growth in the children. At first I struggle to find specific ways to get more involved such as an impending dance club or including dance sessions in the Saturday field days. But after failed attempts at trying to show my commitment in ways that were passionate to me, but not necessarily convenient with the schedule of the summer camp and staff, I realized that being there every day with a helping hand to the staff and kids was enough to show my dedication and appreciation for my role as the summer intern. - Chijioke



Serving the Baltimore-Washington community for 30 years

Tasks:

- Coordinator of after school and Saturday Soccer club
- Lead cooking club on Tuesdays and Thursdays
- Point of contact for Saturday activities including field days
- Mentor for students during summer camp



Community Partner: Martin Luther King Jr. Recreation Center

CIIP Assistant: Maggie Weese

Site Supervisor: Arthur “Squeaky” Kirk

What is the Martin Luther King Jr. Recreation Center?

The Citizen’s United for the 44th District work to develop and strengthen the vibrant community and culture in Southwest Baltimore through the creation of accessible educational, recreational and employment opportunities.



Tasks

- Organized and led daily lesson plans for 30 youth participating in the rec center’s summer camp program. These lessons covered material in reading, math, art, theater, and gardening.
- Applied for grants through the Governor’s Office and the Mazda Foundation to create new afterschool programming for the rec center
- Designed, coordinated and launched a 50-day fundraising campaign to raise \$50,000 for the center

When I think back on my eight weeks at the MLK Jr. Rec Center and all that I’ve learned, four words come to mind: patience – to survive waiting for grants, donations and the hour before naptime, determination – because a lot of things don’t work on their first try, play – you should never think you are too old to swing outside, and finally love – for yourself and your community.

Every day I spent at the rec center, even the hardest and hottest days, was one of the best days of my summer. In this world, it is rare to meet a person that can touch your heart and truly inspire you. This summer I meet 30 people who were able to do that and each one was half my age. After three years of living in Baltimore and being a part of CIIP, this summer has absolutely been the most transformative – helping me to understand where I fit in this beautiful city.

Along with the youth I worked with on the day-to-day at the rec center’s summer camp, I had the honor of working with and learning from some of the most driven and dedicated community members I have ever met. My bosses, Squeaky and Carlos, have donated thousands of dollars and even more hours to reopen the MLK Jr. Rec Center and ensure it continues to provide a space where families and community members can thrive. From their love and passion, they taught me how challenging but working at a grassroots organization can be.

Beyond being a camp counselor, this summer taught me how to bend my privilege, utilize my education, and take advantage of my resources as a JHU student to support the goals of the true visionaries of Baltimore City. I am thankful to have been blessed with this opportunity for three years and only hope that I can continue to bend, utilize, and take advantage of all the opportunities I have to support active citizens across Baltimore. - Maggie

Community Partner: Maryland Out of School Time

Intern: Ayesha Shible

Site Supervisor: Paul Mincarelli



What is Maryland Out of School Time?

The mission of the Maryland Out of School Time Network (MOST) is to build a coalition of youth, families, community members, program providers, educators, funders, and policymakers to expand funding, implement more effective policies, and support increased program quality for youth opportunities in the out of school hours.

These past six weeks at SummerREADS have been the most transformative of my teaching experience. Although I've tutored and taught small classes at local Baltimore elementary/middle schools, spending my summer teaching full-time gave me the opportunity to develop strong connections with my students and work with actual classroom teachers from Baltimore City. From the not-so-thrilling experiences such as dealing with misbehaving students and managing recess in 90-degree weather, to the amazing feeling of witnessing one of my students make it to the end of the monkey bars without my help by our last week, or reading to me with a smile on her face—every day came with its own highs and lows.

That's where the nature of the SummerREADS program comes in. SummerREADS is more than just a summer camp, it's the reality that a student doesn't have to belong to a certain socioeconomic class to avoid the "summer slide" that comes from two months of out of school time. With the risk of losing a whole grade level of reading skills looming over the long sunny days, the program offers students an alternative: access to their own (air-conditioned) school libraries. While there, students have the choice of three daily activities: reading, creative writing and arts and crafts. Additionally, our collaboration with local nonprofits brings guest workshops from the Maryland Zoo, the National Aquarium, Reading Partners into the libraries.

I was personally thrilled to be a part of a program where students not only experienced an academically charged summer, but they barely realize it! The activities I planned were not designed to feel like school, but instead give students the opportunity to direct their own learning. Being a site counselor made it possible for me to read Charlotte's Web in Spanish with a bilingual student and know that her comprehension skills were improving as she gave me her predictions of the story. Through locking into the students' own interests and holding exciting Arts integration my students and I spent six weeks together reading and learning, but most importantly having a fun summer. - Ayesha



Tasks:

- Created weekly lesson plans focusing on literacy in conjunction with Arts Integration through partnerships with local non-profit organizations incl. Young Audiences, Reading Partners, Blue Water Baltimore and Art With a Heart
- Led classroom activities including read-alouds, writing and crafts
- Assisted in data entry and kept track of registration and attendance

Community Partner: Mayor's Communication and Public Affairs Team

Peer Mentor: Charlie Green

Site Supervisors: Anthony McCarthy

What is the Mayor's Communication and Public Affairs Team?

The Communications team at the Baltimore City Mayor's office works to effectively market initiatives the mayor is undertaking, promoting events held for the community.



Tasks:

- Wrote and assisted with Media Advisories
- Went to press events with the Mayor and communicated to the press
- Assisted in planning the Mayor's Back to School Rally, an event that will be attended by thousands of city school children
- Aided the Mayor's photographer with photoshoots, press events, and helped to update the online photo gallery of the Mayor

As a Peer Mentor and a member of this program now for three summers, I had a pretty good idea of what to expect during my internship, but had goals for myself regarding how I wanted to grow throughout the summer. As a rising senior I wanted to narrow down what interested me for after college, and through my internship doing marketing and communications for the Baltimore City Mayor's Office I have narrowed down that marketing and communications is the field of work I would like to work in after college. The tasks I had during my time at the Mayor's Office were busy but very interesting. I woke up at 5am to send out daily Newsclips (weekends too!) to keep my office up to date on current events, assisted with media advisories, and was shuttled around to various press events that the Mayor attended. This summer pushed me differently than the other internships I have had through this program. My past two summers at the 29th Street Community Center and the Franciscan Center were both exhausting physically and extremely eye opening. I saw how many government decisions affected people living in the city, but this summer I got to see why these decisions were made even when some of them seemed unfair. My three summers with this program have taught me so much about Baltimore, and I am extremely grateful for the opportunity I have had to participate in this program for all of these years. -Charlie



Community Partner: Mayor's Office of Human Services - Homeless Services Program

Intern: Keenan Caswell

Site Supervisor: Gabby Knighton

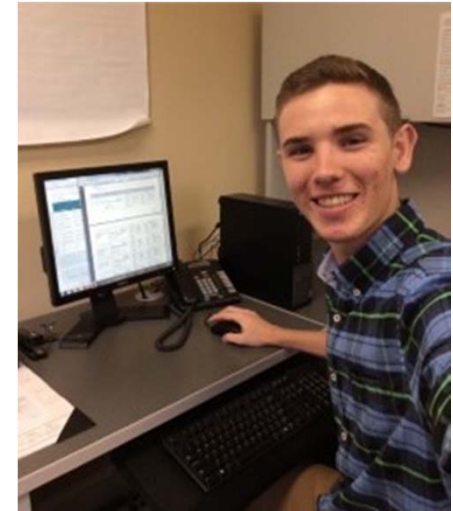
What is the Mayor's Office of Human Services-Homeless Service Program?

