Community Impact Internships Program
2018 Internship Profiles
The 2018 CIIP Cohort
The Community Impact Internships Program (CIIP) is a competitive, paid, summer internship that pairs JHU undergraduate students with nonprofit organizations and government agencies, and offers an intensive, cohort-based learning environment. It is housed within the Center for Social Concern at Johns Hopkins University. The internships focus on community-identified projects in Baltimore and run for eight weeks from June-August.

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 2018 CIIP cohort worked throughout Baltimore City in a variety of organizations focusing on ten interest areas: Community Arts, Criminal Justice/Law, Education/Youth Programming and Advocacy, Environment, Healthcare/Health Policy, Homelessness/Poverty, Immigration/Refugee Services, Neighborhood Improvement/Community Organizing, Nonprofit/Government Management and Capacity Building, and Women/Family Wellness. After this eighth year of CIIP, 375 undergraduates and over 100 community partners have been able to participate in this program, contributing over 100,000 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.

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 education 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.

CIIP Director Contact: Eli Lopatin, Assistant Director of Neighborhood and Community Programs
Johns Hopkins University Center for Social Concern
3103 North Charles St., Baltimore, MD 21218
P: 410.516.4777 E: elilopatin@jhu.edu
http://studentaffairs.jhu.edu/socialconcern/programs/ciip/
My supervisor is the only full-time employee at the center. This means that my days are an always unpredictable combination of just about every task imaginable. Filing papers and applications, answering the phone with a cheery “How can I help you?,” mediating disputes between the various camps taking place in the building, and unlocking door upon door for a seemingly endless stream of children. The center is a bustling hub in the community, with summer days filled with four different camps occupying the center’s indoor space and the playground outside, nights filled with programming like dance classes, Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, martial arts programs, community association meetings, and even a marching band!

Working to organize three events this summer has helped me immensely in immersing myself into the Baltimore community. The first week of my internship, I found myself grabbing a bottle of water and a stack of flyers for an event on Baltimore City Public Schools and knocking on doors in the Harwood and Abell neighborhoods. I was thrown headfirst into conversations with members of the community about how they felt about Baltimore City Public Schools. During the weeks that followed, I knocked on hundreds more doors and had just as many meaningful conversations with people up and down Greenmount Avenue and in Waverly and Better Waverly while promoting the Health Fair and the IAMPEACE event.

This summer, I worked really closely with eight YouthWorkers, all high school students from Baltimore, who’ve grown up here and had really intimate experiences with many of the ills we see referred to in conversations about Baltimore. While I was the one in a technical leadership or mentorship position over them, they taught me at least as much as I taught them. While I taught them about how to behave in a job interview and apply for college, they taught me about the issues they face every day in their community, about the hard work that they’re doing to better their and their community’s future, and what it means to work together in a team with individuals of diverse perspectives. Their main project this summer was working on an anti-violence rally called “IAMPEACE,” of which every single aspect – sponsorships, outreach, logistics – was spearheaded by the team of YouthWorkers.

My biggest project this summer was working on a Health Fair and Summer Celebration with Christina, the intern from Charm City Care Connection. We planned for over a month, obtained scholarships from various local businesses, and did countless hours of outreach. On the day of the event, many community members received potentially life-saving Naloxone training, over sixty children received drawstring backpacks stuffed with school supplies, and over a hundred community members received food and information about health resources – all this in a torrential rainstorm!

After the fair, when the rain outside was pouring hard as ever, one of the girls who’d gotten a school supply kit curled up on a couch in the center’s Green Room. “I’m gonna write a story,” she said, and in that moment, I felt like I’d made some small impact.

Community Partner: 
The 29th Street Community Center
Intern: Bentley Addison
Site Supervisor: Minju Zukowski

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.

• Lead organizer for successful Community Health Fair and Summer Celebration, which provided school supplies, health resources, and food to over 100 community members
• Mentored and guided YouthWorkers in the planning and execution of an antiviolence rally, “IAMPEACE”
• Supported staff of the community center with programming, summer camps, and other day-to-day operations
• Organized job readiness and professional development workshops and chaperoned college tours for YouthWorkers
Being a teenager is tough for everyone, that’s why they call it teenage angst. Sometimes being a teenager is extra tough. Being a minority might be one extra source of angsty anxiety, while poverty can be another. Sometimes when I check the news I get sad, and my whole day is ruined. The headline reads “another black teen killed” followed by the list of reasons why this is wrong and the call for help. I am an “adult” to the YouthWorkers, yet I feel a sense of sadness and anxiety from reading the news. They live in communities where they are more likely to experience violence in comparison to my neighborhood. So how must they feel!? Some of them live next to abandoned houses, some of them lose their pay checks to the communal family fund and some of them work multiple jobs. They are younger than me, facing as many, if not more obstacles in life than I currently face.

