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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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The Community Impact Internships Program (CIIP) is a competitive, paid summer internship cohort 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 2017 Community Impact Internships Program worked throughout Baltimore City in a variety of organizations focusing on ten interest areas; education, homelessness and poverty, neighborhood improvement, environment and sustainability, criminal justice and government, healthcare and health policy, community gardens and food access, arts, nonprofit management, and women and family wellness. After this seventh year of CIIP, 325 undergraduates and over 100 community partners have been able to participate in this program, contributing over 88,000 hours of work throughout Baltimore’s communities. This program is made possible thanks to generous gifts totaling over $2.25 million from a private donor.
**Community Partner:** 29th Street Community Center  
**Intern:** Leena Aurora  
**Site Supervisor:** Elyse Preston

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.

"There are only 2 full-time staff members at the center. So, my tasks include anything and everything: from administrative tasks to just unlocking the gym closet when kids want to play basketball. The center hosted four camps this summer, and in the evenings, the center is home to various evening programming powered by the community: Zumba and yoga classes, a break dancing group, and more. Community associations also use the space for their meetings, some of which I had the chance to attend. Prior to CIIP, I was unfamiliar with a powerful concept known as community organizing. Community organizing, though, encapsulates something that I had been deeply passionate about: the power of people coming together, working to better themselves and their peers. My in-depth community organizing experience this summer came from my two biggest projects: supervising six high school interns from the YouthWorks program, and organizing a community health fair.

In the YouthWorker’s five weeks, I challenged and taught them, while they did the same for me. They’ve all grown up in Baltimore city, and gave me more perspective on that experience than anyone else I’ve worked with. Their largest project of the summer was to identify an issue that they saw in their community, and come up with a solution that they would implement. They chose violence. In the end they hosted a community walk, pointing out what they believe contributes to violence, as well as solutions; stops included a liquor store and a park that they had cleaned up during a previous summer. Over 40 people came out, including a councilwoman from a nearby district. She, as well as others, were so vocal in discussing these issues that the walk went 40 minutes over the schedule.

My other big project was in organizing a community health fair with Yamini, the CIIP intern from Charm City Care Connection. There is so much that I can say about it (flash flooding, a missing grill the morning of, countless emails), but it was a success. Turnout was so robust that we actually ran out of school supplies and food to give away, having bought for 80-100 people. We were able to help everyone who came, including a group of people who were experiencing homelessness, who came 5 minutes before the fair was supposed to end. Nearly everything had been packed up, but we set to work in finding them any leftover food. The case manager from Charm City Care Connection was able to have private meetings with each person, and actually was able to set many up for ongoing care. As one man left, he asked me when the next fair was; I was sad to tell him that the event is “only” once a year. I grinned at his retreating figure as he yelled back to me, “Well, I’ll see you then!” -Leena

- Supported community center, in summer camps and adult programming, administrative tasks, managing social media, and outreach.  
- Organized and led professional development workshops in topics like college preparation, job etiquette, and financial literacy. 
- Supervised and facilitated "Youth Against Violence" community walk led by the YouthWorkers. 
- Lead organizer for community health fair/summer celebration at the center, with turnout of over 100 people.
"During my summer at 901 Arts, I finally got to truly enjoy living in Baltimore. To me, constantly being inside the Hopkins bubble breeds sadness. I’m in a city that has a large black population, yet I feel uncomfortable in my black skin, since there are few blacks on campus and since many people at Hopkins seem scared by blacks. But this summer was different, at 901 Arts there are lots of black children and adults that I got to interact with and grow in community with. Though my supervisor was white, she acknowledged her privilege and was open to having conversations, not only about race but also about more social justice issues at large. While at 901 Arts, I helped put together activities for youth, including organizing spirit week and tie dying our new camp shirts. I also did lots of canvassing around the community and talking to people at events. It was probably the most ideal internship I could have had because I mainly only did things I loved: work with kids, talk to people, and make lots of art. Yes, there were some less than glamorous moments of me mopping down the floors and dealing with disciplinary problems with the children, but all the positive moments of the summer make those moments so minuscule. 901 Arts helped to remind me of the feeling of energy and excitement you get when you love what you do and you are working towards something you believe in." - Naadiya
Community Partner: Baltimore Corps
Intern: Victoria Li
Site Supervisor: Liz Gomez

What is Baltimore Corps?
Baltimore Corps recruits talented, mission-driven professionals for full-time fellowships in which they work with Visionary Cause Leaders across the city to scale the impact of leading social change initiatives.

"Baltimore Corps is an organization that connects talent with opportunity to increase equity in Baltimore. First and foremost, Baltimore Corps is a capacity-building organization, which means that most of my work was done to ensure that problem solvers in Baltimore have the resources and assistance to improve the city.

Specifically, my supervisor, Liz Gomez, is the Director of Operations & Systems at Baltimore Corps, and by working with her I’ve come to appreciate the importance of building the infrastructure of a rapidly growing organization to ensure its future growth. Over the course of the summer I worked extensively with her team to constantly revise the systems, policies and internal procedures in place within the organization to ensure that Baltimore Corps’ operations run smoothly.

From participating in Baltimore Corps’ strategic planning meetings and gauging the future direction of Baltimore Corps, to helping Elevation Awardees hone their project pitches before their Awards Showcase, to working with Strong City Baltimore and delving into a complex fiscal sponsorship, I have learned so much about an effective nonprofit, the issues that face Baltimore, and about myself.

Baltimore Corps was undoubtedly a magical place that pushed me to be my best self every single day. I was able to wake up every day eager to go to work because every single Baltimore Corps employee believed in the vision, mission and goals of Baltimore Corps. I witnessed the at times difficult collaboration between talented people with diverse, learning and working styles and backgrounds. Ultimately, the most valuable lesson from my summer at Baltimore Corps was the incredible humility of every single person around me, and their belief that what they are doing fits into a larger picture that will push the needle to change Baltimore for the better. In Baltimore Corps I had found a company of peers who are dissatisfied with the status quo, and who are fighting to enable others to fight for their own battles in the city they love."

-Victoria

• Assisted with Baltimore Corps’ relationship with Strong City Baltimore by attending weekly check-in’s with the Strong City person of contact, filing invoices, managing expenses, placing orders and creating an FAQ page for Microx.
• Helped design and implement a one-week Baltimore and equity-based summer program curriculum for high school student leaders in Chestertown, Maryland.
• Attended and participated in all staff meetings and departmental level meetings where the strategic objectives and tasks for the next 90 days were being determined.
Community Partner: Baltimore Green Space
Intern: Omar Lloyd
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, forest patches, pocket parks, and other community-managed open spaces. Baltimore’s residents create social, environmental, and economic benefits in their neighborhoods; we aim to support them through land preservation and advocacy for policies that support local greening.

"The two main projects I worked on during this summer were the CMOS project and there are about 270 community-managed open spaces in Baltimore, which means pocket parks, gardens and any green space that the community has some tangible use for, and BGS has data on nearly all of them. There were a few (42) that my supervisor, Katie, said needed to be connected with either with a direct visit or call, and so I planned a trip around the City to visit the 25 sites that needed to be visited. After visiting the sites located all around the City, much became apparent about the nature of green spaces in Baltimore and how drastic the landscaping can be in different neighborhoods. For example, driving to Bolton Hill to visit one site, one can see a drastic change in architecture, organization, and even number of abandoned homes, and then driving from that area to Penn North (a mere five minute drive) it seems like visiting a different city entirely. This was also apparent in the green spaces themselves; a lot of the sites that were defunct were located in neighborhoods that it seemed weren’t even aware that there were green spaces in their neighborhoods. Also, a good amount of green spaces are started up by organizations like schools, non-profits and churches with a lot of gusto and initial backing, but then are left to deteriorate because they’re not continually managed, there’s no designated site manager(s) or it was created without community use in mind. On the other hand, there were sites that had questionable data in our records, but turned out to be doing quite well. Working in the Duncan Street Miracle Garden was also a pleasure, and it was nice to see how important the garden is to the surrounding community and the City’s history as a whole. This internship has reinforced my drive to push for more meaningful green spaces in Baltimore, and it’s nice to see the City is making that a priority as well." - Omar

- Edited a spreadsheet that contained data on over 2,200 forest patches in Baltimore, grouping them based on who owned the properties and summarizing the data (start of forest prioritization project).
- Worked in the Duncan Street Miracle Garden once per week, learning different gardening techniques, harvesting certain vegetables like tomatoes and watermelons, and a large amount of weeding
- Connected with over 20 community-managed open spaces; checking whether or not people used the sites anymore, taking pictures, and updating our database.
- Various smaller projects: editing the new strategic plan for BGS, renewing storm water fee credit applications for our sites, researching how current city plans overlap with our goals for forest preservation, setting up a new office phone!
Community Partner: Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition
Intern: Ami Mange
Site Supervisor: Harriet Smith

What is the Baltimore 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.

"The Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition (BHRC) is an organization that uses an approach consistent with harm reduction principles to combat issues such as sex work, yet predominantly focuses on drug use. Interning with BHRC is one of the richest learning experiences I have ever had. The organization is kept running with help from a dedicated group volunteers, and has only one staff member. As a result, I was able to closely observe the workings of a non-profit from a variety of aspects, such as finance and budgeting, grant writing, fundraising advocacy, education, and administrative tasks such as restructuring the Advisory Board. One of my biggest responsibilities was to coordinate and perform Naloxone trainings to reverse opioid overdose as part of the Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution (OEND) Program. I performed trainings for individuals, groups at various institutions and organizations, and at tabling events at farmers’ markets and outside establishments such as Red Emma’s Bookstore Coffeehouse. The tabling outside Red Emma’s allowed me to work in a location close to several methadone clinics, and therefore allowed me to communicate directly with people close to the issue. One incredible learning opportunity was working on a collaborative project with the BRIDGES Coalition to help establish safer drug consumption spaces in Baltimore. I was able to appreciate the challenge that comes with such a goal, and learned a lot in the process. The best part of the internship was the people I had the opportunity to work with, because it is these passionate, talented, and motivated individuals that drive change in the community." - Ami

- Performed overdose prevention trainings using intramuscular Naloxone Hydrochloride across Baltimore City, as part of the Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution (OEND) Program.
- Researched public health data on overdose epidemiology in Maryland, and looked up data on substance use treatment studies and safer drug consumption spaces, to assist with grant-writing, and drafting research summaries for press releases to influence legislature.
- Created marketing materials to spread awareness about the organization, the issue, events, etc. and helped with fundraising events and ideas.
- Coordinated Naloxone trainings with organizations and individuals across Baltimore city, set up an organized system to link trainers to upcoming trainings, and created a directory of community associations in all 14 districts to maximize impact over the city.
Community Partner: Baltimore SquashWise
Intern: Mariana Rincon Caicedo
Site Supervisor: Matt Skarzynski

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

"Squash and I have had a complicated relationship throughout my life. I played squash on and off throughout middle and high school but never long enough to become a serious player or stay fully committed to the sport. I always gravitated towards it when I had free time, but it never represented a significant part of my life. Until this summer. Working at SquashWise brought back all of the excitement and adrenaline that squash had once represented for me. Not only that, but it gave a whole new significance to the sport that I had never seen before. What for me used to be a mere hobby, something to pass the time, for the students at SquashWise it represents a lot more. It is an opportunity to hang out with friends, to challenge themselves, to learn new skills, to travel for competitions, to maintain healthy lifestyles, and to work towards goals. My internship has allowed me to see how important an opportunity like this can be for a student and I could understand this on various levels. While conducting research on the demographics of the neighborhoods where the students live I realized that there are not a lot of after school programs or recreation centers available for Baltimore youth and the need for these kinds of spaces is very significant in a vulnerable population like adolescents and young adults. A program like SquashWise creates an invaluable opportunity for their students to have a space for sport and exercise, academic lessons and homework tutoring, and unwavering support from a committed and caring staff. I realized that the work I was doing went beyond just playing squash or preparing a lesson, and every day that passed I realized the impact of everything that SquashWise does for its students. I feel incredibly honored to have had the opportunity to be a part of the organization on different levels, both in and outside the classroom, interacting with the students and also doing things "behind the scenes". I learned invaluable information about how nonprofits work, but also I was exposed to experiences and people I wouldn't have met otherwise. Squash used to be nothing more than a sport, an hour-long activity that I could do on the weekends but thanks to SquashWise I know that it can be so much more." - Mariana

- Prepared and led two lessons focusing on citizenship, government, and history.
- Planned and led a field trip to Fort McHenry, building on the things learned during the citizenship lessons.
- Co-led and supported daily academic lessons and counseling sessions.
- Conducted research on Baltimore neighborhoods and analyzed the statistics of the neighborhoods where the students live.
- Assisted with parent outreach, maintaining constant communication with the students' families and checking in when they were absent or late.
Community Partner: Boone Street Farm  
Intern: Rachel Krieger  
Site Supervisor: Rich Kolm

What is Boone Street Farm?
The mission of Boone Street Farm is to cultivate urban agriculture and improve resident health in East Baltimore Midway and Baltimore City. We grow fresh vegetables, herbs, and fruits for market and have programs that educate residents and youth about how to grow, eat, and nourish with neighborhood-grown food. Boone Street Farm strives to build the health of our urban environment by supporting our neighborhood to improve water quality and build soil health.