The Homeless Service Program deals with structural issues regarding homelessness and offers various programs for homeless individuals

The past eight weeks at the Mayor's Office of Human Services have provided me with priceless learning experiences about the dire relationship between Baltimore and its homeless population, eye-opening interactions with service providers and coworkers, and a platform to continue my involvement as a community member in Baltimore. Observing the discussions between the policymakers who develop the guidelines and procedures for the homeless programs and the social workers who interact on a daily basis with homeless population and working alongside these same social workers to problem solve the obstacles that arise for their clients particularly highlighted the need for collaboration to ascertain a resolution to the cycle of homelessness for thousands of people in Baltimore.

My role in the larger mechanism to resolve homelessness in Baltimore took on the appearance and responsibilities as a facilitator and liaison between the community providers and the housing programs as I processed housing applications and sat in on committee and project meetings. However, that did not constrict my opportunities of directly lending a hand to those who are asking for help. Over the final few weeks of the internship I was kept on my feet and out of the office as I led on-site training and refresher sessions over Coordinated Access for as many service providers that would fit into my schedule. Driving around Baltimore to the different organizations to network with the navigators, and at times their clients, offered me the opportunity to look out the window and see boarded up, shrunken row home after boarded up, shrunken row home. These neighborhoods once known for their vibrant murals or lively block parties that behaved as the cultural and physical centers of the community have become skeletons of their former selves; boarded up skeletons that at times offer insufficient respite to homeless if they're lucky enough to find one with an intact roof. These are the communities where organizations like Loving Arms, Therapeutic Living for Families, or People Encouraging People are daily serving.

The conversations I had with my coworkers, the navigators, and, most importantly, anyone struggling with homelessness constantly reminded me that the applications I was processing are far more than just PDFs and kept me from falling into a robotic frame of mind. Individuals and families in desperate situations are on the other side of the computer screen. Each day around 4:00 pm I pack up my desk and catch the circulator towards Charles Village to walk into a house with a full fridge, running water, and a comfortable bed. Where does Michelle go? Where does Deshaun go? Where do Pamela and her three children go? These are the questions the Mayor's Office of Human Services, the housing programs, and all the organizations working alongside the homeless population are working to answer. - Keenan



Tasks

- Processed Permanent Supportive Housing and Flex Fund applications, which entails matching clients to housing program vacancies and assisting navigator and housing agencies with troubleshooting.
- Participated in workgroup meetings for LEAD, HOLD, and the Coordinated Access Data Sharing Committee and prepared documents and research for these workgroups meetings,
- Assisted in the editing of administrative documents for Coordinated Access, such as the Verification of Homeless History form.
- Led on-site training sessions about Coordinated Access for navigators of the collaborating community providers. 34

Community Partner: MERIT (Medical Education Resources Initiative for Teens)

Intern: Justin Lee

Site Supervisors: Damien Myers and Eileen Kim

What is MERIT?

MERIT aims to eliminate health disparities by transforming underrepresented high school students into health care leaders



Coming into CIIP, I had little idea of what the public education system in Baltimore was like. However, on my first day of work, my supervisor quickly brought me up to speed. My supervisor talked about how most Baltimore City high school students aren't getting the education they deserve and need to thrive in the future. Even students who become valedictorians of their respective high schools will likely struggle in a more intense environment like college, which shouldn't be blamed on the students. Most schools in Baltimore City just don't have enough resources or manpower to properly educate all the individuals who walk through their doors. This is where MERIT comes in. MERIT is a program that targets Baltimore City high school students who are interested in being healthcare professionals, exposes them to people who work in healthcare, and provides them with a vast amount of resources to build their resumes and succeed in college and beyond.

This past summer, I specifically worked with high school students who were rising seniors in MERIT's Science of Medicine internship. During the mornings, students were taught lab techniques and college-level biology. After lunch, each of the students went to a research lab where they conducted their own projects, which culminated to a poster presentation about their research. My favorite part of the summer was, by far, interacting with the students. All of them are bright and talented individuals, who grew more comfortable with me as the summer progressed. By the end of the internship, I felt like I connected with some of the students on a personal level and helped all of them learn valuable skills in the lab that they could use in the future. I look forward to staying in touch with all of the scholars that I helped teach this summer and continuing to offer advice if they need it at any point in their journey in medicine. Finally, I'd like to use this opportunity to thank Abby, Dr. Myers, Ms. Kim, and the rest of the MERIT staff for supporting me and helping make this an incredibly fulfilling summer! - Justin



Tasks:

- Created individualized schedules, resume handbooks, and a database of high school and college summer internships for MERIT scholars entering their junior and senior years
- Supported the lead instructor daily by completing paperwork, preparing lab materials and study guides, and retrieving lunches for scholars
- Mentored and educated scholars about lab techniques, college-level biology, and pre-medical life in college

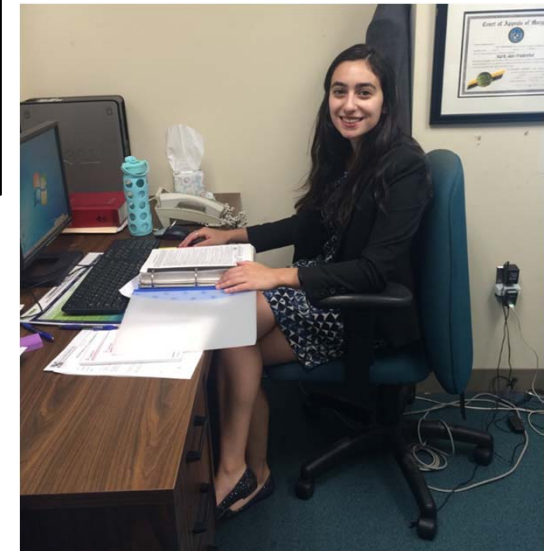
Community Partner: Office of Public Defender - Juvenile Division

Intern: Annette Favetta

Site Supervisor: Mark Friedenthal

What is the OPD - Juvenile Division?

We are a group of lawyers, social workers, and staff members from the Juvenile Division of the Maryland Office of the Public Defender who have chosen to dedicate our careers to working with children in the Juvenile Court System. We believe that every child is deserving of zealous advocacy, and we fight each day to protect and defend our clients and their due process rights. Our representation continues even when the court case ends. We encourage our clients to stay in touch with us.