I say all of this because this summer was really hard for me, yet I understand why it was hard. Sometimes the teens weren’t nice to me and didn’t make me feel great for being around. But I’ve been an angsty teen before, so I get it. I wanted the teens to hear my words and be radicalized. That was selfish of me. Being “woke”, “radical”, “activist”, “educated” are all different adjectives to add to the word privileged. Having the ability to have an identity outside of surviving or fulfilling your basic needs is a privilege. I’ve struggled to come to terms with having my own personal privilege, for I used to feel like I was such a victim of racial oppression that I couldn’t also have privilege. But that’s a lie. Every day I wake up secure in my feeling of having a home, food and loving support to come back to at the end of the day. That’s a privilege that I’ve started to not take advantage of anymore.

Community Partner: 901 Arts
Peer Mentor: Naadiya Hutchinson
Site Supervisor: Sarah Tooley

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

- Led outdoor time for Summer Camp and integrated mindfulness techniques into daily transition time, chill outs and mediations
- Attended trainings and facilitated the distribution of free food service for both 901 Arts Summer programs
- Created and facilitated life skills workshops for YouthWorkers including workshops on: Black History and Race in America, Nutrition, Gardening Basics, College Planning (Including a College Tour, Scholarships, Financial Aid, and College Track Workshops), Stress Relief and Self Care, and LGBTQI+ Creating Inclusionary Communities

901 ARTS
During my time at Art with a Heart, my main responsibility was helping to teach and make art with our group of YouthWorkers and participants from Youth Empowered Society (YES). But this internship was so much more than that. Through HeARTworks, our workforce development program, we teach job skills and help our YES participants find jobs. A lot of this training was different from what I thought it would be. Most of it involved unlearning what different factors of our society has taught them: that they are hopeless individuals. Instead we taught them not just customer service skills and emotional coping mechanisms, but also that they are people that are full of possibility. This is not to say that we did all the work for this change in thinking to take place, but we were able to provide both a physical and mental safe space that allowed it to happen. It was amazing to witness the change that took place in some of our YouthWorkers and YES group. They opened up and were able to talk more freely and express themselves creatively through the art that we created.

This internship has taught me so much about myself and about this city that I have called home for the past two years. I learned that I can lead, that I can teach. I usually considered myself more of a follower until this internship. It also allowed me to connect with the Baltimore community in a way that I have not been able to experience on my own during my time at Hopkins. I found common ground but also learned so much that I didn’t know from my peers in the program. Things that I could never learn in a class on campus or from other Hopkins students. I hope that one day I can see where they end up or that we can continue to keep in touch and remain friends after the program is over.

Community Partner:
Art with a Heart
Intern: Katie Dominguez
Site Supervisor: Christina Ralls

What is Art with a Heart?
Art with a Heart brings interactive visual arts classes into schools, community centers, group homes, shelters, permanent housing facilities, hospitals, and senior housing facilities. Founded in 2000, Art with a Heart has experienced steady growth, from four small classes a week to 11,000 annually, with a proven track record for developing creative initiatives and accessible paths to success for individuals living in Baltimore’s most vulnerable communities.
Something I’ve always strongly believed is that a city’s education system wholly reflects the city itself – and Baltimore is no exception. My time at the Baltimore City Public Schools’ district office has been a lot like my time in the city: eclectic, unpredictable, and different. I think that, just like the city itself, Baltimore’s school system has a lot of negative stereotypes, but also similarly, it’s because most people don’t get to see the complicated, yet deeply compassionate network that runs through.

I think my time at the office hasn’t been marked by just one or two things; strangely enough, it hasn’t even really been marked by the projects I got to lead. Instead, when I think about this internship, I think about the people I was able to work with and how each of them was able to let me see what engagement really looks like through their eyes: sometimes it’s a school visit that ends with chasing after a runaway student; sometimes it’s a caffeine-buzzed crawl through the office trying to get through your third meeting of the day; sometimes it’s sitting in a 90-degree (plus humidity!) evening giving out free books… but a lot of the time, it’s feeling like you put so much work into something, yet still end up only half a step from where you started. Even so, it was often impossible to feel upset because within a second, my coworkers would be bouncing around new ideas, asking new questions, and getting excited about all the possibilities to come.

Through the ups and downs of my experience at BCPS, I have always admired my coworkers’ tenacity to embody this all-important job our office holds of being the link between communities and schools. And no matter how complicated everything in the school system is, and how frustrating that can be at times, I am so thankful I got to learn from them what it means to be part of a team and what it looks like when you’re truly unafraid to do the work others might be too scared to do.

**Community Partner:** Baltimore City Public Schools - Office of Engagement  
**Intern:** Grace Ren  
**Site Supervisor:** Monique J. Simms

**What is BCPS - Office of Engagement?**  
The Baltimore City Public Schools Office of Engagement implements and supports district policies, practices, and opportunities that enable families and community partners to engage with schools; mobilizes and aligns public, private, and philanthropic resources within identified neighborhoods and school communities; helps coordinate responses to the community around issues and concerns; provides ombudsman services for resolving concerns and complaints.