"I often tell people, this summer felt like cheating, because I’ve gotten to have so much fun at Boone Street Farm that it doesn’t even feel like work. When I say that, their follow up question is usually: “so are you like, actually… farming?” And the answer is yes, that has been a large part of my responsibilities this summer. Of course, I’ve also helped write a grant proposal to fund the farm’s after-school garden club, and conducted market research by visiting many of the farmers’ markets around Baltimore. But any garden task, you name it and by this point I’ve probably done it: from weeding to watering, to pruning and planting, hoeing and harvesting. While physical labor is a large (and surprisingly fun) part of the job, working at Boone Street requires interpersonal skills as well. Boone Street takes its mission as a community farm seriously, so being an urban farmer means being a representative of the farm. The staff make sure to explain what the farm is to any curious passersby, try to promote healthy eating and food access at our local market stand, and make sure that neighborhood kids who come there can feel comfortable hanging out while learning how to garden. Thanks to this community emphasis, working at Boone Street has given me a chance to feel like a part of the Midway neighborhood, which I otherwise would never get to experience as a Hopkins student. In addition to that connection, I’ve gotten so much out of this experience, from a better understanding of the nonprofit sector to a ton of free fruits and vegetables. My coworkers, who range from high school interns to my supervisors, have taught me about what it means to grow up and live in Baltimore. I’ve gotten to spend whole weeks outside in the sunshine learning about different types of plants and about the development initiatives taking place in the neighborhood. If you want an experience that will teach you all sorts of unexpected knowledge while making you feel connected to the city, the community, and the earth, I can think of no better way to do that than work at Boone Street Farm." -Rachel

- Help research and write a grant for the farm's garden club
- Work as a senior member of the farm crew and supervise younger crew members as necessary
- Perform market research on Baltimore farmers' markets
- Help plan fundraising events for the farm
Community Partner: By Peaceful Means
Intern: Lucas Duffy
Site Supervisor: Nawal Rajeh

What is By Peaceful Means?
By Peaceful Means’ mission is to interrupt physical and structural violence by empowering youth through peace education, advocacy, and employment.

- Held a two hour instruction period with 25 7-10 year old campers
- Led an “Engineering Studio” where campers were instructed in basic principles of design through tangible projects such as an egg-drop challenge
- Designed t-shirts that were distributed to campers and counselors
- Interacted with parents to help coordinate a free grocery bag pickup from Gather Baltimore

"Day one. I was not prepared. Then again, there was not much I could have done to prepare for the tornado that is Peace Camp gym time. The gym at the 29th Street Community Center is pretty small, but it feels a whole lot smaller with 50 rambunctious children of various shapes and sizes running around kicking, throwing, smacking or otherwise displacing their basketballs. What appeared to be a humble court for shooting some casual hoops became an absolute maelstrom. Swarms of hostile projectiles whizzed through the air, each threatening to clunk an unsuspecting child (or counselor) right in the dome. I remember watching in horror as an older camper launched a high-arcing half court shot that narrowly missed a small herd of toddlers. They just continued giggling and stomping around as if nothing had happened. As camp went on, it became easier to contain the chaos and miraculously no one was ever hurt during gym, but lessons from that first day really stuck. A day at camp is full of tasks, whether scheduled, like preparing lunch or randomly appearing, like sorting out a squabble between the pint-sized campers. I found myself moving from task to task, and gradually it became second-nature to prioritize different issues, solve problems as I saw them, and strategically coordinate with other counselors, all in an effort to construct a positive environment that instills peaceful practices in each of our campers. Each staff member at Peace Camp is exceptional at what they do, and I am extremely grateful to have been so warmly welcomed by each of them (thank you!!!). We make a great, fluid team, organically following the counselors’ mantra coined by camp founder Ralph Moore: “Be rigid in planning, and flexible in execution.” Even with such a great team, a day at Peace Camp often feels like a gym full of flying basketballs... Running this camp is physically and mentally exhausting in a way I have never experienced before, but that makes it all the more fulfilling. I have made so many wonderful memories at Peace Camp, and it feels great knowing that our campers have too." -Lucas
Community Partner: Center for Educational Outreach
Peer Mentor: Ally Rogers
Site Supervisor: Rebecca Palmisano

What is the Center for Educational Outreach
The Center for Educational Outreach seeks to engage JHU faculty and students to inspire and prepare K-12 students in STEM education and careers. The Barclay Hopkins STEM Partnership (BHSP) is a new CEO initiative that seeks to bring together Hopkins students and faculty, teachers and families from Barclay Elementary/Middle School, and community organizations throughout the Baltimore region to develop opportunities for students to learn and develop as STEM leaders.

"A knot formed in my stomach as I heard the footsteps in the hallway getting closer and closer. I nervously organized the glue sticks and markers on the table in front of me as I waited for the students to arrive. Loud talking and roaring laughter quickly replaced the distant footsteps, and I knew they were here. It was the first day of the Barclay Hopkins Summer STEM Program and it was my first time independently teaching a class of 20 middle schoolers – I was nervous. My nerves almost immediately disappeared, however, as my students entered the classroom, clearly excited and eager to learn.

My summer as an intern with the Center for Educational Outreach working, specifically, with the Barclay Hopkins STEM Partnership has been an unforgettable experience. I was tasked with creating an “Arts and Making” block for the Hopkins three-week summer STEM program at the Barclay School, where I taught art activities that incorporated STEM ideas. Initially facing a steep learning curve, as I am neither an engineer nor an artist, I immediately found comfort and support in the community I had entered – the staff at the Center for Educational Outreach, the staff at the Barclay School, and the students in my classroom.

In the Arts and Making block, as well as the program as a whole, we tried to encourage and foster each student’s curiosity and creative self-expression. I learned from the program’s staff – as well as my students – how to model these ideas and apply them not only to my work in the classroom, but to my life outside of the program as well. It is my hope that my students also learned new and unique ways to combine their interest in STEM with art and design in order to express their own unique stories and ideas." - Ally

- Construct and teach lesson plans for the Arts and Making block of the Barclay-Hopkins Summer STEM Program.
- Support the Site Supervisor in day-to-day operations of the program and assist in other classrooms when needed.
- Organize a final showcase of the students' work at the end of the program.
- Create a synthesizing "Facilitator's Guide" for the Arts and Making block.
What is Central Baltimore Partnership?
Central Baltimore Partnership is a coalition of neighborhood, private, public, and institutional interests that are implementing a comprehensive community development strategy in the Central Baltimore area.

"My experience at Central Baltimore Partnership (CBP) has been a crash course in community development and neighborhood planning. CBP is wrapping up a yearlong planning process that resulted in the Front and Center Plan, a plan that improves access to social and economic opportunity in Central Baltimore to ensure that all residents can remain in their communities and benefit from reinvestment. I worked closely with Julia Branco to write, edit, and format the Front and Center Plan. I found it gratifying to use the skills I developed in my English major to do community-oriented work.

As the summer progressed, my tasks shifted from plan writing to plan implementation. Some of the most rewarding days of my internship were spent holed up in a conference room with Ashley and Aaron, pouring over the Plan’s Implementation Matrix. Breaking down each of the Plan’s recommendations into a list of detailed steps was an invaluable learning experience. Not only was I exposed to the inner workings of neighborhood planning, but I also discovered my love for team-based work.

Beyond the Front and Center Plan, my tasks were varied and far-reaching: I partnered with the Baltimore Integration Partnership to update and expand a workforce resource directory of over 40 organizations for employers looking to hire locally. I coordinated a Sex Work Activity Task Force that convenes police, government officials, advocacy groups, community organizations and community members. I compiled resource lists of citywide youth and family services and workforce development programs.

Working with such an impressive and close-knit team these past eight weeks has sparked my interest in community development and urban planning. I am especially fascinated by affordable housing: how it’s created, how it’s maintained, and the policies surrounding it. I cannot thank CBP enough for hosting me as an intern and sparking my interest in this work. To the CBP staff, thank you so much for welcoming me into your organization and sharing the incredible work that you do." - Celine
**Community Partner:** Charm City Care Connection  
**Intern:** Yamini Patibandla  
**Site Supervisor:** Tulha Siddiqi

**What is Charm City Care Connection?**
We believe that connection creates community. We do this by building long term partnerships between volunteers and community residents, empowering both parties to learn from each other as they work to promote health and well-being within Baltimore’s fragmented healthcare system.

"My time at Charm City Care Connection was an eye-opening opportunity to understand the growing social injustices in our city, especially in access to healthcare, and the small, but powerful strides my group was making to address the problem. Before we launched our rebranding campaign, I thought Charm City Clinic was similar to the other clinics I worked at by directly providing medical services for community members. I saw this as the only way to improve health outcomes of our community. Within my first week however, this belief was thrown out the window as I was exposed to the group’s efforts to connect our clients to health resources in the city by focusing instead on the access component of healthcare. This summer my mission was to spread the word. Not only did we change our name but we added another clinic location. We needed to tell local community members about this, so I focused my time with community outreach events and rebranding efforts. At block parties, community health and resource fairs, I met community members who approached us with very specific requests. Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, many whom we met had health insurance, but some were struggling to resolve issues with bill payment, housing, mental health counseling and even SNAP enrollment. When we directed them to our clinic locations and I saw them the week after at clinic, I started to see our network grow and our efforts strengthen. With our rebranding plan, I had to dig up design skills from high school to use Adobe Illustrator at the DMC. Although I spent some time in my internship outside of the community, it was with a feeling of “all hands on deck.” Even though I learned so much about health care access, especially in East Baltimore, I also started to understand the key roles that made our nonprofit organization work. In these eight weeks, I’ve developed a newfound appreciation for all of the volunteers and staff members at Charm City Care Connection who’ve dedicated their time to our clients, and I’m very grateful that with CIIP I was able to learn and contribute in many small ways to further our group’s mission in extending health care for all." -Yamini

- Represented Charm City Care Connection at summer community outreach events with Community Relations Coordinator
- Assisted with CCC’s rebranding campaign, designing outreach materials including stickers, banners, door hangers, t-shirts, business cards, flyers and more
- Developed annual summer community celebration and health fair, “Celebrate Summer Healthy”, with the CIIP intern at 29th St. Community Center to continue supporting local families around the community center with health resources, back-to-school supplies, interactive activities
Community Partner: Chase Brexton - LGBT Health Resource Center  
Intern: Corine Peifer  
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.

"Looking back, this truly has been an incredible summer experience at the LGBT Health Resource Center at Chase Brexton. Through this placement and the CIIP program overall, I have grown both professionally and personally. Having the opportunity to have hands-on experience in health care administration, a field I look towards as a future career path, was an honor. All of my coworkers made it an enriching experience by pushing me outside my comfort zone with assorted projects, while exposing me to various angles as to what goes on every day in health care management. They created a supportive environment and welcomed my questions and thoughts. Because they were short on staff, I worked on projects, such as the SAGECAP monthly reports, that interns typically do not do. The LGBT Health Resource Center at Chase Brexton has assorted services, ranging from behavioral health counseling and support groups to community events and educational trainings, making every day a new adventure.

Additionally, I commonly worked with patients, listening and connecting them to resources they could benefit from. Whether it be sitting down one-on-one in a talking room or having them call the office asking about our transcare policies, I always wanted to help. I empathized with each patient’s story about the struggles they have faced with courage and strength. It pained me to listen to some parts, yet it was important for me to hear them. Many times, I had to open my internal wonder behind these accounts, embrace my vulnerability, and reflect on my own personal thoughts. It is because of these people that I will always remember that there are people and narratives behind every number and metric correlated to health care.