These past seven weeks have been some of the most rewarding and challenging experiences I have ever encountered. This internship was extremely humbling and constantly put me out of my comfort zone. I had already experienced the criminal justice system on the side of the prosecution, and felt as though that was my calling. However, the stories and circumstances of the clients that I met were eye-opening and even shocking. It was heartbreaking to hear the struggles of children with broken families, and aggravating to watch a child with mental instability become detained. However, through all of the disheartening stories, it was inspiring to witness the days when a child was able to return home to their family and to watch when attorneys, social workers, and magistrates work in solidarity to get children therapy or help them attain their GED. It is the quiet success of the people who work at this office, but more importantly the struggles the kids face, that motivate me to work as hard as I can so that one day I too can assist those children in need.

-Annette

Tasks:

- Co-conducting and note-taking interviews with juveniles, parents, and witnesses before hearings.
- Observing hearings and trials, assisting with development of case theory, and transcribing.
- Analyzing data for meetings regarding the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI).
- Collecting and analyzing data on school-based arrests.

Community Partner: Office of Public Defender - Juvenile Division

Intern: Grant Welby

Site Supervisor: Mark Friedenthal

What is the OPD - Juvenile Division?

We are a group of lawyers, social workers, and staff members from the Juvenile Division of the Maryland Office of the Public Defender who have chosen to dedicate our careers to working with children in the Juvenile Court System. We believe that every child is deserving of zealous advocacy, and we fight each day to protect and defend our clients and their due process rights. Our representation continues even when the court case ends. We encourage our clients to stay in touch with us.

My internship experience at the Office of the Public Defender has been, in a word, incredible. The most astounding thing about this summer, and what I will remember for years to come, are the stories of the clients whose cases I've worked on. The legal experience and professional skills I've gained are also invaluable, but the people I've met have been the most impactful part of this summer for me. There are no two clients that are exactly alike. Each has their own story, often filled with hardship, that has led them to their contact with the justice system. Many come from broken homes, with parents who have more problems than they do, and still others have no family left to speak of. Some suffer from mental illness, while others have substance abuse issues. All of this is exacerbated by the client's participation in a flawed justice system, one that has the tendency to trap people inside of it, like a spider's web. I had always heard of these challenges in academic settings, but I didn't really understand until I was able to see it firsthand. While there were many things I observed that were disheartening, and even heartbreaking, moments that disturbed me deeply, I also found reason to hope. The hope I found came in the form the attorneys and staff working at OPD, and occasionally in other offices. Time and time again, I watched as these individuals fought tooth and nail for their clients. I sat in an interview room or a courtroom and observed what zealous advocacy looked like, and was inspired. For some clients, their lawyers are one of the few people they trust implicitly. Getting to assist and observe at OPD changed the way I view the law, the legal system, and the role of an attorney within that system. - Grant



Maryland Office of the Public Defender
Justice, Fairness and Dignity for All



Tasks:

- Legal research and writing
- Interviewing Witnesses and Clients
- Assisted with case theory development
- Transcription of interviews and video evidence

Community Partner: Office of Public Defender - Post Conviction Defenders Division

Intern: Ryan Kellner

Site Supervisor: Norm Handwerger

What is the Post Conviction Defenders Division?

Post Conviction Defenders Division is dedicated to ensuring fairness in criminal convictions and protecting the integrity of our criminal justice system. PCD represents indigent inmates at post-conviction proceedings throughout the state of Maryland.

I believe in the law as a redemptive tool, one that constructs an equitable system for those both in and out of the criminal justice system. In approaching my internship with the Office of the Public Defender, I intended to search for the flaws in the law that take away from that equitable system. In doing so, I have started to define my future role as an attorney, I have received training in the practice of criminal law, and I have conversed with representatives of the law who provided a more practical perspective. My weekly responsibilities varied depending on the needs of the Post Conviction Defenders Division. One week, I found myself drafting a memorandum on behalf of a client who would soon go in front of the Maryland Parole Commission. The next, I drafted a Motion for Modification of Sentence on behalf of a client, helping him search for transitional housing and employment upon his release. In my final weeks, I conducted research into Maryland case law on behalf of a client petitioning for court-ordered drug treatment. Almost every week I had access to the division's attorneys, shadowing their hearings, discussing ongoing cases, and even meeting their clients. This practical experience gave credence to my idea of the law as a redemptive tool; I found legal recourse to assist individuals with fair sentencing, affordable housing, and constructive employment. The idea of expanding my role as an advocate in the criminal justice system as an attorney excites me. There is more work to be done in the realms of fair sentencing and rehabilitative procedure, but I have learned that I can have a hand in persuading judges, and even the legislature, to encourage these fair practices. I know that I want to work in the criminal justice system as an attorney, but I am still parsing through the roles I may take. I used my time as an intern with the Post Conviction Defenders Division to define my role as an advocate. I cannot say I will leave the office knowing what role I aim to take, but I know I will lobby for the redemptive system I know the law can and will be. - Ryan



Maryland Office of the Public Defender
Justice, Fairness and Dignity for All



Tasks:

- Drafted motions to modify and reconsider sentences that would go before local judges
- Interviewed clients for information regarding their legal proceedings and upcoming hearings
- Attended hearings and client interviews with attorneys
- Conducted research into Maryland case law on behalf of attorneys preparing for hearings
- Wrote case summaries, reports on clients' institutional progress, and other inquiries at the behest of attorneys

Community Partner: United Way of Central Maryland - Project Homeless Connect

Intern: Lauren Zingaro

Site Supervisors: Scott Gottbreht

What is United Way of Central Maryland's Project Homeless Connect?

Project Homeless Connect is a national model for delivering services to the homeless community by bringing together services to meet every need into one place at one time.



I left after my first day working at United Way of Central Maryland confident I would end the summer with a better understanding of homelessness and poverty in Baltimore. What I did not expect to leave my internship with was an impressive bank of knowledge about dental care. Organizing and recruiting volunteers for Baltimore City's first ever Mission of Mercy Dental Clinic meant meeting numerous dental professions, calling dental offices, and spending two days in Southern Maryland watching a Mission of Mercy unfold. Throughout this time, I have learned about burs, amalgam, different types of anesthetics, and other products and vocabulary employed in the field of dentistry. This is only one example an unforeseen lesson I learned while working at United Way, and these bits of knowledge I picked up throughout the summer were some of the most memorable. Before this summer I was unaware of the detrimental outcomes that stem from absence of affordable dental care, and now I am helping to alleviate this need by organizing the Mission of Mercy hosted by United Way at the end of September.