- Designing block party layouts, including logistics such as set-up, assigning shifts, and contacting exhibitors and volunteers  
- Creating relevant literature on parent engagement in Baltimore City schools  
- Recruiting and engaging volunteers for upcoming events in the new school year
Walking into CIIP, I had a pretty distinct vision of what value-driven work looked like. I could easily conjure up images of food banks and community gardens and summer camps bursting with little-kid energy. But when I walked into my first day at Baltimore Corps, I found none of that. And at first, I struggled with whether the day-to-day work I was doing really felt like social-justice-oriented work. But over the course of the summer, as I got a chance to talk to Fellows and hear from all of the fantastic innovators who had received Elevation Awards, and most of all, come into work every single day with colleagues who truly believe in the power of human innovation and contribution in Baltimore, I realized that although the work at Baltimore Corps may not look the same as that of what I considered more traditional, hands-on service, I could feel the impact. And, more importantly, Baltimore feels the impact.

Over the course of this summer, on any given day I found myself jumping from Operations projects related to organization-wide data and systems (yay Salesforce!), to creating and formatting master spreadsheets tracking information about Fellows, or to coordinating the VP’s calendar and planning all-staff events. But, despite the variability and wide scope, the passion and commitment that drives the organization was palpable in every single task and project. And I accredit that entirely to the staff. I have had the opportunity this summer to work with some of the most motivated, energetic, creative, brilliant, and welcoming people I’ve ever met. My colleagues inspired me each and every day.

Ultimately, Baltimore Corps is founded upon the idea that societal challenges and problems have been caused by people, and that therefore it is only by empowering and supporting people that we can combat and ultimately eliminate systemic injustice. And based on my experience as even a small part of this incredible team, I have no doubt that if there is anyone poised to spark this transformation, it is Baltimore Corps.

Community Partner: **Baltimore Corps**
Intern: **Emma Maxwell**
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.

- Oversaw administration of the internal hire process for four new positions with Baltimore Corps: improved and expanded job posting reach by over 50%, communicated with candidates, scheduled all screenings and interviews, trained staff on new portal and system for reviewing applicants
- Performed Executive Assistant responsibilities for the Vice President: coordinated and scheduled meetings, planned all-staff events, organized files and records, attended meetings, managed all spending requests and invoices, served as point of contact with Strong City (our fiscal sponsor)
- Researched, compiled, and implemented alternative systems related to communication and Google Suite in order to reduce cost, increase efficiency, and improve ease of use for staff members
- Collaborated with the Operations team in developing a system and framework based on competency mapping with the intention of future application across all of Baltimore Corps’ programs and initiatives
Coming into this summer, I was beyond excited to be working with the Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition (BHRC), though also slightly unsure about a potential future in community-oriented/nonprofit work. I am so happy to say that seven weeks later, my excitement has only grown. My time at BHRC allowed me to discover the various branches of harm reduction-related work, reflect on my future plans, and build countless connections with others who share my values and do incredible work throughout Baltimore. Working at a small nonprofit with only three staff members allowed me to develop strong relationships with BHRC staff and to see the most inner workings of the nonprofit world each day. I am so thankful to have worked alongside the most inspiring people at BHRC and our other partner organizations, and I truly can’t imagine my summer without them!

One of my main responsibilities was supporting the Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution (OEND) program. Co-facilitating opioid overdose response trainings, though daunting at first, became second nature. I frequently learned more through the questions and thoughts of my audiences. In addition to OEND trainings, I took on a wide range of projects throughout the summer. This variety frequently kept me on my toes but also made it even more enjoyable to come into work every day! I helped to develop staff member policies that are both fair and sustainable and compiled them into a personnel manual. As a student who loves research, I was happy to put together many different fact sheets for BHRC to distribute.

Each week, I helped staff and co-facilitated naloxone trainings at the mock safer consumption space (SCS) demonstrations, organized by the BRIDGES Coalition, in order to build grassroots support for SCS in Baltimore.

Developed distributable materials based on research of medication-assisted treatment, substance use disorder and health outcomes for LGBTQ/SGL+ people, systemic racism and the War on Drugs, and connections between marijuana legalization and the opioid overdose crisis.

Assisted in the development of staff member policies, researched best practices of other community-based organizations, and organized the BHRC personnel manual.

Community Partner: Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition
Intern: Reah Vasilakopoulos
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.
SquashWise combines athletics, academics, and counseling to propel Baltimore’s youth toward college and careers. This summer, I had the incredible opportunity to engage with students both in a classroom setting and in an athletic setting. During SquashWise’s five-week summer camp, my daily responsibilities would include co-leading literacy class, coaching at the group fitness classes, playing squash with the students, assisting with the summer lunch program, and organizing elective activities. The SquashWise staff members worked to bring so much positive energy to camp each day, and their welcoming environment allowed me to create real relationships with each of them that I look forward to continuing.

In addition, I was given the responsibility of lesson planning and fully teaching four class lessons during the third week of summer camp. This specific week was “citizenship week,” where we hosted guest speakers and worked to improve the political awareness of our students. Each day I taught a lesson that prepared the students for the next guest speaker and educated the students on a different element of engaged citizenship. It was my first time in a real teaching setting, and I learned so much about the profession of teaching and about myself. The experience made me realize that teaching was more than a hypothetical, future profession and actually something that I may pursue right after college.