Thank you to everyone at CIIP and at the LGBT Health Resource Center at Chase Brexton for allowing this summer to positively exceed my expectations. Having the ability to learn more about my career path along with directly giving back to Baltimore has allowed me to become closer to the community, a bond I greatly cherish." -Corine
"People see glitz and glamor in politics, that’s no secret. Thanks to shows like House of Cards and The West Wing, people envision constant intrigue, drama, and rubbing shoulders with powerful decision makers and legislators. But what has made my time with District 1’s office so special is its down-to-earth, passionate people who aren’t afraid to push the envelope. Every day I’ve spent with “Team Cohen,” the staff has talked about our city of Baltimore with love, with concern, and with hope. In this way, I think that my experience in Zeke’s office has embodied the spirit of CIIP. Whether we’re responding to calls from constituents worried about sidewalk repairs, or we’re debating innovative policy solutions to crime and violence in Baltimore, I feel incredibly lucky to say that no one I work with forgets the humanity or history of those who live in this city. We’ve had countless conversations about how lead paint, development, racism, and the justice system has long marginalized people of color in Baltimore. I’ve come to understand how difficult it is to be a politician for a city that has so much to offer, but also so far to go. During my time here, I have been a jack of all trades. I’ve been a photographer, a researcher, a saleswoman, a public relations coordinator, a customer service rep, a testifier in court, and when I’m attending hearings and meetings, a civically engaged Baltimore resident. Because guess what? Sometimes politics isn’t sexy. Sometimes you have wear all the hats — that’s especially true in local government, when you’re right in the heart of a city and there’s an endless number of things to do. As someone who loves being constantly busy, I’ve loved every moment here at the District 1 office. I’ll miss the pizza parties, the jokes, the laughter, and maybe even the long commutes on the Circulator. It’s amazing that in just a short eight weeks, I can now put faces, names, people, and personalities behind those who run our city. I know that in our current political climate, so many people have felt disappointed with government. Yet each day I’ve had the privilege to work with these people in District 1 — whose empathy, passion, and sheer love for this city overflows our tiny little office in City Hall — I’ve felt that the future of Baltimore looks brighter and brighter."

-Kelsey

- Conducted policy research on the relationship between state and local government, and how Baltimore can adopt changes to its taxation legislation
- Maintained office media and communications by taking photos, filming/editing video footage, managing social media, drafting press releases, and making press calls to media outlets
- Fielded calls/complaints from the District’s constituents, and solved their problems as a liaison between government departments and the community
- Attended City Council meetings and hearings regarding local legislation, as well as events in the community
Community Partner: Code in the Schools
Intern: So-Yun Kim
Site Supervisor: Charlotte James

What is Code in the Schools?
We are committed to expanding access to quality computer science education programs in Baltimore City to ensure that all Baltimore residents are prepared to be active members of the 21st century economy. We achieve this through fun and innovative in-school, after-school, and summer programming for youth age 4-21, as well as professional development for educators throughout the region.

"I think it is reasonable to assume that I started Code in the Schools during one of the busiest periods of the year. As a non-profit focused on bringing computer science education to Baltimore City students, a significant portion of the organization’s mission is accomplished through out-of-school and summer enrichment programs. As an intern, this meant that I was given a significant amount of responsibility and trust that I was not necessarily expecting during my first week at the office. Charlotte, my supervisor, immediately entrusted me with organizing a significant portion of CodeWorks, a 5-week coding camp that pays 65 Baltimore City youth to learn computer science. I spent the majority of my time creating excel sheets, cross-checking names, and creating rosters. Although this may not sound riveting, I genuinely value the time and experience I had undertaking this work. This is not only because I oddly enjoy using excel for some reason, but also because I had the opportunity to see my work materialize when I met my students for the first time at CodeWorks.

During my typical day at CodeWorks, I would assist a game design course in the mornings and work on administrative tasks in the afternoon. Working with 65 students is not easy, even if they are the most well-behaved and polite group of students (which they are). To be completely truthful, there were a few disappointing moments. Like when I felt like I could not help a student through his circumstances, or when a hard-working student had to constantly deal with setbacks due to paperwork issues out of his control. But I am genuinely so grateful for the experience I had at CodeWorks. I want to thank Charlotte, Gretchen, and Diane for making this program even possible and the support that you offered me this summer. I also want to thank Dale and Eleanor for giving me insight on being a teacher in Baltimore city and spending so many afternoons with me. And lastly I want express how grateful I am to my students. Thank you so much for being so kind, for making me laugh, and giving me the opportunity to teach you and watch your curiosity grow." -So-Yun

• Programming and supervising CodeWorks, a 5-week intensive coding program and YouthWorks site
• Data collection and analysis on the progress, demographics, and interests of CodeWorks’ students
• Teaching assistant for a game design course utilizing Unity and C#
**Community Partner:** ERICA – Episcopal Refugee and Immigrant Center Alliance  
**Intern:** Shiaomeng Tse  
**Site Supervisor:** Betty Symington

**What is ERICA?**
ERICA honors and ministers to the dignity of our brothers and sisters fleeing oppression, persecution, and poverty in other countries. We pledge to provide immediate, practical, and material assistance to refugees, asylum seekers, and other immigrants, regardless of race, religion, or language; partner with other civic, community, and faith groups to provide direct services such as casework, educational workshops, and referrals for legal assistance, healthcare, and housing; empower the refugee community; connect volunteers and civic leaders with refugees and other immigrants; and provide small grants and zero interest loans for immigration-related legal fees to smooth the journey to stability in the US.

"Coming into ERICA, I was excited to experience intimate, one-on-one work with clients and what it would be like to work for such a small NGO (with a part-time executive director being the only employee). However, little did I know that I would experience and learn much more than what I initially thought. Working with Betty, my supervisor and executive director of ERICA, was an incredible experience. I was able to witness the empathy she had for every one of her clients, the frustration she experienced with the sluggishness and barriers that the system presented, and the passion she had for her work. She was truly inspiring and made me realize that every effort, no matter how small, counted.

Although I was able to assist Betty with some client work, my main goal for this summer was to create an employment workshop for residents of ERICA’s new housing program at Gilead House. Many of the future residents at Gilead House are asylees or asylum seekers who have not had any work experience in the United States. This employment workshop would introduce them to many aspects of employment in the U.S., the intricacies of the system, and how they can best navigate their way around with their statuses. Although it was interesting learning about the immigration system in the U.S., it was also frustrating at times. Many resources are made mainly for U.S. citizens and people who are on a path to citizenship, so it’s difficult to find a lot of detailed information for people who are refugees, asylees, asylum seekers, and of similar statuses.

During my time at ERICA, Betty was also able to connect me with another organization, The Intercultural Counseling Connection, which provides free mental health services to refugees, asylum seekers, and other forced migrants. I was able to help create a new mother-and-baby bonding and support group for mothers and babies who have gone through trauma.

Working with ERICA and The Connection has opened my eyes to the importance of small NGOs. Although larger NGOs have more leverage and funding, smaller NGOs are able to reach out directly into the community to connect people of similar statuses and backgrounds. The foundation that they provide for a new family of people from around the world is incredibly heart-warming and I feel very grateful that I was able to be a part of it this summer." - Shiaomeng
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).

"A paragraph will not do the value of this center or this CIIP experience any justice. Neither will the entirety of this booklet. So for the sake of irony, I’ll keep it short with a list. What follows are pieces of my experience here at Esperanza. Days spent at the front desk discussing matters of the utmost importance, such as the nuances between a Colombian and Venezuelan arepa. And even more crucial, who makes them better (psh, Venezuelans of course). Proposing an independent project to our staff and given the trust and the support to carry it out. Hearing my co-workers call me by my middle name, Daniela—a liberty usually only reserved for family members. Early Tuesday morning huddles with our 8 person team, planning how we can better serve our patients and better operate in the clinic. Tending after the plants that our nurse practitioner has infested the clinic with. The loyal 9AM line of people standing expectantly outside the center in the mornings, waiting for the doors they know will open after so many others have been closed. Interviewing a patient to write a story for a grant application. Watching, amused, as staff members snicker and circulate the blog I wrote about each of them. Us looking way too happy in this picture because it was a Friday and we were slightly delirious after a crammed day voting in the unofficial referendum to support the opposition in Venezuela. A patient recognizing me there, a staff member from another floor voting with me. Feeling proud to be Venezuelan and a recognized member of this community in Baltimore. Walking the halls after a day’s end, reflecting on a full experience after 8 weeks gone, and feeling home. Sometimes it can feel easy to deny or at least hush one’s background, especially as a minority. It may seem pressing to blend in. This is one of the dangers that faces our immigrant community: feeling excluded as the other, subjecting oneself to discrimination, accepting fear and anxiety, internalizing sentiments of inferiority. Esperanza Center combats this by embracing the differences that make us who we are. Here, we cultivate an environment where people can be proud of their storied heritage and can be cared for as the calloused and strong people they are. One of the questions I got asked most here was where I was from--an automatic conversation starter when you spot a person who looks and talks like you. It's a complicated question. I come from many places because many places have shaped me. I am shaped by the people I love, the tasks that challenge me, and the places I call home. As I finish this internship, I can say I’ve abundantly found all three, here at Esperanza Center." -Eillen

- Work at front desk: intaking patients, preparing patient files, discharging, referring people to other resources, making flyers
- TAP program: connecting eligible patients to receive specialty care at Johns Hopkins
- Assisting with grant applications by interviewing and writing a story on a patient
- Updating resources and uploading them online
- Helping around the clinic wherever needed
**Community Partner:** Eubie Blake National Jazz Institute and Cultural Center  
**Intern:** Blessing Ogunyemi  
**Site Supervisor:** Kennedy McDaniel

**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, performing, and literary arts.

"My experience at the Eubie Blake Cultural Center these past few weeks has been very rewarding and insightful. I came in knowing I would learn more about how an arts non-profit organization is run and so far that has been true, but I've also learned so much more. The Eubie Blake Cultural Center brings different cultural programming opportunities to the community in the form of music, dance, theatre, visual arts, and education. In the center, there's a strong sense of community where individuality and creativity is highly encouraged. Many programs are held at the center, and, like the gifted and talented music program I was involved with, they teach life lessons that extend past the music on the page or the painting on the wall. They teach the participants how to appreciate history and those who came before us. They also teach of the importance of actions and choices and the impact they can have on future careers and opportunities. The programs instill in the young ones a sense of responsibility and community, and provide them with guidance. As a great woman once said, or sang, "I believe that children are our future. Teach them well and let them lead the way. Show them all the beauty they possess inside." I think this is an unspoken motto at the center although it applies to everyone, young and old. We all have a role to play in influencing those around us. I've very glad I had the opportunity to do so with the center and I know I've also learned a lot from those at the center. I know more great ideas are being thought of at the center and I can't wait to see them come to life. It's been a great run at the center and although the internship is coming to an end, I know I have a place in the community I can always come back to." - Blessing

- Worked with instructors to coordinate and facilitate operation of gifted and talented music program and weekly cultural excursions  
- Led improvisation sessions with students in the music camp in order to improve improvisation skills and increase confidence when facing new challenges  
- Created documents to keep track of and manage financial information  
- Researched protest music used around the 1960s and 2010s to be used in an exhibit comparing the 1968 riots to the 2015 uprising as well as researching and reaching out to potential guest speakers
Community Partner: Franciscan Center  
Intern: Lauren Ralph  
Site Supervisor: Meg Ducey and Judy Dobson

What is The Franciscan Center?
The Franciscan Center offers a continuum of care, including emergency services, health services, counseling and technology training to help persons who are economically disadvantaged become as self-sufficient as possible and realize their self-worth and dignity.

"I could not be more grateful to have had the opportunity to work with the Franciscan Center this summer. The Center operates as a “one-stop shop” for families and individuals in crisis, providing everything from job training to emergency food bags to haircuts. Each day brought new challenges and opportunities. I worked primarily with the Department of Responsive Services, where we assisted clients with funds for evictions, Baltimore Gas and Electric bills, and performed client intakes. By far, my favorite part of working in this department was registering clients who were visiting the Center for the first time. I had the opportunity to meet so many wonderful people, understand their stories, and help guide them towards the resources that we have available.

When I wasn’t working with Responsive Services, I worked to make a list of affordable and quality housing in Baltimore City. After pouring over different internet sites for days, I finally created a resource list of around 20 housing complexes and 10 landlords with properties within our client’s budget. One of my favorite days of my internship had to be when a man brought his two children in to thank us for our guidance and explain how he had found housing in less than an hour using my resource list.

My synthesizing project included surveying clients in our dining area downstairs to understand how we could better meet their needs. It was incredibly interesting to hear everyone’s stories about the Center and how their life had been shaped by the work we do. I also received so many suggestions for improvement that never would have occurred to me. For example, one man explained to me that the brochures listing the services we provide are entirely useless to the many clients who are unable to read. Sitting down face-to-face with the people impacted by our work is incredibly important to understanding how well we actually meet people’s needs.