I leave UWCM with a wealth of knowledge and a greater understanding of the complexity of issues that afflict the community of Baltimore. I have met people from all tiers of the homeless services spectrum, from the Mayor's Office of Homeless Services and homeless students' liaisons at Baltimore City Public Schools, to service providers like the Franciscan Center- all united in the goal to effect positive change for those experiencing homelessness. It was a truly unique experience I had at United Way, and I look forward to seeing my work from the summer come to fruition at the joint Project Homeless Connect and Mission of Mercy event on September 29th and 30th. - Lauren



Tasks:

- Coordinated and recruited volunteers and service providers for the annual Project Homeless Connect event that provides on-site services to approximately 2,000 homeless participants.
- Helped launch Baltimore City's first Mission of Mercy free dental clinic, which will provide cleanings, fillings, and extractions to 1,000 patients.
- Submitted grants to secure funds for both PHC and MoM.

Community Partner: Public Justice Center

Intern: Hana Clemens

Site Supervisor: Matt Hill

What is the Public Justice Center?

PJC works with people and communities to confront the laws, practices, and institutions that cause injustice, poverty, and discrimination. We advocate in the courts, legislatures, and government agencies, educate the public, and build coalitions, all to advance our mission of “pursuing systemic change to build a just society.”



This summer at the Public Justice Center, I really delved into the excellent work being done here. From client interaction to legislative research, I was able to examine the housing and rent court system in place in Baltimore and how PJC plays a small part in improving it. I was able to learn specific details about housing law and how tenants can use it to defend themselves against exploitative landlords. I have also played a role in the city's 20/20 campaign, which is made up of a coalition of organizations called the Housing Round Table that is working to get public dollars invested in creating community land trusts throughout the city. I have a strong passion for housing policy and how we can use the law to help defend low-income renters from eviction and living in uninhabitable conditions. This internship has made me more excited about promoting fair development in the future and helping to enforce the human right to safe and affordable housing in Baltimore City. - Hana



Tasks:

- Obtained legal advice for renters with landlord-tenant issues
- Aided attorneys in advising clients at Rent Court
- Researched the different eviction processes across states to support PJC's Rent Court reform legislation in Baltimore
- Researched how the city uses general obligation bonds for economic and community development, in order to advocate for more funding going towards sustainable development and community land trusts.
- Created and promoted an accessible brochure about the Renter's Tax Credit for low-income renters in Maryland
- Petitioned to get 10,000 signatures by August 8 for an Affordable Housing Trust Fund charter amendment on the November 2016 ballot

Community Partner: Reservoir Hill Improvement Council

Intern: Ally Rogers

Site Supervisor: Eli Lopatin

What is Reservoir Hill Improvement Council (RHIC)?

RHIC's goal is to revitalize the physical and human infrastructure of Reservoir Hill without resulting in full-scale gentrification and significant displacement, including rehabilitation of deteriorating buildings; alleviating poverty and its attendant problems, including poor sanitation, crime, education, low homeownership, and unemployment; and making the organized, informed voice of residents influential and effective.



When I first received an email telling me about my placement for the summer, I was nervous. But, as soon as I opened the attached document, that initial nervousness turned to immense excitement. The Reservoir Hill Improvement Council allowed me to have a personal, individualized internship. With a few full-time employees and a board of volunteers, I was not just another face in the crowd. I was able to truly connect with my co-workers and the residents of the community we served, Reservoir Hill.

Working with RHIC this summer has been an unforgettable experience. From attending neighborhood cookouts and farming at the community farm, to planning a Neighborhood Food Justice Forum and interacting with community partners, I have been able to experience all aspects of community engagement work. I was able to experience both small scale and large-scale efforts toward neighborhood improvement, from connecting with neighborhood residents to attending policy action group meetings. RHIC allowed me to take control of this experience and created an open environment for me to express my opinions and interests. Through my internship, I learned the importance of open communication between neighborhood residents and organizations attempting to help that community. Allowing those who may be affected by any changes an organization may make is crucial to gain the residents' trust and ensure that an intervention is successful. RHIC does exactly that, holding monthly community meetings and taking the time to listen to residents when they wish to express an opinion or idea. RHIC is truly a community-based organization committed to bringing equitable development to Reservoir Hill. I am so thankful that CIIP gave me the opportunity to meet the residents of Reservoir Hill and the people working at RHIC. - Ally



Tasks:

- Attended community meetings hosted by various community partners in Reservoir Hill and the greater Central West Baltimore area.
- Compiled a list of food justice organizations in Central West Baltimore and their efforts to help Reservoir Hill and surrounding areas achieve food security.
- Helped plan and put on a Neighborhood Food Justice Conversation in Reservoir Hill to talk about food access and social justice with residents.
- Worked at the Whitelock Community Farm, helping with farm tasks and staffing their mobile market and farm stand.
- Surveyed neighborhood residents about neighborhood improvement and quality of life in Reservoir Hill.

Community Partner: Shepherd's Clinic
Peer Mentor: Darius Thompson
Site Supervisors: Glenda Skuletich and Karen Carter

What is Shepherd's Clinic?

A unique non-profit organization providing quality, comprehensive healthcare to Baltimore's uninsured, helping people who are unable to afford commercial health insurance, yet do not qualify for government assistance.



When I first stepped into the Shepherd's Clinic, I was overwhelmed by that amount of love that came rushing my way from my supervisors, the clinic staff, and the rest of my coworkers. Love is what the Shepherd's Clinic is all about. The Shepherd's Clinic provides free healthcare for the uninsured, all of whom fall under 200% of poverty. Several doctors at Shepherd's have shared with me that while they could be spending their hours making a pretty penny at other medical facilities, they instead choose to volunteer at the clinic where they can take as much time as they need and apply their gifts and talents to pour love into a community that needs healing. Although I don't have my medical degree yet, this summer I got to contribute to this healing process in my own capacity by serving as a front desk volunteer at the clinic. The same amount of love with which I was greeted when I first arrived at Shepherd's, I share with each and every person who walks through Shepherd's front doors. I serve as a bridge between the healthcare providers and the patients by translating the patients' needs to the medical staff and by connecting patients with the appropriate resources. Whether I'm handling medical records, screening new patients, scheduling appointments, calming down distressed patients over the phone, or striking up conversations with patients who care to chat, I do it with love and I do it with a smile. It has been a pleasure working with the Shepherd's Clinic this summer. I hope to continue into the school year and if I am fortunate enough to become a physician, I aim to volunteer at a clinic similar to Shepherd's in the distant future (or start one of my own). - Darius

Tasks:

- Serve as front desk volunteer: schedule appointments, remind patients of appointments, check in and check out patients, collect donations, screen new patients
- Facilitate the transmission of medical records to and from the clinic
- Connect patients with medical staff, insurance navigators, behavioral health counselors, and healthy lifestyle specialists
- Help train other front desk volunteers

Community Partner: SquashWise

Intern: Galen Shi

Site Supervisor: Matt Skarzynski

What is Squashwise?

Squashwise is a nonprofit after-school youth enrichment program serving public middle school students in Baltimore City.