Furthermore, due to the fact that athletics have been such an integral part of my life, I enjoyed the opportunity to continue teaching life-skills, enhancing classroom performance, and improving individual mindsets through athletics. Both on the squash courts and at the fitness sessions hosted by MissionFit gym, I was able to participate alongside the students and offer coaching to them. Also, since I was beginning to play squash for the first time this summer, it was a great opportunity for the students to turn into the teachers and help me learn how to play the game.

I am so grateful to both the CIIP program and to SquashWise for this incredible experience this summer!

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

Community Partner:
Baltimore SquashWise
Intern: Michelle Abt
Site Supervisor: Matt Skarzynski

Lead small discussion groups during daily literacy sessions
Planned and taught citizenship-themed class lessons to high school and middle school students
Helped coach group fitness sessions at MissionFit gym
Played squash pick-up games and drills with the students and other staff members
As I reflect upon my time at Bikemore this summer, “transformative” is the best word that comes to mind. No amount of research into bike advocacy and community organizing could have truly prepared me for this internship. Before I began working at Bikemore, I admittedly knew very little about its work in Baltimore City. The journey was challenging and not without its fair share of ups and downs, but after just a few weeks, I confidently see myself as an advocate for Complete Streets that are built for people and not just cars.

My experience transformed my idea of community organizing. I’ve felt the temptation to define success based on whether a certain goal is achieved. But when it comes to community organizing, I’ve learned not to evaluate a project based on this metric. While working in Reservoir Hill, I formed some amazing relationships with neighbors who were incredibly invested in their community. I also had the privilege of engaging with dozens of people at events like the Druid Hill Farmer’s Market. Ultimately, we decided that our initial vision for the project likely wasn’t going to be successful. There may not be a finished product to show for our work just yet, but I now understand that the objective should really be interacting with neighbors and learning from them, rather than completing a to-do list exactly to plan.

Most importantly, this experience has transformed my vision of Baltimore City as a whole. While certain neighborhoods in the city are granted the resources and public forums necessary to advocate for what they believe is best in their community, other neighborhoods are rendered almost entirely voiceless. I’ve learned the importance of community input in any equitable process. I had the opportunity to witness City Council hearings, where advocates pushed back against the flawed notion that bike lanes render the Fire Department unable to fight fires in the city. I found myself becoming swept away by the passion of those around me to create that equitable process the city needs.

At first, I felt angry and helpless, but I’ve learned that those natural emotions don’t do anything to implement a real change. This summer has empowered me to transform my anger into determination and my helplessness into inspiration to advocate for positive change in this city.

- Organized Reservoir Hill neighbors in planning a public art project to gauge needs and desires of the community for an upcoming traffic study
- Planned the Big Jump Block Party for late August, commemorating the construction of a multi-use shared pathway along Druid Park Lake Drive
- Represented the rights of cyclists and pedestrians in Baltimore City at stakeholder meetings and “get out the vote” events
There is no typical day at the Black Church Food Security Network. My summer has
d VARIED from drives down to visit churches in Richmond, Virginia, summer theological
institutes in Asheville, NC, and days in the library working off of my laptop. Perhaps
it is the incongruity of a small staff and extraordinary vision that leads us to the way
we work for BCFSN; I have cherished every experience within it.

Every time I tell someone that I am working for the Black Church Food Security Net-
work, they give me this strange look. “I know,” I feel compelled to respond. “Yeah,
clearly I’m neither black nor religious,” I have to almost jokingly admit. But being
able to find my stake in this work, despite those caveats, is one of the things I am
most thankful for coming out of this summer. From conversations with Rev. Brown
and his friends about black history and liberation, reading about elders that have car-
rried this work, and seeing myself be a part of it, I have received many opportunities
to reflect and think about why I care so much about food. Food isn’t just about the
environment, public health, or even what’s right and what’s wrong for the world and
people. This work is about reclaiming something that is so deeply embedded in our
lives and cultures. It’s about justice; sovereignty; power. In a country whose economy
was founded on exploitation of land and people, food must be a fight for liberation.

At the same time, what I have come to learn more this summer is that liberation is
not easy. Food is not easy. Business isn’t easy. Yet, we do it all together, imagine
greater visions of the food system together, and hear each other speak. Whether
I’m on my computer crunching numbers for our community market, making calls to
farmers, or shaking hands with leaders of church gardens, or just sitting and listening
to people preach, every moment pieces together the larger vision and ultimately the
system we have to offer to ourselves with the knowledge, skills, and love we already
possess – something a corporate food system could never replicate.

Community Partner: Black Church Food Security Network (BCFSN)
Peer Mentor: Clarissa Chen
Site Supervisor: Reverend Dr. Heber Brown III

What is BCFSN?
The Black Church Food Security Network strengthens and establishes economic
ventures that supply and support every part of the food system through working
with Black churches, conducting research, and building social cohesion.
Stepping into my first pair of overalls felt like I was joining a crazy cult of individuals who live, breathe, and sleep for nature - Individuals whose financial stability and career is dictated by temperamental and unreliable weather conditions and who wake up at incredibly daunting early hours of the morning to then labor in back-breaking conditions under the fierce and unforgiving sun. The most important lesson I learned this summer is that farmers are a rare and stunning breed of people. Being a farmer means that you have commit your body, mind and soul to serving at the whim of Mother Nature. It means sacrificing simple pleasures like showering daily and having clean nails, or avoiding sunburns or bug bites.