After spending a summer with the Franciscan Center, I feel that I am truly a member of the Baltimore community. I have learned far more from the individuals in the Center than they have learned from me. Their resilience, love, and faith have inspired me and pushed me to become a better version of myself." -Lauren

- Registered first-time clients and assisted clients in applying for birth certificates/Maryland state IDs and creating resumes/searching for employment
- Compiled a list of low-income housing options in Baltimore city
- Performed a survey of client's experiences and satisfaction with the Franciscan Center
Community Partner: FreeState Justice
Intern: Anthony Boutros
Site Supervisor: Mark Procopio

What is FreeState Justice?
FreeState Justice is a social justice and legal advocacy organization that works statewide to improve the lives of LGBTQ Marylanders and their families through legal services, policy advocacy, outreach, education, and coalition-building. Our work brings to the forefront the experiences of youth, communities of color, low-income individuals, and transgender and gender non-conforming people.

"Waking up at 8:00 a.m. to catch an 8:30 a.m. public bus just so I can walk four blocks in the smoldering temperatures of a Baltimore summer heat wave sounds like hell.

And it would be... especially for a morning-hating, alarm-snoozing, pillow-clutching, sweat-loathing person like me.

Yet, at the expense of sounding like a hopeless romantic, it became one of my favorite journeys because of the passionate, driven, hilarious, kind (and I can’t forget extremely competitive!) co-workers and friends on the other side.

The summer has become a collage of memories: Jen hurling her body from the conference room chair to the floor in a game of Head’s Up during the first annual FreeState Justice Game Night Extraveganza TM; Mark allowing me and the million jittering butterflies in my stomach to accompany him to an event with Mayor Pugh and Senator VanHollen; Laura explaining the nuances of Maryland law relating to gender and name changes for transgender people.

Yet the result of this summer is undeniable: I have a FreeState family." -Anthony

• Nonprofit management
• Grant writing
• Policy research
Community Partner: Fusion Partnerships
Intern: Nina Krauss
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.

"Despite growing up around nonprofit organizations, I knew very little about fiscal sponsorship before interning at Fusion Partnerships this summer. I understood the basic idea of an organization focusing on administrative tasks with the goal of helping other groups access resources, but I quickly learned that this process was far more impressive in action than it is on paper. I came to Fusion at a time when everything was a little more unorthodox than usual. They are renovating their office, so I was able to experience the chaos of their makeshift headquarters. Members of Fusion’s community partner groups who came by for meetings or to drop off forms would comment on temporary office situation, noting the tubs of file folders or the roaring floor fans that were trying their best to compensate for the lack of air conditioning.

I spent most of my summer boggled by the amount of work this condensed powerhouse of an organization accomplishes. When I visited some of the worksites of Fusion’s community partners I saw the benefits of all the phone calls and paperwork. Seeing grants turn into quilting circles, food programs, and cleanup efforts through the hard work of Baltimore communities finally gave me the context to truly appreciate the work the Fusion does. While it is undoubtedly important in the current system of nonprofits, administrative work is complicated, seldom glamorous, and seems to require a Google Drive that has more forms than the most ambitious shapeshifter. Out of sheer awe and curiosity, I asked one of Fusion’s managing partners, Strongheart Stone, how someone can stay in this line of work without becoming overwhelmed or disenchanted. Her answer, I think, is not only valuable advice, but an insight into Fusion as an organization: "You work with good people. The outside world can stress you out, but the people you work with shouldn’t." I can say for a fact that through my CIIP internship, I found that there are plenty of good people in Baltimore and some of the most genuine ones work at Fusion Partnerships." -Nina

• Created a tutorial for password management
• Wrote a work process for background checks
• Developed a survey form for site visit data collection
• Designed an infographic explaining core elements of the organization’s reach and functions
Community Partner: GLCCB – The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Center of Baltimore
Peer Mentor: Osiris Mancera
Site Supervisor: Mimi Demissew

What is GLCCB?
We provide support, education, outreach, and advocacy for SGL/LGBTQ and our allies through programs, services, and resources. We provide the community with an affirming space, platforms for free expression, and resources for healthier living.

"Glitter shimmering, shaved ice with so many colors you didn’t know even existed, and more laughter than I’d heard in a while. You’d think I were talking about a circus or a carnival even. But no, this was PRIDE! One of the biggest and greatest events on this very planet. I don’t just say that because I’m working for the organization that single-handedly organizes and executes the event (parade, block party, festival, and all!!!), but because it’s true. Where else are you only going to find love and happiness - true freedom of expression. I think THIS is what our constitution was talking about when it says “Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” And yes, the days were long and sunny, sweat definitely dripped from my forehead (maybe from the cotton candy colored wig I was sporting), and I had way more sugar than should be permitted, but it was so fantastic. I cannot imagine the grace and patience it took to create this masterpiece of beautiful bodies, singing bodies, bodies in speedos and tutus. It is truly remarkable.

This experience has been humbling because I have chosen to offer myself as a servant, ready to do anything and everything this office needs of me. And it has not gone unappreciated. The staff have become family; they were so sweet and kind to me, expressing how grateful they were for me to be there for the summer. Little do they know, I’m the one who should be grateful to be involved in such a wonderful organization with such eclectic and successful people. I’ve been able to create projects out of the blue and do them - really do them. No micromanaging. No passive-aggression from staff. They really do trust me and I am so grateful. Because of this freedom - this true freedom - I’m working on so many creative projects and developing my software skills. I’m making flyers, giveaway advertisements, a map project, a website mockup, and so much more. This summer is truly a summer for personal and professional development as well as for really learning more about myself and what I love." -Osiris

- Managing social media outreach through infographic and flyer design and dissemination
- Creating a platform of communications through web design and photoshop in creative image creation for general programming
- Assisting in administration overview and policy management as the office manager’s assistant
Community Partner: HEBCAC YO - Historic East Baltimore Community Action Coalition Youth Opportunities
Intern: Johnathan Cook
Site Supervisor: Sherry Kizielewicz

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.

"I don’t remember exactly what I was expecting my summer at YO Baltimore to look like seven weeks ago before I started, but I do know that it definitely was not what it ended up being. For one, I remember when I was telling people what I was going to be doing over the summer, a run-down of my impression of what my duties were to be usually ended with a casual “and I might help out in the classrooms a little bit too”. I did not foresee working with a small group of students right on the cusp of completing their GED tests (with only math in their way) virtually every time they came in the building. I definitely did not expect to be put in charge of a classroom all day a few times when a teacher could not come in, and most of all, I in no way thought that I would leave the summer considering the pursuit of a career in education.

YO has truly exposed me to our sub-par education system by putting names, faces, and stories of people I have met and grown relationships with to a system that fails so many kids like Baltimore City’s, and it has changed my view on a lot.

A lot of times, it’s easy to feel like you have to do something that is magnificent on paper coming from a top ten university, whether it’s doing cutting-edge research, pursuing a doctorate, interning on Wall Street, or moving out to a tech hub like Silicon Valley. It makes sense, too—for the most part, those are the fields where you make the most money, so of course our most intellectual citizens (based on society’s definition of intellectual) are going into them. It’s really a shame then that these people, even those with the other important personality traits and social and emotional skills and intelligence required to be a good teacher, for the most part, gloss over the idea of “just” being a teacher. The impact you can have on someone in that position in their life—both good and bad—is tremendous. Putting the most capable people of having that positive impact on kids and teenagers in that position is just as important as having our brightest minds trying to solve problems in medicine, law, and engineering (not to mention that if there are more good teachers, there will be more people to solve problems in all fields!).

My internship has indirectly showed me that the stigma of teaching not being as prestigious as some other fields is an obstacle that we need to move past as a society." -John

- Taught math and science to students preparing for GED tests in small groups and individually
- Managed summer food program day-to-day and administrative operations
- Designed and built database for neighboring organization, Dee’s Place, to collect client data and information
**Community Partner:** Impact Hub Baltimore  
**Intern:** Della Xu  
**Site Supervisor:** Pres Adams

**What is Impact Hub?**
Impact Hub Baltimore is a community of people working to improve the city, connected through coworking and inspired programming. We are committed to building an innovative and inclusive local economy that advances equity and addresses the city’s complex challenges.

“Where great ideas go to work”
Written on Impact Hub’s banner, these were the first words I saw walking in. It is true — Impact Hub has more than 160 members. Entrepreneurs, non-profits starters, community program leaders, and community members shuffle in each day, each carrying their own story, motivation, and purpose into this small ecosystem network of exchange and support. All of their work inside this community carries out into the greater community, whether it’s helping youth, supporting nonprofit ventures, or rebuilding the local manufacturing sector.

“Cities have the capability of providing something for everybody, only because, and only when, they are created by everybody.”
Written on one of our exhibitions, this quote guides my daily thoughts and decisions and represents the community that Impact Hub aims to create. I’ve created and analyzed our member profiles, mission statements, and member documents. I learned the nuances of running a non-profit co-working space — from technology platforms and software operations, to membership development and management, to how to make mission-driven decisions. The Hub provides something for all the members because it is created by everyone in it, who in turn bring their influences into the greater community.

“A few years ago I was given one year to live so I plan on enjoying my second chance”
Written on a member application on why he started his initiative. Doing work to address social issues and empower a community is not easy. Through my daily interactions with our members, I learned about many of their backstories of how they got here. One of the members described her budding career as a poet, yet the responsibilities of being a young single mom; another talked about his night shift working with psychiatric patients in prison to support his startup that brings free utilities to low-income residents.

Written on a sticky note in our office, this is the best advice I would give for any intern!” -Della

- Supported over 160 members and small businesses; compiled, analyzed, and reported monthly financial and membership data to the team and the global Impact Hub network.
- Helped create and implement a new business model, membership documents, technology platform, and guiding principles focused on improving accessibility, providing support services, and addressing racial and economic equity in Baltimore City.
- Researched and analyzed business incubator and accelerator models in a report for IHB’s Ecosystem Incubator program and for applying to the 2017 TEDCO incubation grant.
- Planned meetings, materials, and events for partner organizations such as United Workers, Red Bull, Neighborhood Design Center, and Strong City Baltimore.
Community Partner: The Intersection
Peer Mentor: Simon Jackson-Forsberg
Site Supervisor: Kendra Dunbar

What is the Intersection?
The Intersection transforms students from underserved areas into leaders with the skills to go to and through college, to engage in civic action, and to articulate and solve challenges facing themselves and their communities. We provide high school students with two to three years of leadership training, academic counseling, college preparatory programming, emotional and social support, and ongoing college and career advising.

"After working in West Baltimore at Jubilee Arts/Intersection of Change last summer, I crossed to the other side of the city to work at the Intersection: my second time around the block with CIIP. I was drawn to the Intersection due to its commitment to supporting the whole student outside of the classroom, as well as its emphasis on social justice and civic engagement programming that empowers Baltimore youth as agents of change. It is a place where high school sophomores and city councilmen convene to strategize on problems affecting youth in the city; where fist-clenching censures of the legacies of capitalism and systemic racism in America are not out of place; and, at long last, where my obsessions about American history might actually prove practically useful.

Needless to say, I felt immediately at home at the organization in a way I never have as an intern before. As the staff sat down for a community organizing training from BUILD on day one, it was evident to me that the Intersection invests in all their staff, students, and interns to cultivate better leaders and listeners. “You’ve got two ears and only one mouth – don’t forget it.” These trainings cemented for me the importance of listening and vulnerability in engaging communities for social change and helped me to evolve some of my own attitudes towards doing this kind of work. In a similar vein, the Intersection adheres to a collaborative rather than bureaucratic organizational structure, both internally and in partnering with other community organizations in the Southeast Baltimore youth collaborative. Yes, my ‘boss’ drives the bus, but she makes herself available and open in a manner that will exemplify great leadership to me going forward.

I stepped into the summer hoping to resolve my indecision about whether or not to pursue teaching after graduating next spring. The answer to that question is still at large, but that isn’t to say I haven't gained new insight into passions and interests. I’ve had the opportunity to speak with some incredible educators this summer, and I’ve gleaned that having an impact on kids’ education doesn’t always have to mean working in the classroom. I’m excited for what the future holds, and I know that I’ll always looks back fondly on the kind and supportive folks I met this summer." -Simon

- Strategized with the Intersection and Banner Neighborhoods re: YouthWorks site plans
- Compiled educational resources around the theme of Pan-Africanism
- Researched colleges in Maryland and the Northeast to expand a college-readiness resource bank
- Assisted with the grant writing process
Community Partner: Invested Impact
Intern: Simone Robbenolt
Site Supervisor: Lindsey Henley

What is Invested Impact?
Invested Impact is a high-growth, nonprofit social enterprise that advances social change and economic opportunity by; convening and mobilizing corporate partners, donors, and impact investors to advance racial equity, economic inclusion, and social entrepreneurship; incubating equitable approaches to corporate social responsibility, impact investing, and philanthropy; and directly resourcing leaders and social entrepreneurs of color.