Many Hopkins students don't have the time or the opportunities to connect with the city during the school year and then leave the city during the summer; CIIP offers that opportunity and more. I was able to truly connect with the city, through my interactions with my fellow cohort members, Baltimore SquashWise, and Baltimoreans as well as through my explorations of all that Baltimore has to offer, ranging from delicious restaurants to free movie screenings to the informational CIIP Bites of Baltimore weekly sessions. Spending my summer with Baltimore SquashWise has been one of my most rewarding, meaningful, and enjoyable work experiences. I could not have asked for a better organization, better coworkers, or better students to work with. I was given responsibilities but also flexibility in terms of my roles during my internship; working at a small sized non-profit, you realize that all staff wear many hats. I was involved in both the academic as well as the fitness aspects of the program. Being involved in both sides of the program allowed me to form deep relationships with the students and to share my love for fitness and learning with them as well. I truly have enjoyed the day-to-day interactions I have had with the students as I worked either with other staff members or independently to conduct both academic and fitness programming. I worked with both middle school and high school age students where academics ranged from summer reading work to SAT prep and where fitness activities included squash, boxing, crossfit, among others. Along with my daily interactions with the students, I also was able to learn about the inner workings of a non-profit through administrative work such as planning events and working for funding. Overall, this summer through working at SquashWise, I developed a deeper connection with Baltimore, gained a better understanding of the complex nature of Baltimore as well as the non-profit sector, and built lasting relationships with many of the students who I interacted with. I am grateful to have had this opportunity and hope to continue to be an ambassador working to foster better relationships between Hopkins and the community, do my share to advocate and work towards resolving Baltimore's entrenched issues, and to help mentor and assist the students that I met this summer in any way possible to the best of my abilities.

- Galen



SquashWise



Tasks:

- Planning and supervision of college visits, service learning trips, and enrichment opportunities
- Leading and supporting academic sessions
- Conducting and chaperoning various fitness activities
- Assisting with administrative activities

Community Partner: St. Francis Neighborhood Center

Intern: Kaetlyn Bernal

Site Supervisor: Torbin Green

What is the St. Francis Neighborhood Center?

St. Francis Neighborhood Center is committed to breaking the cycles of poverty through education, inspiring self-esteem, self-improvement, and strengthening connections to the community.

My time at the St. Francis Neighborhood Center has allowed me to immerse myself into a community I did not know existed within the city of Baltimore. My abilities were tested from day one when I was tasked with managing youth close to my age in their first job, lesson planning for a class of 18 students eight to ten years old, and even getting into an accident on my bike ride home. Moving forward, I was able to move past the title of teacher and became both a mentor and a friend to the students in the center which allowed me to gain a larger perspective of the community I now saw as my home. I walk down the streets before and after work expecting to hear students and other community members comfort me in their neighborhood with their “Hellos,” “Goodbys,” and even, “Ms. Kaetlyn, can I catch a Pokemon while you wait for your ride?” These small moments in my day remind me that—in eight short weeks—I have made an impact in the lives of the youth and other community members that come through our center. My ultimate goal for this summer was to develop relationships with the students in the center to better understand the needs of a community tainted with poverty, violence, racism, drug trafficking, and more. I was able to do just that with the support and opportunities offered to me through Hopkins, the CIIP Program, and St. Francis. As I move forward with my education, I truly feel as though this program has solidified my future plans to improve the lives of those around me through a career of non-profit work. I was given the opportunity to not only be a teacher, but to become a student myself and truly learn and be challenged by the students I was lucky enough to teach this summer. One of the most rewarding aspects of this summer was that no day was like another with every challenge, surprise, tear shed, laugh shared, and hug given amongst the children I now consider family. The resilience of the youth and community members surrounding St. Francis has inspired me and given me a new perspective in how I can truly create impact everywhere I go.

- Kaetlyn



Tasks:

- Created lesson plans for and taught a class of 18 students eight to ten years old.
- Managed, mentored, and taught financial literacy lessons created by myself to six YouthWorkers in their first jobs.
- Assisted supervisors and other staff with daily program tasks such as grocery bag programs for the community
- Created community projects for the students in the center to engage in



Community Partner: STAR TRACK

Intern: Poonam Gupta

Site Supervisor: Gabrielle Mnkande

What is STAR TRACK?

The STAR TRACK Program's mission is to provide leadership in Maryland on adolescent HIV health issues by: Providing comprehensive, interdisciplinary, individualized, and confidential health care to HIV infected and at risk adolescents and young adults. We also provide youth-friendly health education, prevention, and early identification services to HIV infected and at risk adolescents, young adults, and their communities.



Tasks:

- Manned desk and assisted in patient intake for HIV and STD testing in the free clinic and various outreach events
- Planned and co-led STAR TRACK PrEP campaign with regards to social media, filming, and volunteers
- Assisted in the planning of the Youth Pride 2016, which included testing presence, activity tables, Youth Stage, and contacting other organizations



I distinctly remember my first day, as my supervisor was showing me around their condom room, the various offices, the free clinic, and a supply room filled with dildos and ass models, ending finally with a cheery “Welcome to STAR TRACK!” What followed was one of the most enlightening, challenging, and inspiring experiences I’ve ever had at Hopkins. In the beginning, my main focus was trying to become as knowledgeable as I possibly could on all things LGBTQ. I spent a lot of time asking about lingo, looking up terminology, and trying to memorize definitions. What I didn’t realize, however, was how much I’d learn just from having conversations and forming relationships with community members. It wasn’t important to label people with memorized definitions of identities, but instead to appreciate everyone’s unique backgrounds and use their strengths in the shared goal of community acceptance. As I accompanied coworkers to various coalition meetings, planned and prepared for our week long Pride events, and manned the desk at our free clinic, I had the opportunity to talk to so many wonderful people with, unfortunately, had several barriers to care stemming from clinician and societal ignorance. As someone who does not identify as LGBTQ, being in this environment has not only increased my competence in the area but my overall competence in the social justice issues present in Baltimore and urban environments. Youth and homelessness, racial justice issues, social class, and access to health care are just some of the many interrelated issues that all affect those in the LGBTQ community. But what I learned first and foremost is that these issues cannot be tackled alone, and those at STAR TRACK wholly acknowledge this. With especially trying times in our country this summer, all of my coworkers had the community and each other to lean on, something I know I’ll cherish well past the bounds of my time here. - Poonam

Community Partner: Station North Arts and Entertainment District

Intern: Ryan Lucas

Site Supervisors: Rebecca Chan and Kimi Hanauaer

What is Station North?

By promoting and supporting artists and cultural organizations in the District, Station North Arts & Entertainment, Inc. seeks to create a vibrant neighborhood where arts, artists and entertainment venues flourish in the midst an economically diverse community with an abundance of healthy residential, retail and commercial offerings.



Working at Station North Arts and Entertainment, Inc. this summer has provided me the opportunity to explore Baltimore and immerse myself in the artistic community of the city, where as a Hopkins student I am naturally an outsider. Every day posed a new challenge and task, varying as widely as running to the Copycat to borrow a generator from Gaia or handing out maps to the thousands of visitors at ArtScape. I've met incredible people, including my fantastic coworkers, but also artists, musicians, and other people at the forefront of Baltimore's creative scene who have inspired me to test the waters with my own creative content. I've become a stronger writer, communicator, and worker because of my placement this summer.