But these small costs are completely worth the multitude of rewards that farmers glean from their daily rituals nourishing the Earth and feeding communities. You see, farmers have it totally figured out. While the average person might scoff at their odd tan marks and dirty boots, farmers have figured out the secret to living a fulfilling life.

The Japanese have developed the practice of Shinrin-yoku, or forest breathing, which is a cornerstone of Japanese medicine. Essentially, forest breathing centers around the calming and restorative health benefits of spending time in nature, even if for a short period of time.

The oasis of calm and beauty of Boone Street Farm, tucked into the intense community of East Baltimore Midway, fulfills these conditions of achieving rejuvenation. The repetitive task of washing root vegetables in a dirty tub tucked under a canopy of trees might first appear strenuous and mind-numbing. However, the repetition creates peace in the mind, allowing for the appreciation of the smell of crushed mint and rosemary underfoot, and the feeling of the cool water rushing over your hands. The feeling of accomplishment at the end of the hard day, looking at a row of pruned and staked tomatoes or a basket of gleaming beets, makes the weariness feel like a trophy.

Boone Street Farm is an essential member of the East Baltimore Midway community, serving as a vital source of fresh produce in a Healthy Food Priority Area. Members of the crew come from across Baltimore, sometimes commuting for hours by foot and on the MTA, to make it on time for work at 7:30 am. The five farm locations, free of fences or barriers, stands as a representation of the mutual respect and trust the community holds for Boone Street. The dedication that the members of the farm have to educating, feeding, and serving the community is inspiring and serves as an example that we should all strive to follow.

Community Partner: Boone Street Farm
Peer Mentor: Isadora Schaller
Site Supervisor: Marcus Carter

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.

- Worked as a senior member on the farm and supervised younger crew members when needed
- Assisted in the cultivation, production, and harvesting of seasonal produce for members of the Boone Street CSA (Community Supported Agriculture)
- Seeded new crops for future seasons and supported weekly harvests for the Farm Alliance’s booth at the Waverly Farmers Market
Three deep breaths. Freeze focus. Peace prayer. Each morning, my supervisor Nawal led our whole camp in these three exercises, a routine I quickly came to appreciate after realizing how hectic peace camp could actually get. When I was first informed that I’d be interning at By Peaceful Means, I imagined daily meditations and reflective discussions with the kids as we explored different kinds of non-violent conflict-resolution strategies. What else could a peace camp be besides, well, peaceful?

Boy, was I wrong.

Take three deep breaths. I’d instruct my class these words at times when everyone was getting restless and butting heads and talking way past indoor-voice levels. With the help of an experienced, supportive staff, especially my co-teacher Willah, I gradually learned how to refocus a group of rambunctious ten and eleven-year old campers. It seemed too simple at first, but three deep breaths, I discovered, did wonders for our chaotic classroom.

Remember to be patient. I’d repeat this to myself more than once throughout camp, referring to our morning ritual of freezing our focus on one positive thought. If I have strengthened one weakness prior to this summer, it has been my patience. Working with hyper-energetic kids and a schedule prone to change, I became adept at troubleshooting unanticipated problems while keeping a level-head. Peace camp taught me how to put aside my exhaustion and prioritize patience so that I could be fully engaged with the campers all day.

I am peace, surrounded by peace, secure in peace. I’d channel these mantras from our daily peace prayer whenever I had to pull a camper to the side for using unkind words. Our prayer says that each person at camp can be peaceful, that their communities can be too. I often used those affirmations to remind campers in conflict that being hurtful was out of character, that being peaceful was who they were instead.

Three deep breaths. Freeze focus. Peace prayer. Leaving peace camp with these exercises under my belt, I can confidently say that this summer has been one of the most rewarding and tiring experiences I’ve ever had. I could not be more grateful for the many ways it has deepened my love for and understanding of Baltimore’s children.

- Co-instructed 20 elementary and middle school campers for five hours/week
- Led a STEM/Coding studio in which students learned basic coding logic using Code.org as well as fundamental principles of design using Legos
- Organized camper applications and rosters for more efficient access

Community Partner: **By Peaceful Means**
Intern: **Claire Zou**
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.
For the last eight weeks, I’ve been immersed in all things Central Baltimore by learning about the ten neighborhoods, researching small businesses, and exploring the resources that are available. Working at the Central Baltimore Partnership (CBP) has helped me understand how every person and organization in this area, and city, is connected, and how collaborative community revitalization can ensure that everyone’s voice is heard so that development benefits all, especially the most disadvantaged.

Within my tasks, I’ve been able to see the various ways in which writing can contribute to an organization’s work. From creating fact sheets, to drafting social media posts, to writing grant applications, CBP has given me numerous ways to expand and refine my skills. As a student journalist and Writing Seminars major, exploring different types of writing has been extremely fulfilling.

My favorite part of this summer has been working on a storytelling initiative to highlight several of the projects that CBP has funded. CBP’s Spruce-Up Grant Program has funded neighborhood-driven capital improvement projects in the public spaces of Central Baltimore for the last five years.