"I have taken multiple courses during my time at Hopkins that highlight all the blight that is present in our city. I have researched extensively the poverty rates, homelessness, and lead levels present in some of the most disenfranchised neighborhoods located in Baltimore. Even though I was living in this city and learning so much I never felt fully immersed until this summer. Through my work at Invested Impact and interacting with other members of the Impact Hub, I have finally felt like I was not only learning about inequality in our city but actively trying to create a solution to it.

My main task each week was to find current articles that discuss the effects of impact investing, and either expand on the topics discussed or respond in an organizational voice. Through reading various research studies on the beneficial effects of impact investing I have slowly found myself becoming a huge advocate for the field.

One of my last articles was a “Myth Busting Tool Guide” in which I wrote a variety of snarky comments backed up by evidence to respond to skeptics when they claim that you can not simultaneously create a positive social impact and financial return by investing in women and minority entrepreneurs.

I have loved working and getting to know all of my coworkers at Invested Impact. It has been amazing to meet people that are so passionate about what they are promoting. It is not uncommon for me to hear rants coming from their office on how absolutely ridiculous it is that not more people are on board with the concept of impact investing. Working with an organization that is just starting to get on its feet was also great because I felt that they deeply valued my input and I never really felt like “just an intern”.

I have also grown this summer to be a more passionate and confident writer. My experience at Invested Impact has definitely made me excited to go into some form of social justice advocacy after I finish my studies at Hopkins." -Simone

- Wrote weekly blog posts on various topics to promote impact investing.
- Collected reading content related to impact investing for weekly communications meetings.
- Researched and suggested most effective CRM database for organization to implement.
- Created profiles of subscribers to the monthly newsletter.
"Pain, chronic diseases, and stress. These are some of the things that affect many of our patients daily. In any other medical office, these patients would be given a slew of medications and referrals to every physician out there. Through the Shepherd’s Clinic and Joy Wellness Center, we are able to tend to not just their biological needs, but also their psychological, spiritual, physical, and emotional needs. The providers treat holistically and collaboratively, with the behavioral health therapist to the physician to the diabetes nurse educator working together to treat an individual patient. At the Joy Wellness Center, I have seen patients who would be taking a bottle of ibuprofen a week, just doing a few stretches a day. I have observed patients walk in stressed and angry, but walk out smiling, ready to take on the world after a private appointment. I have been able to observe many patients win the fight against diabetes. I have also been able to cook a healthy meal for patients and change their perceptions about healthy eating.

The wonderful part about the center is not just the appointments or therapies, but the loving community that is created. As a part of the Life Balance Weight Management program, patients are put in a group of around 20 people, stuck together for the full 16-week program. They look forward to the program every week. When one patient told everyone she wasn’t going to eat sugar, the entire room bursts into applause in support. Another patient’s HbA1c (a measure of diabetes) became low enough so she was not considered pre-diabetic anymore. The other patients exclaimed with sincere happiness for her success, and asked about her secrets to get some tips to help their own diabetes. The volunteers, staff, patients, and community members who attend the classes truly support each other in their health goals and other aspects of their lives. Being a part of such a welcoming and supportive community is what allows the clinic to actually impact community health in Baltimore. I am grateful to have been part of this community for the past couple months, while making my own mark on the Wellness Center. Overall, I have learned the role integrative medicine can play in a healthcare setting, and I hope to bring this to my own career in the future." -Jasmine

**Community Partner:** Joy Wellness Center  
**Intern:** Jasmine Malhi  
**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.

- Tended the garden via daily weeding, watering, and planting  
- Helped with the holistic health classes by preparing materials such as lesson plans and recipes  
- Performed administrative duties including patient intake, wellness orientations for interested patients, referral processing, and recruitment for classes  
- Compiled and designed a recipe book to distribute to the community to promote nutrition and healthy eating
**Community Partner:** Jubilee Arts  
**Intern:** Jimmy Li  
**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.

"How and why do you communicate with people? My internship at Jubilee Arts has given me a wide range of experiences that deal with this very question.

Jubilee Arts runs a summer program called Art @ Work, which hires youth to work with lead artists to paint community designed murals. It has an explicit goal of exposing youth to employment opportunities in the arts, empowering youth to improve their community organizing and job skills, and creating engagement between artists, youth, and the community. It's a huge mission, and it's an ideal that deals fundamentally with the question of communication.

First of all, a community is large. How do you organize an entire neighborhood to get their input on a mural and to get everyone excited about the project? We did it through street interviews, community presentations, and an ending community celebration, and it was an incredible learning experience to see just how varied people's viewpoints on their community were. We got responses ranging from people who absolutely hated the crime and the drugs in the community, to people who saw opportunities for the community to grow and to brighten.

Second of all, how do you communicate with difficult people? We had everything from community elders heckling us to youth who didn't want to spend any time working. It's a difficult task, but what I've found so far is that it takes a willingness to reach out again and again, through different methods. It's not something that can happen in an instant.

Looking even more broadly, how you communicate comes in more ways than just speaking to another person. As I worked on the handbook trying to codify everything that Art @ Work is, I struggled with the problem of communicating a vision, an ideal. How do you communicate to someone else your vision for what a program needs? How does a potential property owner or funder change the way you communicate that vision to others? Communication is incredibly difficult, and something that I've learned I have to consider time and time again. This internship has been an incredibly valuable in-depth study on the process of working with people." - Jimmy

- Created a handbook of operations codifying Art @ Work's program operations, mission, vision, and values  
- Assisted lead artist and artist intern in mural design, mural painting, and youth leadership  
- Created a website for Jubilee Arts' sister organization Strength 2 Love II
Community Partner: Liberty Elementary School & Rec and Tech Center
Intern: Samantha Igo
Site Supervisors: Joseph Manko and Kim Trueheart

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.

"Trying to distill this job into just a few bullet points honestly feels underwhelming. While the tasks I listed are in fact a large part of my work day, they really can't do justice to the experience of working in Liberty every day. To understand, you'd have to visit. Walking past the royal blue front doors, you'd probably see the principal, Mr. Manko, greeting some of the four hundred and fifty students by name as they excitedly go from breakfast to their classrooms, none of which have any walls. Wandering around during the day, the sound of first grade teachers reading while their students sit criss-cross-apple-sauce will mingle with the sounds of fourth graders racing to answer multiplication problems. Their voices and laughter will float over the book cases used to separate the rooms, but they don't disrupt each other. It's a vibrant, energetic environment, with beautiful student-made art hanging on the walls and from the ceiling tiles and on the windows.

Liberty is far and away an anomaly when considering urban public schools--let alone public schools in Baltimore City. Its success pushes back against a system that continues to cut funding and resources, and ultimately demonstrates that it doesn't value a quality education for all. Being at Liberty for eight weeks opened up for me what it takes to try and function in a broken system, and the amount of backbreaking work, and love, that goes into nonetheless providing one of the best educations in the city.

What I didn't put in the task list was becoming part of a family of passionate, selfless parents, teachers, faculty, and community members who will never do something without considering the question: "How does this benefit our children?" This school system embodies what it means to have a wrap-around education: one that benefits the entire student in the classroom, at home, and everything in between.

But more than anything, I would say working here--with all its eye-opening, chaotic, hilarious, difficult moments--should be necessary for all our mayors and Senators and Representatives and our Presidents. Education cannot be abstract when you hug the children sitting in classrooms with moldy ceiling tiles above their heads, or when you're forced to work through lunch everyday, or when you watch a fifth grader graduate knowing there isn't a single strong middle school for them in the entire city to keep them on track for college.

This internship did give me a lot of those typical work skills we tout on resumes and in job interviews, but I know the most valuable thing I gained has absolutely nothing to do with that. Instead, it quipped me with a passion I can feel deep in my belly for making sure all children are given the basic human right of an education that can give them a fair chance at excelling in life." -Sam
"My previous summer at the Patterson Park site of the Living Classrooms Foundation was scarred by a bloody fight between two eighth grade girls: Tyshae and Keniesha. As I walked in the Patterson Park Community Center building, I saw a crowd of students with no adults in sight. I rushed to the center of the crowd as an onlooker, wondering about the whereabouts of Mr. Gibson and Ms. Devon. It was Tyshae and Keniesha; They were yelling in each other’s face, impatiently waiting for the other to make a move. Then my back was in between them. With my hands outstretched. Before I could yell, a blow circulated from behind me into the face of the girl in front of me. Blood. Ms. Devon finally came with first-aid. Their parents followed, with insults against my way of dealing with kids. Today, I recorded the progress of the choreography of my dance club. Unfortunately, most of the eight girls didn’t attend practice because of the water slip n’ slide activity. They wanted to have fun. But two girls came; Tyshae and Keniesha. They practiced the choreography to the song Magnolia by the rapper Playboi Carti. They made-up the choreography themselves. Today, they perfected it. I clicked the red square on my iPhone to end the recording. I didn’t know how that moment came to be, but I felt so accomplished. I guess I was proactive this time." -Chi
Community Partner: Made In Baltimore Program – Baltimore Office of Sustainability  
Intern: Clarissa Chen  
Site Supervisor: Andy Cook

What is the Made In Baltimore Program?
Made in Baltimore aims to spur re-investment in Baltimore City by growing the market for locally-produced goods. We do this by supporting makers and manufacturers through our local-brand certification program, promotion and marketing events, and business development services.

"I’ve always known Baltimore to be unique in the immense love and pride that people have for the city, and this summer I was able to experience that in a seemingly materialistic but truly beautiful way. Made in Baltimore, in a certain sense, is all about celebrating the successes of people around the city: the creatives that make functional art in their home studios, the workers that spend hours in a day putting on bottle caps, and the business owners that take pride in manufacturing within the city. Of course, these people are not all inclusive of all community members doing uplifting, inspiring work in the city, but these were the people I had perhaps paid the least amount of attention to prior to this internship."

During my first meeting with Andy, the program manager for Made in Baltimore, he talked about the variety of projects that were going on -- a neighborhood with potential industrial redevelopment that planners were trying to save from gentrification, a nationwide urban manufacturing survey, a workforce development program based in sewing, a local branding initiative, pop-up shops and events -- essentially, a long list of things I couldn’t imagine juggling on my own. As a result, this summer I ended up helping out with a variety of different things and met dozens of people, all of whom resonated with a feeling of pride in Baltimore. This is perhaps the most valuable experience I’ve gained this summer: hearing the voices of people who are excited about what the future of Baltimore looks like and knowing that I can support them in some ways.

Made in Baltimore is working in a variety of different ways to support the makers and light manufacturers in the city, whether that be with something as simple as putting a collective logo on local made products, creating partnerships, or working on policy to ensure the economic sustainability of the sector in the city. As my internship comes to a close, I will continue to think about something I heard from a man who runs his business as a workforce development program for youth (and serves some killer sorbet): “Manufacturing is what makes this city great.” - Clarissa

- Conducted survey of sewing workforce training programs for research informing development of a collaborative industrial sewing training program between Made in Baltimore, SewLab USA and Open Works
- Assisted with planning of launch event with 300+ attendees by working with caterers, community resources, and 30 makers to create shared display of Baltimore City made and manufactured goods as a centerpiece
- Aided with certification of 20 makers and manufacturers in Baltimore City to become member businesses of a local branding initiative
"Being a student at Johns Hopkins University, I am an insider to so many communities. Not only the students at Hopkins, however also the alumni, the staff, and many other extended groups. However, there is one group of which I have blatantly known I was an outsider. The Baltimore community, while always surrounding me, has felt beyond my reach. I have tried to adventure into the city, go to the “local” spots, and become a member, however my presence as the “Hopkins’ tourist” has always been identifiable from miles away. Although I was not a part of the community, I have always felt a tremendous debt to Baltimore. A debt that could not be repaid with a few hours a week tutoring, or a single day of service every year. However, working at Martha’s Place, was the opportunity I had been searching for. Although eight weeks felt too short, working with and learning from citizens of Baltimore who were actively fighting to strengthen and support the city taught me so much.

These past weeks, I have not only worked in an office, however, I have also learned how to feel like a member of Baltimore. For the first time, I truly know and have connected with members of the community who aren't related to Hopkins. I still feel indebted to Baltimore City, however now I also feel indebted to these individuals. I am so grateful for their willingness to accept me, despite my short stay. I am touched by their knowledge of this city, and their interest in teaching me. At the beginning of my internship, I had no idea how sad I would be to leave. No idea how desperate I am to ensure that this isn't the last time I see these heroes.

Starting the fall semester, I'm hopeful and committed that I can now merge these two communities. I can be a Hopkins tourist, but also a citizen of Baltimore. Although I've been indebted to Baltimore, I now also feel invested. I am dedicated to continuing to learn about this incredible city, and to be an active member of not only Johns Hopkins, but now also Baltimore."  