At the beginning of my placement I felt out of my element. Almost immediately I was asked to assist in a grant application, something I had never done before, as well as research potential sponsors. While intimidating at first, I can now confidently say I can manage both of those tasks efficiently, and I have continued to improve in these skills throughout the summer. Working in such a small office (full time staff of 3!) ensured that there was always something that had to be done, allowing me to work on several small projects throughout the summer.

One of the highlights of my time at Station North was the Alloverstreet block party hosted in Greenmount West in collaboration with Earthseed, an art collective including Abdu Ali. Handing out flyers for the event in the week leading up allowed me to meet and talk with all kinds of people from the community. I wouldn't be able to fairly describe this summer without finally mentioning the mini-golf project we've been working on significantly this summer. I helped arrange meetings, research other artist-designed mini-golf courses around the country, and helped write the Request for Qualifications for artists. With a tentative opening of ArtScape 2017, it is bittersweet to not stay on with Station North for the entirety of the project but I'm happy with what I've contributed to the mini-golf project and everything else I have done this summer. Thank you CIIP - Ryan



Tasks:

- Assisted with grant writing for funding at the national, state, and local level
- Helped coordinate and run Station North programming, including Power Brunch and Alloverstreet
- Completed the Be Here: Baltimore project, an audio-visual tour of Station North highlighting the area's cultural heritage and important sites by interviewing long time residents and influential community members
- Documented and catalogued murals in Station North from Open Walls 1 and 2

Community Partner: Strong City Baltimore

Intern: Celine Shanosky

Site Supervisor: Lottie Sneed

What is Strong City?

Established in 1969, Strong City is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to build and strengthen vibrant urban communities in Baltimore City. Our work centers on the pillars of vibrant urban living: safe streets, good and diverse quality housing stock, quality schools, and livability.



The Nate Tatum Community Center, a joint venture of Strong City Baltimore and Telesis Corporation, has been my home for the past seven weeks. I have had the pleasure of working with my compassionate and dedicated supervisor Ms. Lottie to plan her keynote events: the BMOG Cookout and the Annual Women's Empowerment Conference. To prepare for these events I visited over fifteen businesses to solicit in-kind donations, made hundreds of phone calls to secure turn out, created and distributed flyers, purchased materials, and coordinated day-of logistics.

In addition to event planning, Ms. Lottie tasked me with creating youth programming. When school ended in June, I placed dozens of Barclay youth in free summer camps. Over the next few weeks I created "Tuesday Kids Night" and "Tuesday Teen Night", drop-in hours where youth could stop in for dinner, games, and other activities. For "Tuesday Kids Night", I was able to organize a Smoothie Making Class held in conjunction with Baltimore Orchard Project and a Yoga Class donated by a local instructor. I was also able to coordinate a free trip to Camden Yards for 130 youth and 20 chaperones. I publicized these events through phone calls and flyering, and as the summer progressed I was given more opportunities to write and design publicity materials, including the Seasonal Barclay Newsletter.

Beyond these projects, I was also involved in the day-to-day functioning of the center. I provided employment services to drop-ins by administering skills tests, creating resumes, and assisting in job searches. I was able to attend many fascinating meetings and events, including biweekly community building meetings, the center's dedication, the End of School Cookout, Block Ambassador Trainings, Strong City Baltimore's board meeting, and a conference between Congressmen Bill Henry, developers and affordable housing policy makers.

Throughout my internship I worked side by side with Ms. Lottie, a woman who inspired and challenged me every single day. Ms. Lottie tasked me with meaningful projects while encouraging me to interact with community members, making this internship so incredibly valuable to me. I have gained solid experience in community building, exposure to non-profit management, and a further interest in advocating for affordable housing, employment and literacy in the community I have grown to care so deeply for. To my supervisor, the Barclay community, CIIP, and everyone that made this summer possible for me: thank you from the bottom of my heart. - Celine



Tasks:

- Solicited in-kind donations and assisted in event planning for BMOG Cookout and Annual Women's Empowerment Conference.
- Organized summer camp enrollment and created youth programming such as Tuesday Kids Night and Tuesday Teen Night.
- Created and distributed publicity materials for center events. Headed writing and design of seasonal newsletter.
- Facilitated day-to-day center operations such as providing employment services to community members.

Community Partner: Thread

Intern: Andrew Johnson

Site Supervisor: Christina Marsh

What is Thread?

Thread uses a “family-style” approach to foster the transformation of both underperforming high school students and university-based Volunteers into self-motivated, resourceful, and socially aware leaders committed to a higher purpose of their own.

My time at Thread has been both challenging and rewarding. I came into the summer with some clear goals in mind; to develop as a professional communicator and public speaker, to establish personal connections with the students in our program, and to help make their summer experiences as enriching and enjoyable as possible. I think my communication skills have certainly improved a great deal, as I am now a more confident and effective speaker in both meetings and on the phone. I also feel more comfortable leading meetings and mediating disputes as a result of my time at Thread. However, I considered these aims to be tertiary to my other two goals for the summer. On these fronts I think there were some vital successes but also some unfortunate oversights. A few of my students were terminated from their jobs during the first two weeks of their employment, either due to attendance or behavioral issues. It was especially disheartening in the instances where a kid was fired unjustifiably and I felt that they deserved another opportunity. Many of my students began to open up to me over the course of the summer, and this in turn allowed me to gain insights into their interests and candidly discuss their summer experiences. In too many of these instances I felt like I could not make a true difference or eradicate the issues or concerns that they presented to me. I found students placed at office sites who wanted to work outside with kids and students placed at summer camps who desired and expressed interest in office work. I was filled with joy as I heard a student tell me how their volunteer family takes them out for meals once a week, and I was equally disheartened when one girl revealed to me that none of her volunteers had been present in more than six months. Many of the students in our program face immensely difficult personal circumstances and are forced into the perils and challenges of adulthood at a very early age. While I tried to instill positive lessons and attitudes into the kids I worked with this summer, I am certain that they have shaped me more than I could ever possibly influence them. I am inspired by their incredible resolve in the face of so much adversity, in their ability to compartmentalize their grief and thrive in instances where I would have surely seized up and been rendered useless. I was witness to many personal triumphs this summer, only a small fraction of which I had any part in shaping. However, I can truly say that I did my best to support my students as they faced these challenges, and for that I have no regrets. - Andrew



Tasks:

- Acted as a liaison between students employed at worksites across Baltimore City, their employers, and their Thread volunteer families
- Designed orientation materials for employers which outlined expectations, responsibilities, and important deadlines for the program.
- Conducted site visits in order to distribute important paperwork to students and their employers, observe the students at their worksites, and ensure that they were satisfied with their summer experience.
- Helped plan and run professional development seminars on sexual health and resume building, and aided in the development of a symposium where students were able to reflect on their employment experiences.