I was able to expand beyond the jargon by speaking with the people behind those efforts and featuring their stories. I was amazed at how residents are so committed to making their neighborhoods better, whether by transforming vacant lots into parks or bringing more public art into communities. The most rewarding moments were the mornings and afternoons I spent interviewing community members in their neighborhoods. Walking around Barclay with two organizers as they told me about every tree, building, and mural that we passed by. Sitting in a diner in Highlandtown with a local artist over bottomless cups of coffee. Watching a small crew install mosaic butterflies that were handmade by residents in Harwood. For a short period of time, I was given first-hand access to people’s stories and afforded the privilege of sharing them with a larger audience.

I am extremely grateful to have had the opportunity to listen and report on the important and good work going on within the neighborhoods of Central Baltimore. I have learned that conversations can create empathy, and from that, positive change. Thanks to the wonderful people I’ve met this summer, I am hopeful that this change will continue to grow.

### Created communications materials to highlight CBP’s programs and initiatives
### Interviewed community leaders about neighborhood-led projects and wrote profiles to feature their stories
### Assisted with grant writing

**Community Partner:** Central Baltimore Partnership  
**Intern:** Morgan Ome  
**Site Supervisor:** Ashley Wallace

### 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.
Interning at Charm City Care Connection has been a wonderful experience. As it’s a small organization, I got a chance to see and take part in many different sides of its day-to-day operations. Most daily activities fell within the categories of clinic walk-in hours, patient follow-up, electronic health records, health screener resource database upkeep, and community outreach. One of the best parts of the summer was collaborating with Charm City Care Connection’s partner organizations including the Baltimore Resources for Indoor Drug-use Grassroots Education & Safety (BRIDGES) coalition, the Pleasant View Garden’s affordable housing building for senior residents, Baltimore Food Rescue, the Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition, and the 29th Street Community Center. I feel like I learned so much from the BRIDGES coalition, especially about the current political discussions surrounding safe consumption sites in the United States and abroad.

At Pleasant View Gardens, we held a four-week long cooking class where we’d work in small groups to prepare a meal and then sit down to eat dinner together. After dinner, Baltimore Food Rescue held a food giveaway in the residential home. Through conversations with the staff from both Charm City Care Connection and Baltimore Food Rescue, I was grateful to get a much better understanding of the problem of food waste and food access in Baltimore.

Throughout this summer, Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition has been an incredible community of teachers and supporters for both the clinic and myself. With their help, I was able to complete my training to become a trainer in naloxone and later to help lead a community training at the clinic’s summer Open House event. Carrying out the trainings at the clinic event was a wonderful opportunity to learn more from community members about their feelings, experiences, and concerns surrounding harm reduction and the opioid crisis.

Finally, this summer intern experience would not have been the same without the partnership between Charm City Care Connection and the 29th Street Community Center. In our efforts to co-organize a community health fair event, I was continually impressed by the passion and collaborative spirit of the CIIP community. Taking the first steps to organize the health fair might have seemed like a daunting task. Yet by already having a contact – the respective CIIP intern – in many of the city’s key health-oriented organizations, this process was unexpectedly easy and enjoyable. I was and am so grateful for the other interns’ and community partners’ willingness to go out of their way on a rainy Saturday to attend our event.

To the Charm City Care Connection staff and regular volunteers, I also want to express my absolute gratitude and appreciation. They devote so much to the clinic and its mission. I’m so grateful to have gotten to be a small part of it through CIIP!
Working at the Chase Brexton LGBT Health Resource Center (LHRC) this summer has been the definition of a transformative experience. I have learned so much about the facets of LGBTQ+ health, as well as the different issues that subpopulations such as the elders and people of color face. Assisting in the many LHRC programs has also opened my eyes to how broad the opportunities for action can be. I didn’t help provide any direct medical services, but the outreach programs and trainings I engaged in were crucial for empowering LGBTQ+ folks and strengthening their social networks, both of which are instrumental for them to achieve their best health (and live their best lives!).

My time at the LHRC has been one of personal growth. As someone who is not outgoing, it was challenging for me to put myself out there and take ownership of my position. However, assisting with our outreach events has often pushed me to do just that, and in doing so, has provided me with rewarding experiences, such as the opportunity to talk to an elder who helped plan the first Baltimore Pride and the privilege of listening to a group of outgoing black women talk about their experiences growing up in Baltimore. Being immersed in LGBTQ+ issues and being aware of the nuances that exist within subcommunities has also reframed my understanding of the world, driving me to dig deeper into the complexities of other issues I come across.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without my wonderful coworkers, who have supported me the entire time. They have been available for all of my questions and so willing to welcome me into the different parts of their jobs, as well as embrace me with enthusiasm and grace. There are so many wonderful qualities that they have exhibited and that I hope to cultivate in myself, such as a persistent positivity, a deep sense of empathy, and an openness to new experiences. Thank you to everyone who was a part of this beautiful experience!