-Corina
Community Partner: MERIT (Medical Education Resources Initiative for Teens)  
Intern: Eileen Yu  
Site Supervisors: Erika Sulecki

What is MERIT?  
MERIT aims to eliminate health disparities by transforming underrepresented high school students into health care leaders. To accomplish these goals, MERIT ultimately provides its scholars with seven years of academic, professional, and social support.

"It was crazy to work at MERIT and see examples of the things we had learned about concerning education in Baltimore City during the CIIP orientation and reflection sessions. Over the past eight weeks, I assisted the MERIT staff in preparing for and executing a five-week intensive summer internship for high school students in the city. All the students, like myself, are interested in the medical field. They had the chance to shadow over twenty different departments at the Johns Hopkins, Bayview, and University of Maryland hospitals and concurrently participated in daily discussions, debates, reflections, and hours upon hours of homework.

I am the third CIIP intern at MERIT and knew it was going to be a special experience when two of my coworkers were the other two previous CIIPers who had been placed there! One of the things I love about MERIT is that they approach their curriculum with a strong public health perspective. As the students are learning about gas exchange in the lungs or the symptoms of myocardial infarction, they are also required to research and put together a project on health disparities. They are taught to be critical of their surroundings as they shadow—many of them noting in their evaluations or discussions that there is a clear dearth of healthcare providers who are minorities among the people they have shadowed, despite there being strong evidence published that shows this is to the detriment of many communities.

The students seem to face grim odds and they are fully aware of that. Over the summer, I have been able to share my experiences at college with them and they could not even imagine the amount of work needed to get through college and go to medical school. Most of them never having even had homework before, started the summer with F’s on their daily homework and weekly quizzes. I remember fearing that they would be discouraged and might quit. Their response was shocking. By the end of the program, every single student’s grades increased dramatically. Students who had never had homework before were now spending 5-7 hours each night on their assignments. Many of my students stay up until 4 a.m. or later writing their homework. It is this kind of motivation, despite so many disadvantages stacked against them, that has made working with these students incredibly motivating and honestly unforgettable. I am so excited to continue working with MERIT next semester and beyond!" -Eileen

- Assisting instructor in the classroom with discussions, activities, homework, quizzes, and classwork  
- Creating homework answer keys and grading assignments  
- Providing support for students as they shadow doctors and think about career-choice and their futures
Community Partner: Monument Quilt
Intern: Isadora Schaller
Site Supervisors: Shanti Flagg

What is Monument Quilt?
The Monument Quilt is a crowd-sourced collection of thousands of stories from survivors of rape and abuse. By stitching our stories together, we are creating and demanding public space to heal.

"Red. Red is the color of just about everything in the Monument Quilt studio. The color of the logo, banners hanging from the walls, lavender stress bags, and of course, the quilts. There are hundreds of quilts surrounding the studio, overflowing from boxes, and stacked on tables. Each of these quilts tells a story of someone’s journey, their pain, and their survival. FORCE and the Monument Quilt work to provide a public healing space for survivors of sexual and domestic violence, and challenge the dominant culture of rape in our society. Survivors, their loved ones, and supporters submit quilt squares that detail their narrative of heartbreak, humiliation, suffering, or healing. So often in our society, survivors are shamed into silence, their stories hidden and banished to private settings. Monument Quilt provides a space where survivors can share their emotions, free from judgment and persecution. Today, the conversation about sexual assault has significantly grown and expanded across the world. I am privileged to have a role in the movement to create a new culture, one where survivors are publicly supported and consent is imperative. Taking a step back to admire the progress that we as a society have made gives me hope and the drive keep working towards a brighter future. Working at Monument Quilt has been a truly incredible experience which has expanded my ability to understand the intersectional forces impacting rape culture in the United States, and the multi-faceted experience of survivors. I am so grateful for the lessons I have learned this summer, and look forward to continuing this work in my own life." - Isadora

- Cataloged new quilt submissions, adding to the database and creating quilt blocks.
- Used basic sewing techniques to create quilts, in addition to quilting my own square reflecting my story.
- Managed Force’s social media, researching and formatting weekly posts highlighting the Monument Quilt and resources for self-care.
- Assisted with outreach for Force’s Hike for Healing event, contacting universities across the county to arrange events on campuses.
- Created scripts for Hike for Healing phone calls and promotional videos.
Community Partner: Office of the Public Defender - Juvenile Division
Peer Mentor: Jessa Wais
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.

"I was excited to go to work every single day.

At the Public Defender’s Office, it is so absurdly easy to remember why you do what you do. And why you work so incredibly hard to do it well.

Whether that reason is staring at you at 9 am before court starts, or calling you from detention to ask about their case, our kids provide constant motivation unparalleled to any other work environment I can think of.

Every day this summer I was able to listen to kids. When Mark explained our role, I got to see their faces, often smiling, as he told them, “You’re the boss!” Every client, case, and day was different.

To be fair, there were a lot of tough cases. In fact, when you believe no kid should be serving time behind bars, every case is tough in some way. But the support system throughout the office, from the other public defenders, to the social workers, to the legal assistants, was stronger than I could have imagined."
-Jessa

- Interviewed clients
- Assisted with case theory development
- Transcribed interviews and provided detailed descriptions of video evidence, including body camera footage
- Researched viable community resources for specific clients
- Presented Know Your Rights Trainings to youth
Community Partner: Orita's Cross Freedom School & Black Church Food Security Network
Intern: Awoenam Mauna-Woanya
Site Supervisor: Reverend Dr. Heber Brown III

What is Orita's Cross Freedom School?
Our mission at Orita's Cross is to raise the next generation of change makers. We aim to pour into our youth so that they grow into adults who are self-assured and knowledgeable about how the world works, as well as equipped to navigate it.

"This summer, I had the pleasure of interning at the Black Church Food Security Network and helping out at the Orita's Cross Freedom School. My time with the food security network gave me a real look at all the behind-the-scenes work in a nonprofit organization. This education occurred primarily through spending time with my supervisor, Rev. Brown. I spent the first couple weeks just following him around to all his meetings all around Baltimore on behalf of the network. Through this, one important lesson I learned was the value of reputation. In the working world (especially the non-profit sector), reputation means everything. Those who understand this are able to make great progress in advancing their causes. Rev. Brown and other members of the BCFSN relied heavily on reputation when advocating for the network and it works. This lead to plenty of doors opening for the network and I witnessed them.

As summer progressed, I followed Rev. Brown less and began acting as a core team member of the network. I handled the social media aspect by creating Facebook posts that informed people about upcoming events, recapped past events, and improve their familiarity with our cause and why its relevant. Each week, I prepared an e-newsletter that goes out to subscribers and it details the workings of the network and promotes events that our subscribers would be interested in. I began a mini-project where I recorded garden coordinators of member congregations talking about why they are a part of the network and why they feel its important. I did this for two reasons: to advance the narrative of each church in the network and for myself to understand why this work was necessary.

In my spare time, I worked with the Orita's Cross Freedom School. While, I was more involved early on in the summer, I still appreciated the time I spent with the students. Freedom schools were originally alternative schools for African-American students with the goal of attaining equality in America. Orita's Cross works to further educate students about their African heritage and culture. What I saw was incredible. The students at freedom school are well aware of their place in the world.

I realized that working for the network and freedom school has not felt like an internship at all. The people involved with these organizations treated me as an equal and gave me a fair share of meaningful responsibility and I think that is one of the key reasons I have truly enjoyed this internship and I cannot wait to see how else I can be involved with the network and freedom school beyond the summer. I am beyond grateful for my placement through CIIP." -Awoe

• Managed social media posts and wrote weekly e-newsletter
• Created, edited, and compiled videos about member congregations in the network
• Attended weekly meetings and occasional conferences
• Assisted with students at Freedom School
**Community Partner:** Ruth M. Kirk Recreation Center  
**Intern:** Paulina Parsons  
**Site Supervisor:** Arthur “Squeaky” Kirk and Carlose Debose Sr.  

**What is the Martin Luther King Jr. Recreation Center?**  
The Ruth M. Kirk Rec Center was opened with the goal of giving the kids in the area a safe place to learn and play but also provide basic needs such as food, coats, toys, and hygiene products. We also help those who have lost track of their educational goals to get back on track with our GED program.

"Thinking back on my summer at the Ruth M. Kirk Recreation and Learning Center I think of dedication, love, and a drive to make the center and the community thrive. My bosses Squeaky and Mr. Carlos have an unending passion to help the kids who come to the center each day be the absolute best they can be. From my end, teaching the kids each day was absolutely wonderful and has completely reshaped my life and my career goals. We have worked on math and reading everyday at the center and I have seen each of the kids grow exceptionally. From the 4-year-olds who at the beginning of the summer could not hold a pencil and are now spelling out letters of the alphabet, to the 6th graders who can now complete math problems with variables involved, watching them grow has been such a pleasure. Being able to work with them and motivate them to take their learning habits in the rec to the classroom in the fall has been amazing.  

This summer has also had its challenges and I have tested my patience to the maximum but each day I've learned how to be a better teacher and I've learned how to embrace my new community. I cannot put into words how sad I am that I cannot be at the center each day anymore, but I hope to keep coming back on a regular basis to keep on being a consistent member of the community. The kids and the community give me hope every day.

Furthermore, I have learned the struggles of fundraising at the grassroots level and the patience and persistence that it takes to find donors and volunteers. Luckily, I have also seen the response from people to lift the community up. This summer has completely opened my eyes and my heart and it has inspired me to commit my life to public service and social change. I have been so privileged to have the experience to work with Squeaky and Mr. Carlos this summer, they have taught me so much and have brought me into the rec family along with the rest of the children."  

-Paulina

- Created lesson plans each day for the children to ensure their continued development.  
- Designed a website for the center to boost recognition and revitalize fundraising campaign.  
- Engage and educate 25 youth on a day to day basis to prepare them for the school year.  
- Organize volunteers that come to teach at the recreation center.
Community Partner: Shepherd's Clinic
Intern: Anusha Gollapalli
Site Supervisor: Karen Carter

What is Shepherd’s Clinic?
Shepherd’s Clinic and Joy Wellness Center provides quality integrative health care to those who are medically uninsured, helping people who are unable to afford commercial health insurance and who do not qualify for government assistance.

"Working at Shepherd’s Clinic over the summer has been an absolute dream! It’s very difficult to express just how monumental this experience has been for me. Before I started my internship, I stressed that the most important aspect for me was to make meaningful connections with staff and patients. During the first week, I could not believe how welcoming and friendly the clinic felt – I had never quite experienced anything like that before. Over time, I realized that Shepherd’s Clinic attracts people who are warm, kind, and genuine. They care about each and every person who walks through the clinic doors, whether it be a patient, a doctor, a new staff member, or maybe the next summer intern. The friendships and relationships I’ve built over my eight weeks here have truly made this experience so incredibly fulfilling for me, and I cannot stress how grateful I am to the clinic for being such an incredible place to work. The clinic provides healthcare by serving those who fall between the gap of being ineligible for government assistance, but also unable to afford commercial insurance. I learned throughout my time here just how wide that gap can be, and how important the work is that the clinic does. When a patient meets with a doctor at the clinic, they can be referred to surrounding hospitals in order to receive specialty care, at no cost to the patient. I handled referrals to surrounding medical facilities and helped facilitate these appointments, by making sure that patients had correct paperwork and would be able to make their appointments on time. It drew to attention the gaps in the healthcare system, and I learned a lot about how difficult the process can be for patients who don’t have the means or the ability to go through this process. The clinic serves patients that fall the range of nine zip-codes. If we have that many uninsured patients within these nine zip-codes in Baltimore, imagine how many people across the country are also uninsured, but don’t have access to places like Shepherd’s and aren’t able to receive medical care. This summer has helped me become more aware of these questions, and gave me experiences and stories that I will always be able to draw upon as I embark on my career. As someone who is preparing to enter the medical field one day, I am so grateful I am able to be a part of this supporting and loving community where I can ask these questions and get answers. Shepherd’s Clinic is so important, and I can only hope that in the future I will be a part of a healthcare facility as remarkable as this one. I am inspired, energized, and ready." - Anusha

- Served in the front office in order to help manage patient intake and assist with clinical operations
- Handled patient referrals to surrounding medical centers
- Screened new patients, scheduled appointments, connected patients with resources
- Facilitated communication between staff, patients, and medical providers
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.