When I first heard that the DAASI program placed “low-performing” students--who started out in the bottom quartile of their high school class--at Hopkins research labs for summer internships, I was skeptical. Over the next seven weeks, I was wowed time and time again by our students. Working with Thread taught me that the numbers and statistics (grades and attendance records) can be misleading if you do not take into account issues at home and access to food, housing and transportation.

Andrew and I spent the first two-weeks planning an orientation, creating an employer handbook and communicating with worksites, volunteers and students to ensure that everything would be ready to start at the end of June. The students needed TB testing, HIPAA testing and JHEDs/IDs, while the employers needed to be oriented to how they were to record hours, tardiness and other workplace concerns. In the first two weeks of the students’ internship, I conducted over 30 site visits checking in on students and their employers, collecting signatures and forms for transportation, city-administered workplace assessments and payroll. For the next three weeks, I facilitated payroll, monitored student progress and addressed and worked with specific students on problems ranging from tardiness, engagement, absenteeism and workplace etiquette.

The most memorable moment of this summer was when I walked into a lab and there was a student who was extracting DNA, running his own gels and conducting genotypes all from cells he had harvested from mouse tails. When I told the team back at Thread, one of his previous teachers was shocked: the student had failed every single class the last semester at his high school. That moment and many others really cemented in my mind the tremendous value of what Thread and the DAASI summer internship program was doing for its students. - Caleb



Tasks:

- Coordinating and supporting 41 high school Thread students at 35 separate laboratories and medical administration worksites
- Acting as a facilitator between Thread students and employers, monitoring attendance, recording hours for payroll and overseeing discipline with regard to tardiness, absenteeism and professionalism.
- Reaching out to Site Directors and Thread Family volunteers addressing student concerns outside the workplace
- Creating and conducting an orientation for the students, directing and organizing the first annual Thread Summer Internship Booklet and helping students prepare for the culminating Thread Symposium

Community Partner: Thread

Peer Mentor: Caleb Warren

Site Supervisor: Christina Marsh

What is Thread?

Thread uses a “family-style” approach to foster the transformation of both underperforming high school students and university-based Volunteers into self-motivated, resourceful, and socially aware leaders committed to a higher purpose of their own.

Community Partner: United Workers

Intern: Tarah Fitzgerald

Site Supervisors: Rachel Cutler

What is United Workers?

The United Workers is a non-partisan poor people's multi-racial and bilingual human rights organization fighting to secure the human rights of everyone, everywhere. We do this by organizing low-wage workers around human rights values of respect, dignity, and sanctity of human life, and by developing leaders from the ranks of the poor.



Today I attended a church service held by my dear friend and now, fellow United Worker, Pastor Alice. This is not a regular occurrence. Truthfully, I embraced my teenage anarchist years, and happily followed my divergent peers to jump off the great heavenly bridge into the murky atheist waters years ago. In fact, the ease in which I was able to repress back into my Sunday-best this morning was enough to trigger a mid-youth crisis. At 9 AM I found myself, not just receiving the holy eucharist, but receiving it for a second time at my second service of the day. I think it's safe to say this is not where I pictured myself a year ago. I am reminded of the diverted path I chose, not too long ago, as I stare down at the foreign words I once had memorized. I stood isolated in a room I had been in a countless number of times; I volunteer at the homework club that meets there every Monday, I attend the community meetings hosted there every month, and yet today I felt like a puppy treading water for the first time. What drew me back into the house of faith? It wasn't the fear of God or of what happens after death. It was my job. I voluntarily went to church at 9 in the morning in order to petition, on behalf of United Workers. As you can see, I love my job. I love it enough to not only agree to go into work at 9 AM on a Sunday, but enough to even look forward to the service. Don't get me wrong, United Workers didn't turn me religious. However, working as a community organizer I learned the importance of connecting with the community on their terms, and in their settings of comfort and trust. Pastor Alice, is the pastor at the Guardian Angel Church in Remington, where I have spent the last 8 weeks canvassing and organizing in order to cultivate community engagement and assess the need or want for community driven development. I never thought I would find a job so in tune with who I was. I can't imagine a better placement. I have become so devoted to my work that I feel as though I too, am a Remington resident, and Remington's future is as important to me as the prospects of my hometown neighborhood in Brooklyn. I never thought my dedication to community service and my extroverted friendly nature would prepare me so well for my career. I can't wait to continue my path as a community organizer and can only hope to again experience a job that motivates me enough to make such sacrifice and challenge myself in order to progress and succeed in my work. I am privileged to have experienced an internship at United Workers and I promise to do everything in my power to bend this privilege in the direction of justice. - Tarah



Tasks:

- Assisted in a petition drive to attain an Affordable Housing Trust Fund within the Baltimore City Budget.
- Canvassed Remington residents to assess housing concerns.
- Worked on uniting the Remington Neighborhood through canvassing and holding community events to find/develop leaders to address these housing concerns and facilitate the creation and implementation of community driven solutions.

Community Partner: Urban Resources Initiative- Baltimore City Recreation and Parks
Intern: Veronica Reardon
Site Supervisors: Ed Orser and Molly Gallant

What is Urban Resources Initiative- Baltimore City Recreation and Parks

Baltimore City Recreation and Parks offers services to Baltimore residents as it relates to recreation development.



BALTIMORE CITY
RECREATION & PARKS

When I told people this summer that my placement with the Urban Resources Initiative would have me working predominantly with Baltimore City Rec and Parks, the first thing most people said was, “Is it just like the show Parks and Rec?” At first I denied it, or just laughed, but as the summer went on, my placement felt more and more like the show. While Baltimore is nothing like small-town Indiana (the setting for Parks and Rec), some pretty TV-show-esque things have happened in the course of this summer. Just this past week, someone pooped just outside one of the buildings that houses our boats. That turned out to be a very small problem compared to what was going on in the building: once my boss and I got inside, the building reeked of natural gas, so badly that people standing outside could smell it. We opened all the doors we could, called the fire department, and hurriedly grabbed our boats while we waited for them to arrive. After that, we ran the trip as if nothing had happened. That was one day working for Rec and Parks, and weirdly, it was a great day. Not every day features things as exciting as human feces and a gas leak, but every day does feature people from every walk of life in Baltimore, as well as awesome coworkers I would never have met without CIIP. Working with Outdoor Rec makes you realize just how much people rely on and appreciate the services they offer. It brings individuals and families in the community together, it gets people active and happy. Besides that, I’ve experienced the city in a whole new way in the URI placement this summer: I’ve camped in Herring Run Park, I’ve watched a pink moon rise while roasting weenies and marshmallows with Baltimoreans of all ages, races, and backgrounds at Druid Hill, I’ve talked endlessly about the issues of public vs private land and about the many issues with Baltimore’s city government. Every day at work, I’ve gotten the stink eye from people, have had lovely conversations in Spanish and English with people, have met several of the Friends of Parks groups and many Baltimore City children through events and rec center programs, and have learned a lot about how nonprofits and the government can both succeed and fail at working together. It’s been an incredible summer in an incredible city, and I’ve learned a lot both about myself as an independent worker and facilitator, and about Baltimore City. - Veronica



Tasks:

- Assisted with running and facilitating all of the programs that the Baltimore City Outdoor Rec department offers, including campouts, boat trips, and bike rides with both youth and adults
- Performed repairs, cleanup, inventory, and organization for BCRP's bike program
- Planned, proposed, and set in motion an independent project that included a cliff cleanup and organizing affordable programming to make the resource accessible to more of the Baltimore population
- Assisted with training new staff for the BCRP bike program

Community Partner: Whitelock Community Farm

Intern: Claire Gray

Site Supervisors: Alison Worman

What is Whitelock Community Farm?