- Create materials for and assist with outreach events such as Baltimore Pride, 50+ Lunch and Learns, and Advance Directive workshops
- Compile statistics for and help run LGBTQ+ cultural competency trainings
- Gather and organize information and other resources about LGBTQ+ rights and organizations for patients

Community Partner: Chase Brexton - LGBT Health Resource Center
Intern: Karen Chen
Site Supervisor: Kate Bishop

What is Chase Brexton?
Our mission is to provide compassionate, quality health care that honors diversity, inspires wellness, and improves our communities.
Chase Brexton Health Care is a wonderful organization that offers services such as Primary Care, OB/GYN, LGBT Health Resource Center, Behavioral Health, and Case Management. As a POWER Project intern in the Case Management and Outreach Department, I had the opportunity to collaborate with social workers to develop a plan that addresses a patient’s health, transportation, and financial needs and to work with medical providers to increase retention of patients living with HIV. POWER stands for Protecting Ourselves With Every Resource and the clinic offers walk-in HIV testing and preventative counseling, including pre-exposure and post-exposure treatment.

Before starting this internship, I was quite unsure of where I would fit in, especially because I would only be here for a few months. However, from the very first day, I have been surrounded by amazing individuals who taught me the ins and outs of case management and who constantly pushed me to overcome my fears and supported me despite my mistakes. One of my goals this summer was to learn how to best provide support for people living with HIV. From interacting with patients in the clinic to participating in outreach events, I have been able to build relationships with community members and hear about their experiences. I have learned that there is still a stigma towards people living with HIV and making an extra effort to help the patient feel comfortable, such as asking what their preferred pronouns are, can contribute to a better experience.

It is hard for me to put in words just how incredible my experience has been this summer. I am especially thankful to the POWER team for welcoming me so graciously and showing me what it means to be compassionate and dedicated to your work. Their passion to help the community has inspired me to stay in Baltimore even longer and I aspire to be as loving and resilient in the future.

- Assessed patients’ health, transportation, and insurance needs and developed a case management plan
- Increased patient retention by outreaching to HIV+ patients due for labs
- Collaborated with Case Managers to interpret rapid HIV test results
- Tabled at community outreach events and provided information about the services and counseling offered at Chase Brexton

Community Partner: Chase Brexton - POWER Project
Intern: Ananya Sarkar
Site Supervisor: Krupa Mehta

What is Chase Brexton?
Our mission is to provide compassionate, quality health care that honors diversity, inspires wellness, and improves our communities.
From a very young age, I became driven to understand what Baltimore is beyond the headlines, textbooks, and academic papers. Thus, I passionately wished to explore the neighborhoods and learn what Baltimore is through the words and visions of the residents of this wondrous city.

Interning at Child First Authority was a momentous opportunity to make these ambitions a reality. As part of my internship, I interned under the Community School Coordinator of City Springs Elementary/Middle School Mr. Ahmad Collick. A community school coordinator works to provide resources to strengthen the community in order to strengthen the students’ success. These resources include providing childcare, helping homeless families or students, connecting community members to healthcare, and/or enriching after-school and college-readiness programs.

Our main goal was to address chronic absenteeism (missing 18+ days of school) in City Springs. During the summer, we studied previous year attendance records and conducted investigative attendance tracking. Through this approach, I coordinated student-based focus groups, interviewed teachers, and communicated with parents and guardians to understand the reasons for absence and compile the findings into data. By studying a large set of data and analyzing the absenteeism trends among grade levels, I was able to work with a team to brainstorm solutions and resources for the next school year. However, beyond data analysis, a large amount of the summer required creativity! My typical week as Community School Coordinator intern would be working side by side with community partners to organize community-wide events; establishing community partnerships; co-producing initiatives with council members; and coordinating service projects.

While it sounds like an intense load of work, I enjoyed each and every minute of going door to door to meet neighbors and residents of Baltimore; meeting and befriending passionate community school coordinators and educators; and learning and questioning the structure and systems placed to inhibit the growth of marginalized populations in Baltimore. I will always cherish the memory of bumping to music while folding resource guides and mailing envelopes to every student of City Springs Elementary/Middle School. This simple task memorializes the energy and passion behind working towards ambitious goals through small, dedicated steps.

Community Partner: Child First Authority
Intern: Smitha Mahesh
Site Supervisor: Ahmad Collick

What is Child First Authority?
Child First Authority (CFA) provides funding to (1) organize high quality, after school and in-school programs in Baltimore City Public Schools, (2) organize parents, school staff, and community partners to act on their vision of a brighter future for BCPS children.

- Studied, investigated, and categorized reasons for students’ absences at City Springs Elementary/Middle School
- Researched and contacted community organizations to aid students and families that face challenges such as transportation/out of zone, home instability, health care, aversion, parent apathy, school climate, and/or lack of clothing/school supplies
- Coordinated interviews with students, parents, and faculty to obtain feedback on attendance, policies placed within the school and school district, and quality of resources provided by the school
- Collaborated with principles, community school coordinators, social workers, teachers, members of Baltimore Curriculum Project and Family League, and councilmembers to create restorative practices and solutions to reduce chronic absenteeism
Two summers in CIIP has, more than anything, forced me to examine my role in fighting for social equity as a white, straight, cis-gendered, upper-middle-class man.