"I have learned a lot during my time at STAR TRACK. My favorite thing about working with STAR TRACK is there is so much to learn while serving the community but also from other staff. At our midpoint speaker event this year, Dr. Leaf asked the room how many placements were black run organizations. I immediately expected the entire room to raise their hands because I wouldn’t see why Abby wouldn’t support black run community partners in Baltimore. After only five or so interns raised their hands, I was extremely surprised. The leadership in the non-profit community in Baltimore is still predominantly white considering access to resources and information in the city. I have been extremely lucky to work with an organization that is not only with predominantly black individuals, but they are also mainly LGBTQ folks. To be with an organization that is staffed by the people they serve is such a novel concept even though theoretically it is what everyone supports. I have had many moments in which I have been aware of my own privilege and mindful of the space I take up within Star Track. I have spent so much of the summer learning about the amazing work of Star Track and about the community that it serves that I don’t see work with LGBTQ as a lens to my work but as a natural part of work in public health. Sometimes, while working in a community you are not necessarily a part of, it may be hard to be mindful of space and sometimes you can be too mindful of space. I think I fell into the latter but while working with my supervisor, I have learned to be more mindful of it. Star Track and my supervisor, Gabrielle, have played an amazing role in my own understanding of Baltimore City and in my own role as an intern. Since Star Track does a huge variety of work inside and outside the clinic, I have also provided in a great variety of tasks. Whether it be health communication, health education, non-medical case management services, intake within the clinic and so much more, I have learned a lot in everything I did!" - Navya

- Assist with programming, intake and other activities within the clinic, including, organizing Sitcom Wednesdays.
- Help create promotional materials both in health education and on social media through the Instagram account.
- Work with my supervisor to understand the needs of the community and implement/ carry out various events and programs to help address needs.
Community Partner: Station North Arts & Entertainment, Inc.
Intern: Chris Frick
Site Supervisors: Amelia Rambissoon

What is Station North Arts and Entertainment?
Station North Arts & Entertainment, Inc. employs an arts-based revitalization and placemaking strategy by managing quality public arts projects, providing thought-provoking programming, and forging strong supportive relationships with local artists, designers, businesses, and institutions to guide development in the Station North Arts & Entertainment District.

"My time at Station North Arts & Entertainment this summer has been fulfilling in a multitude of ways. Every day as I sat at my desk in the Motor House overlooking North Avenue and the Howard Street bridge, I thought about how the many small mistakes and lessons from this internship have instilled in me a powerful view of the world of nonprofits in the arts. My CIIP internship has been primarily centered around the Station North Mini Golf project. The project has been in the works since the fall of 2015, and we launched at Artscape 2017. Four artists, four middle and high school classes, and several nonprofits and volunteers came together to make the project a success. My site supervisor is currently the only full-time employee at Station North, and I was therefore responsible for a wide variety of tasks necessary to move through the final stages of the project. I helped coordinate meetings and solve logistical problems. I worked with the graphic designer and the printing company to make sure all the print materials were delivered on time, and I reached out to local businesses and stakeholders for engagement with the project. The mini golf project has been largely successful in engaging kids and artists from the community. The feedback we received after a busy Artscape weekend has been overwhelmingly positive, and I’m proud to have been a part of a project that is greater than I and greater than Station North as an organization. While the focus of my work has been on the logistics of a mini golf installation, the main insight from my time in CIIP is simultaneously broader and more personal. As I have experienced the operation of nonprofit arts organizations from an inside perspective, I have gained a greater understanding of the nonprofit sector’s reliance on money and power. On many occasions, what I have seen and heard has prompted me to carefully reevaluate where I stand in the world as a musician and as an artist. I’d like to thank CIIP for the experience of working on a large project at Station North, for valuable insight into the internal workings of the nonprofit world, and for a deeper understanding of what it means to work in the arts while answering to those with money, power, or a stake in the outcome of one’s work." - Chris

- Reached out to local stakeholders, event organizers, and businesses to seek engagement with the Station North Mini Golf project
- Coordinated graphic design, printing, and feedback collection and analysis for mini golf
- Maintained the Station North website and weekly newsletter with current press, events in the district, and up to date information on the mini golf project
- Assisted with document preparation for board meetings and applications for local funding
Community Partner: Strong City Baltimore: Nate Tatum Community Center
Peer Mentor: Kaetlyn Bernal
Site Supervisor: Lottie Sneed and Farajii Muhammad

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.

"Working at the Nate Tatum Community Center in Barclay has given me the opportunity to turn my summer into an enriching experience that has opened my eyes in many ways. Last summer, while doing this program, I was able to narrow down my future career choices to working in the non-profit sector, but this summer, I have accomplished so much more. I had no idea what community organizing/building was and I didn't know that such a position existed. I am so excited to be able to say that CIIP has allowed me to discover where I can make the most impact in something that I enjoy doing every single day—I discovered my calling as a community organizer. CIIP has taught me so much in terms of my abilities and how to be able to assimilate myself into a community that needs the resources and knowledge that I have, and due to this program I look forward to doing this exact type of work on a global scale in the future.

Every day I spent at work this summer was unique and challenged me to think creatively, speak out against crime and violence, find resources for community members in need of assistance, discovering how to work in a community without imposing myself on the community, and more. I hit the ground running from day one and have not stopped ever since. Due to the retirement of my site supervisor at the end of the summer, I became responsible for much more than any other intern who has worked at the center. Since community work can often involve long hours, my supervisor had scheduled several weeks of vacation during the time of my internship. This means that I often found myself working on my own and serving the community without the guidance of a more experienced community builder. However, this time working alone helped me grow more than I thought I would this summer. For people to come into the center and for me to be able to direct them exactly where they need to be or what they need was a huge accomplishment. Although I did not realize how much effort running a community center on my own would be, I always kept pushing and working with the community to enhance my own knowledge and become part of the community. While working with my retiring supervisor and getting the new supervisor acquainted with the community, I found out how valuable another person’s perspective can be. After my time in the Barclay community this summer, I feel prepared enough to take my perspective and skill set to another community for them to use in empowering themselves and other members of the community to overcome obstacles that communities are facing." - Kaetlyn

- Staffed the community center and supported community members with services within the center and the community at large.
- Assisted in planning and execution of several community events such as the BMOG Cookout, The 4th Annual Women's Empowerment Conference, National Night Out, and more.
- Worked on different community projects including greening, development, and planning of events
Community Partner: Strong City Baltimore – Healthy Neighborhood
Intern: Daniela Perez-Roldan
Site Supervisor: KC Kelleher

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"This summer has been a whirlwind! When people say that non-profit workers wear a lot of hats, they are not kidding. I split my past seven weeks working between two communities: Remington and Ednor-Gardens Lakeside. My tasks varied greatly; at Remington, I was helping to maintain a community garden and green space known as the Sisson Street Lot, and at Ednor-Gardens Lakeside, I was tasked with planning many large events including their 90th Anniversary Birthday Celebration and the Waverly Village Fair. I never knew what to expect! One day, I would be sunburned and literally be covered in dirt from all the shoveling, digging, and planting we were doing at the lot, but the next I would be in an air conditioned office sending out email after email and coordinating events. Through this experience, I have learned a lot about myself and the nonprofit world.

In terms of the nonprofit world, I have learned how dynamic it is. Our office includes all kinds of people ranging from volunteers to people with very technical experience in one particular subject to others with typical corporate jobs. There is room for everyone's skill sets. Most importantly, relationships with your coworkers matter. My favorite part about being a part of Strong City is all of the people I met and how welcoming they were. Having gone through some tough personal experiences this summer, my working community was extremely supportive and understanding. There are not a lot of organizations where your coworkers actively engaged with each other.

Finally, when I think back on my seven weeks here at Strong City, I think about how I was a part of something bigger than my echo chamber. I was professionally and personally invested in my work this summer because I felt what I was doing, although small, was making an impact in the world of others. I think we should all be informed enough to want to engage in that kind of experience. Being a part of the community you live in is everyone’s responsibility, do not be ignorant to the lives of those living around you and their needs." -Daniela

- Worked to build and strengthen neighborhoods through Strong City's Healthy Neighborhoods initiative
- Assisted in the development and beautification of the Sisson Street Lot, a community greenspace and urban garden, in Remington
- Directed the planning and execution of several neighborhood events in Ednor Gardens-Lakeside and Remington
- Coordinated fundraising and donor communication for the Waverly Village Fair, managed outreach, and served as the primary point of contact for all involved organizations
Community Partner: Thread
Intern: Tena Spencer
Site Supervisor: Neekta Khorsand

What is Thread?
Thread engages underperforming high school students confronting significant barriers outside of the classroom by providing each one with a family of committed volunteers and increased access to community resources. We foster students’ academic advancement and personal growth into self-motivated, resilient, and responsible citizens.

"Although I had previously interned at Thread and am now going into my third year of being a volunteer, I had no idea what to expect on my first day. While the beginning of the summer (weeks 1 and 2) were overwhelming with meetings, re-norming, communication, and planning for the apocalypse to start, once our Thread students began their summer jobs (mostly through YouthWorks), a routine started. I’ll use the word routine lightly because although every week there were site visits, and every week I had to send at least two mass emails- one to all the supervisors of our 130 odd students with Thread-affiliated summer jobs, and one to all of those students' volunteers- every week taught me there was no cookie-cutter day in a new nonprofit that works with youth. Sometimes my days consisted of talking to YouthWorks for over an hour to ensure my students were paid. Sometimes my days consisted of shopping at Target so we could throw the best summer jobs party anyone has ever seen. I had the amazing opportunity of always being on my toes - traveling across all different parts of Baltimore with Angad to check in with students and employers (and all of the hiccups that ensued). Though my internship was mainly in programming, I was also able to connect with the students. Seeing them grow and learn and have the opportunity for Professional Development was what got me through the day every day. I could never tell you what this internship was like - I'm often caught in a whirlwind of emails, meetings, site visits, and trainings, but every new day was a great day and I honed my professional communication skills, untapped a graphic design talent that I had, and formed meaningful relationships with my students and my co-workers. I couldn't ask for a better summer." -Tena

- Acted as a liaison between the Professional Development Program Director and employers and volunteers of students.
- Conducted site visits to distribute important paperwork and to check-in with supervisors to ensure students and employers were having a good summer experience.
- Coordinated orientations, professional developments, and celebration events for students, volunteers, Thread staff, and employers.
"This summer was challenging, but extremely rewarding. Our summer was split between communicating with students, their volunteers, families, and students' employers. During my time at Thread, I was able to increase both my communication skills as well as organization, tracking of data, and planning. I found an extremely valuable piece of the program to be site visits. Tena and I would spend several days driving around the city from employer to employer checking in with our students and seeing them in the workplace. These visits gave me a perspective on just how important a summer job is for most students. While these were great, and allowed us to become familiar with Baltimore, I loved interacting with our students every time I could. Every Friday we would host a Professional Development Session at the office where we would teach students about life in the workplace, leveraging their summer internship for future opportunities, being creative, and different leadership workshops. Seeing our students participate in these seminars was definitely the best part of my experience at Thread. I hope to stay involved with Thread because I have grown to love the organization. This was the perfect placement for me because our boss, Neekta, allowed me to ask as many questions as I wanted or to even challenge certain things we do. She was always so supportive of me and really made me grow as a person. Even when I messed up certain tasks, she always found a way for me to use it as a learning experience. I could not have scripted a better summer than the one I have had at Thread." - Angad

Community Partner: Thread
Intern: Angad Uppal
Site Supervisor: Neekta Khorsand

- Organize and supervise Summer Jobs for 180 Thread Students all over Baltimore City
- Act as a liaison between employers, Thread, and students.
- Conducted site visits for all employers across the city to distribute important paper work and observe students in the workplace.
Community Partner: Tree Baltimore
Peer Mentor: Claire Gray
Site Supervisors: Ted Martello

What is Tree Baltimore?
TreeBaltimore strives to increase the urban tree canopy through the establishment, management, and preservation of trees. To reach our goal of 40% tree canopy cover by 2037, we partner with individual homeowners as well as communities, schools, and businesses.

"This summer I had the opportunity to work at TreeBaltimore. Since you don’t plant trees in the summer, I helped launch a StoryMap for their website. TreeBaltimore already has a notable tree map which highlights the city’s biggest, historic, and otherwise notable trees, but I was tasked with creating a map of trees loved by city residents for any reason. I spent my time traveling to different parks and forests, meeting with people and seeing some really cool trees. Meeting with residents on-site was one of the most exciting parts of my job. I realized how many different reasons a tree could be someone’s favorite. Some spoke of the trees’ resilience, how the trees had been through storms, lost limbs, or were nicked by a car or two daily but still survive. Others commented on the beauty of a specific tree, whether it be the way the leaves look like lace or the way the bark appears golden after rain. Others described the ability of trees to build community pride and bring neighborhoods together, through annual festivals or collective stewardship.