The goals of the Farm are to: pursue affordable sustainable fresh food sources, provide neighborhood job creation, and help promote greening and positive community activity. The farm also implements its mission through farm-based learning programs such as gardening and cooking classes for children and adults.



Tasks:

- Daily farm tasks included weeding, prepping beds, and harvesting produce
- Operated the mobile market every Thursday, where we sold our produce outside of the local café and convenient store
- Helped staff the weekly farm stand every Saturday, where we sold our produce and other local vendors participated in a flea market
- Interacted with the community and showed them around the farm space!

Food is something everyone can relate to and enjoy, and I'm so glad I got to spend the summer enjoying food with everyone who stopped by the farm. At the farm I learned a new thing every day, from the importance of trellising tomatoes to how to greet my neighbors to the season that wine berries grow. The farm was right across the street from the bus stop, and so many people walked by it everyday, talking to us and sharing their experiences with growing food, cooking food, and eating food or talking about whatever. My favorite part of the summer was the community potlucks, where I got to see and interact with everyone that walked by the farm every day. I've always known that I wanted to be involved with sustainability and greening efforts, but the farm has shown me how to make those efforts inclusive and community-driven. I've experienced the sense of independence that comes with growing my own food, and I'm so excited to continue that practice and share it with others. I've also learned how much it takes to keep a farm going, and how everyone involved needs to be able to juggle so many different tasks, from simple, tedious things like weeding to more complex things like planning what to plant or organizing community events. I'm happy that throughout the internship I got to meet so many amazing people passionate about growing food and community engagement, each with a different a different perspective. - Claire

Community Partner: Wide Angle Youth Media

Intern: Emily Trendle

Site Supervisor: Sheila Wells

What is Wide Angle Youth Media?

Wide Angle Youth Media is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that provides Baltimore youth with media education to tell their own stories and become engaged with their communities. Through quality after-school programming, in-school opportunities, summer workshops, community events, and an annual Youth Media Festival, Wide Angle supports young people making a difference through media.



There is rarely a dull moment at Wide Angle Youth Media, an organization created to teach youth media and professional skills that will help prepare for the colleges and careers they will pursue following high school. The building is regularly bustling with students and teachers rushing from location to location as they prepare for shoots. Keyboard tapping punctures the air regularly as projects are edited during post production. This summer allowed me to become submersed in this exciting environment and to work closely with the teachers and students on the projects at hand in every stage, from planning pitches, to dressing sets, to assisting with editing as needed. Wide Angle has taught me so much, how to better guide students, as well as incredible insight into how a non-profit such as this works by allowing me to help with strategic planning for the future and updating their social media strategy. This summer was incredible, and taught me so much while also being a fun, hands-on, way to learn. The students are all very talented and fun to work with, bringing new ideas to the table every day. The staff are all kind and knowledgeable, helping me to better understand how to complete tasks as well as how to help others in the process. - Emily



Tasks:

- Assist in teaching middle school workshops and youth workers, leading groups to complete the tasks they are given.
- Analyze and update the social media strategy to ensure that the work being done to spread the word has the greatest impact.
- Recruit new students from local farmer's markets.
- Conduct interviews with other nonprofits for advice and insight on how they operate to prepare for Wide Angle's own strategic planning updates.

Community Partner: Youth Empowered Society

Intern: Sam Paek

Site Supervisor: Dylan McDonough

What is Youth Empowered Society?

Drop-In Center is a safe space for youth, who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness and between ages 14-25, to get basic needs met and establish supportive relationships with peer counselors and allies that help them make and sustain connections to long-term resources and opportunities.



This summer was an exciting mix of learning, planning, and doing—sometimes all in a single day! Never having worked with a nonprofit organization before, I came in not knowing what to expect at all: I had almost no experience working directly with homeless youth, not to mention I had no idea what went on in the background, otherwise known as case management (i.e. basically the real important stuff that includes I.D. assistance, benefits assistance, housing assistance, you name it). The mission of YES is to prevent and eliminate youth homelessness, and I was immediately immersed into its community of homeless youth and allies, introduced to some of the most dedicated and hardworking people I have ever met. It was difficult at first; I was the new guy on the block, and it took a while for some of the youth to warm up to me (and even I to them). However, as I got to know many of them, I realized homelessness as an all-encompassing label does not do any justice to the experiences of the youth, nor does it provide an easy answer to whom these individuals are. Much of their stories are deeply personal, imbued with circumstances out of their control, often reflecting a system designed to trap much of our country's poor where they are.

This is not to say that it was a completely smooth sail. Working at YES brought some of my biggest flaws to the surface, and challenged me in ways that I had not expected. Attaching a filter onto the things I say been difficult for me, and when you are getting yelled at by youth in the kitchen, sometimes that filter disappears. On top of this, I found out I'm just really bad at being in a leadership position. I've always prided myself on being an excellent follower, capable of following directions thoroughly and effectively, but being the one to coordinate something (a.k.a. driver's education classes for our youth) put me in a seat that I was very uncomfortable in. Thankfully, the staff at YES was very supportive of my flaws and my shortcomings, but if anything, it was a big learning experience for me. Our drop-ins ranged from completely quiet to utterly chaotic, and I would be lying if I said days got repetitive—nope, I saw something new every week.

In Baltimore, homelessness is a public health problem—it is our problem. We cannot be students at Hopkins and ignore homelessness, however easy it may be. Social justice is everyone's responsibility. - Sam



Tasks:

- Supported drop-in activities by handing out food, tokens, clothing items, etc.
- Coordinated a driver's ed program for the youth through a partnership with a local driving school, and supported them passing their permit tests at the MVA
- General administrative tasks such as answering phone calls, faxing, setting up computers, and inputting data into the Baltimore City HMIS.

A heartfelt thanks to all of our community partners for working with us and giving our students an invaluable experience. This program could not exist without you!



A special thanks to the 2016 CIIP Leadership Team for all of their hard work!

CIIP Assistants: Jessa Wais & Maggie Weese

Peer Mentors: Victoria Aysola, Matthew Brown, Victoria Chen, Hannah Farkas, Charlie Green, Dikshant Malla, Kennedy McDaniel, Darius Thompson, & Caleb Warren