I’ve never had as much personal agency in a job before, and I was definitely initially out of my comfort zone. In past jobs I was always really good at just following directions, getting my work done, and being a reliable team member, but this summer a lot of my work required some semblance of independence and creativity. I tried my hardest and definitely learned a lot, and am grateful for the opportunity to work at TreeBaltimore, and for everyone I met for making it a great experience. Coming out of this I definitely know way more about trees, recognize their importance as a public utility, and understand how trees can keep us grounded in our community." - Claire

• Created an interactive StoryMap for TreeBaltimore’s website of our city’s notable trees as well as community members’ favorite trees
• Met with folks at parks, gardens, and forests, where they shared stories about their favorite trees to be added to the map
• Located and measured new state and city champion trees with the Maryland Big Tree Program
**Community Partner:** United Way of Central Maryland - Project Homeless Connect  
**Intern:** Rumsha Salman  
**Site Supervisors:** Aparna Nagaraju

**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.

"My internship at United Way of Central Maryland has allowed me to better understand homelessness and poverty in Baltimore city and how local non-profits and community organizations play an essential role in improving access to medical care, shelter, and many basic resources.

What I loved about interning at Project Homeless Connect was that I had the opportunity to learn new skills every day. I was tasked with recruiting service providers and volunteers for the event in October, which allowed me to meet people from many different organizations who are passionate about improving our community. By sitting in meetings with dental and medical providers and mental health specialists, I’ve learned about the issues that arise from the difficulty in accessing affordable care and the importance of incorporating a mental health framework into existing programs that address homelessness in the city.

Besides my event-planning work for PHC, I got to experience some other projects United Way is working on. I went to the Eastside District Court to observe the Docket for Homeless persons, shadow 2-1-1 calls, and make IDs at the Franciscan Center. I also learned about policy initiatives to help end homelessness in Baltimore through the Journey Home and attending Continuum of Care meetings.

This is my last summer break before I graduate this coming December. Although I still don’t know if I want to work in the non-profit sector or in the medical field, my internship at United Way has given me insight into both worlds and has bolstered my passion for community involvement. I’m very excited for the Project Homeless Connect event in October and seeing the work I’ve been doing this summer come to life." - Rumsha

- Recruited service providers and volunteers for the 2017 Project Homeless Connect event that will provide people experiencing homelessness with access to on-site medical, dental, and social resources.  
- Recorded and compiled data from previous PHC events and ALICE project  
- Photoshopped IDs and event layout  
- Organized inventory and ordered giveaways for PHC event
Community Partner: United Workers
Intern: Evan Druker-Schardl
Site Supervisors: Adriana Foster

What is United Workers?
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.

"Two weeks into my summer at United Workers, my duties brought me to three different meetings around Baltimore. I found myself navigating totally new spaces full of people I had never met before. They seemed to all know each other very well, and I sensed a kind of mutual understanding to which I was not yet privy. People were talking and joking with one another. I was the newcomer in this world of Baltimore organizing, and I felt like I couldn’t possibly feel at home here by the end of the summer. I didn’t speak at these meetings—I just listened closely, introduced myself, and chatted with a few people. As June ended, and I began petitioning, I stopped thinking about becoming a “part” of the community. There was too much going on—running around the city collecting signatures, formulating systems for following up with people we met, calling our membership about various events, and dealing with the odd catastrophe here and there. We strategized for the end of the summer, researched the city and its finances, and more. Things were hectic, and I was meeting people left and right on the streets and in the office. Then, at the end of July, I mentioned to the other organizers at United Workers that I would be leaving in a little over a week. “No!” they said. “Like, forever?” I clarified that I would still be around, but my formal internship ended the next week. Later that week at the another Baltimore Housing Roundtable meeting, I found myself joking and laughing with my friends in the room, sharing little stories and chatting about music, the stifling heat, and community land trusts. I became a part of the community without realizing that it was happening. People form special bonds in this kind of organizing—it’s physically and emotionally draining, and it’s entirely based on forming relationships with people. I’m proud and happy to have found a Baltimore community this summer, and a group of kind, dedicated, smart people whom I call my friends." -Evan

- Collected petition signatures for Baltimore’s 20/20 Vision for Fair Development, asking the city to invest in permanently affordable housing, jobs, and environmentally sustainable communities.
- Strategized with the Baltimore Housing Roundtable, the Remington Housing Working Group, and other BHR-affiliated groups to determine how to form community land trusts in Baltimore and present the 20/20 Vision to the City.
- Conducted correspondence for United Workers and the Baltimore Housing Roundtable, including updating members about meetings, inviting interested Baltimoreans to join the campaign, and talking one-on-one with prospective leaders.
- Researched neighborhoods in Baltimore and the Baltimore City budget process.
Community Partner: Urban Resources Initiative - Baltimore City Recreation and Parks
Intern: Cody Folta
Site Supervisors: Molly Gallant and Ed Orser

What is Urban Resources Initiative - Baltimore City Recreation and Parks?
The Urban Resource Initiative Internship Program is a partnership between the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks, the Parks & People Foundation, and area universities to provide interns for priority projects in Baltimore parks.

"When you put people in canoes together it feels like their entire history of cooperation and mutual understanding disappears. I hadn’t realized how much I’d be working on communication and people skills, but that’s exactly what you need when kids (or adults!) are paddling against the wind and panicking because they think they’ll never see the shore again. Every day kids in the group range from overconfident to terrified and it’s our job to herd, encourage, and lead them. As someone who had little experience working with kids, I’ve been having fun pointing out all the fish and birds, while also touching on aspects of sustainability. It’s an easy segue because of how much garbage can be seen in the water. On the bright side, every Saturday we work to clean it up by taking out a group in canoes with trash bags.

I’ve always enjoyed doing design work, and since Molly encouraged me to pursue a personal project from the start, I decided to help revamp their graphic designs. I created a bunch of logos for each program (hiking, biking, kayaking/ canoeing, fishing, camping), as well as infographics & maps. On top of being a good way to stay out of the heat occasionally, it was a great alternative use of my skills to help outdoor recreation." -Cody

- Leading canoeing trips around middle branch with recreation centers.
- Leading weekly kayaking tours around the harbor.
- Planned and created graphic designs including logos, maps, and annual report infographics.
Community Partner: Wide Angle Youth Media
Intern: Jonathan Silveira
Site Supervisor: Moira Fratantuono

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.

"Working at Wide Angle has proven to be a great experience and a challenge as well. From the beginning, I knew I wanted to work in an environment where I could teach and help impact Baltimore Youth, and I got a lot more at my internship. I was fortunate to spend five weeks with a cohort of thirty high school students in the MediaWorks program. During that time, I was able to be an assistant inside of the classroom, working on videos and podcasts with the students. Along with that, I was thrown into some situations that I was not previously comfortable working with but was able to pick up, with the help of my instructors. Such as using Adobe Illustrator and Audition. A lot of my time was also spent outside of the classroom. I was tasked with designing the MediaWorks badges for the students and staff and helped to craft a system for signing in that was easier and less stressful. My favorite part was towards the end of the MediaWorks program, when the students were able to display a lot of the work they made to the other students and parents and community members who were present. I was thrilled to see that a lot of the kids I was working with were able to really become more comfortable with public speaking, as well as I was blown away by a lot of the work done. But not only that, some of the parents came up to me after the showcase, already knowing my name, to tell me that their son or daughter has commented about how they enjoy working with me. That filled my heart with joy." - Jonathan

- Worked in a class environment teaching high school aged students about different forms of visual media.
- Assisted in shoots for Wide Angle Productions
- Organized and structured files and important equipment in the office
Community Partner: Youth Empowered Society
Intern: Taliah West
Site Supervisor: Nick Brooks

What is Youth Empowered Society?
YES is an organization that prevents and eliminates youth homelessness through the synergy of youth/peer and ally partnerships. YES provides urgently needed direct services to youth experiencing homelessness through trauma-informed peer and ally support; develops the leadership and employment readiness of youth who have experienced homelessness; and partners with youth to advocate for systems change.

"I came into this program with a pretty vague idea of how my summer would go. I knew that I wanted to become more familiar and involved in the community that I have been living in for the past three years, but I was unsure what type of experience that might involve.

YES seemed daunting at first. I had no experience with a drop-in center, had never visited the space, and had never worked at an organization that didn’t have me sitting in front of a computer for the majority of the time. My goal for the summer was to build relationships in whichever community I would be serving, in this case, youth experiencing homelessness.

As someone who has had the same group of friends since my first week in college, I was a little worried about my ability to make those connections. I thought I would have trouble talking to people, but I quickly learned that I didn’t have to talk so much as listen. Youth would talk to me about everything from their favorite shows on Cartoon Network to their thoughts on racism in sports, and relating to the youth at YES was no more difficult than relating to anyone on campus or anywhere else. I had been using my assumption of being unable to fully relate as a barrier to building meaningful connections, and it wasn’t until I was in that space that I realized how that bred disconnection in other areas as well.

Before this summer, I would usually walk around quickly, head straight forward, earphones in, and tuned out to what was going on around me. I didn’t feel as present in the communities I would walk through. I feel like YES has genuinely made me a more open person who is both willing and excited to reach out to people. I greet almost everyone I see on my way to work in the mornings, and have had some very interesting conversations with people I pass by on my way home. Getting into the habit of building connections has definitely continued outside of work, and I am grateful for the sense of awareness and presence that it has given me in this community." - Taliah

- Supported drop-in by managing an area of the space and distributing food, clothing, and tokens
- Provided assistance to youth as needed (filling out job applications, building resumes, searching for housing, etc.)
- Performed administrative tasks such as editing and creating logs and sign-in sheets, taking notes during staff meetings, and updating online data in Baltimore City’s Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).
**Community Partner:** YouthWorks  
**Intern:** Indu Radhakrishnan  
**Site Supervisors:** Jon Smeton

**What is YouthWorks?**
Baltimore City’s YouthWorks summer jobs program will match young people between the ages of 14 and 21 to five-week work experiences with private sector, nonprofit, and city and state government employers.

"The YouthWorks experience, like most great experiences, is what you make of it. After being a Special Projects Intern with YouthWorks for a summer, I can say that I have been to over 40 unique businesses and organizations in the beautiful City of Baltimore, I have interviewed 30 site supervisors, I have helped 40 kids to get glasses, I have built wonderful relationships with six enterprising and charismatic YouthWorkers, and I have definitively changed at least one life – my own.

YouthWorks serves around 8,000 youth between the ages of 14 and 21 in Baltimore every summer. Looking at the number, the immensity of its impact and the scope of its reach might be difficult to conceptualize. But over the course of the summer, through three weeks of site visiting all over Baltimore, I quickly learned just how deeply YouthWorks affects the city in every conceivable way. In its sheer enormity of impact in Baltimore, YouthWorks is unique among the CIIP internships.

Moreover, being a Special Projects Intern put me in the position to be part of improving the program. YouthWorks is one of the rare organizations that invests actively in improvement, and I was privileged enough to be placed directly in the department that is responsible for the development of special services and projects. Everything I did this summer felt important – I knew that I was either directly helping kids or I was helping to improve the ways that we help kids. There is a sense that we can always do better, that we can always serve our youth in new ways, that there are always ways to improve and grow, and it is a spirit that I will certainly take with me.

Few workplaces will give you as much independence and control as YouthWorks – what you do with that is up to you. Jon Smeton, the Special Projects Coordinator who acted as my direct supervisor, allowed me incredible freedom to determine how I wanted to direct the YouthWorkers assigned to me and gave me countless opportunities to help him with his amazing and impactful projects. Working with him has equipped me to see the world in a new light, to think critically and creatively about the ways that good work is done. But all of that being said, by far the greatest thing about YouthWorks is that it brought me six wonderful young people, each one of whom has become dear to me. The work I have done as a supervisor for my YouthWorkers, the relationships I have built, is fulfilling in a way that few things are. Gaining the trust and affections of my YouthWorkers was challenging but worthwhile – these are relationships that will last me long after CIIP is over. If you want your life to be changed in the best possible way, choose YouthWorks!"

-Indu

**• Supervised six YouthWorkers in the creation, administration, and presentation of citywide YouthWorker surveys**  
**• Interviewed worksite supervisors at 30 YouthWorks sites throughout Baltimore**  
**• Assisted in the administration of special YouthWorks services and pilot programs**  
**• Developed presentation and program materials for a wide range of projects**
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 2017 CIIP Leadership Team for all of their hard work!

**CIIP Director:** Abby Neyenhouse

**CIIP Program Assistants:** Maggie Weese & Simon Marshall-Shah

**Peer Mentors:** Kaetlyn Bernal, Claire Gray, Simon Jackson-Forsberg, Osiris Mancera, Chijoke Oranye, Ally Rogers, Celine Shanosky, Jessa Wais