Last year, this began with learning to take a backseat with all of the privilege I have. I don’t directly know what real discrimination feels like, and I probably never will. Especially as someone who loves to be heard, I need to make sure I am an active listener in social justice work so that I can truly serve in a positive and meaningful way. The need to bend my privilege in the direction of social justice was also hammered into my head (Thanks Abby!).

Then throughout my junior year, I spent a lot of time thinking about how this could translate into a career (in combination with my other interests and statistics degree). I settled on deciding I would probably want to work in fields that try to dismantle systemic, equity-related problems that our society faces from an upstream perspective, probably in a policy-making or academic setting where I can do work that is quantitative in nature but also socially meaningful. This pseudo-decision felt good for a while, but it slowly turned into a worst-case scenario where I pictured these paths turning into dead-end jobs that feel meaningless and drain my soul of a desire to see a better world.

I think it was very good that I was placed with someone like Councilperson Dorsey this summer. I think the general public views being a politician as a very soul-sucking job, and that politics in general is “where optimists go to die” (I think that is a direct quote from Reverend Dr. Heber Brown from orientation this year). I can definitely see how this can easily come true—it does not take an eight-week internship to see how bureaucratic and frustrating city government can be at times. However, Councilperson Dorsey brings a genuineness and energy to his work that, when paired with his ability to challenge the status quo, shows that the government truly can make meaningful change! Any job can be bad and meaningless but having the constant awareness to not let that happen and always remembering to push toward social justice (especially for us straight, cis-gendered, upper-middle-class white boys) is the beginning of people creating real, meaningful change. I think this was an important lesson for me to learn this summer and one that will really push me through the start of my oncoming career.
Government is human. If there's one thing I've learned at the Councilman's office this summer, it's that. In the academic setting, we spend a lot of time on institutional structures and the rules and procedures for how change gets made. That's all relevant, and I wouldn’t want anyone in a position of power to not know how a bill becomes a law, but what you can’t learn from textbooks or papers are the people that pull the levers of our civil society. Through my time doing constituent service work and policy research especially, I’ve had the privilege to meet and learn a whole lot from only a few of the most amazing people in Baltimore city - Flannery, Joshua, Mrym, Michael, of course Councilman Cohen, all of my intern pals on staff, and countless other agency representatives. Just by being around them, I learned that governing is just one person picking up a phone (in this case, an antiquated cord phone with actual buttons, how crazy is that) and asking the person how they’re feeling today then talking about what to do next. Even canvassing is just walking up to random people at a bus stop and talking to them.

There are a lot of frustrations with government, and there is a (justifiable) high heat to the frustrations in Baltimore City. People complain that government is all talk and no action, but in my experience, those are one in the same. Working in the office this summer, I learned that literally the worst way to go about solving a problem is to limit how much or how many people you talk about the problem with, and that all our office’s triumphs, no matter how great or small, came when we rounded up all of an issue’s stakeholders and had a conversation about it. No innovative constitutional design or nifty rules bill can take the place of passionate people talking to compassionate representatives.

Councilman Cohen, during my interview in the spring semester, asked about my career aspirations. I told him, oh I’ll go to law school and then work for nonprofit law, and he said that was all well and good, but have you ever considered government? We need smart people in government! In my head I thought, don’t you need smart people in any workplace? But I nodded and said I would consider it and got on with the interview. I didn’t know how right he was until around now, at the close of my internship. Government isn’t about running numbers, it’s not about submitting reports or filling out forms, it’s about people.

So yes, I’ve officially considered government, Councilman.

- Answered phone calls from constituents and worked with the relevant city agencies to try to solve their problem after the traditional pathways broke down
- Prepared summary documents of important reports (like the Kirwan Commission on Education) and researched different policy stakeholders in order create a coalition
- Collected petition signatures for the affordable housing trust fund initiative in order to put the issue on the ballot for voters in November
- Briefly worked to edit and photograph content for the Councilman’s social media platforms and mailing list
I wish I could neatly pack up all of my emotions, thoughts, and memories from this summer into an organized and beautifully written paragraph. Unfortunately, I am the stereotypical Hopkins STEM student who struggles to write anything more than three sentences and cries a little bit when she has to write her weekly reflection blog. So instead of a skillfully written reflection, I would like to present my thoughts in an awkward ramble.

As I reflect on my second summer at Code in the Schools, I cannot help but think that this repeated experience was completely necessary and invaluable to my personal growth. As an intern last summer, and just generally for the past 20 years of my life, I have always been afraid to make mistakes, take up space, and speak up. The supportive staff at CITS has allowed me to feel comfortable enough to voice my disagreements and has encouraged me by valuing my opinions and thoughts. This enabled me to address the aspects of CodeWorks that I personally thought were ineffective and allowed me to actualize some of my ideas to improve the program. My second year at CodeWorks gave me the space to grow as a leader and has taught me the importance of my own perspective.

This work can sometimes be really disheartening. As you start to form closer relationships with your students, you start to observe a lot of the issues they have to deal with as well. And most of the time, these issues and situations are out of your control. However, this summer, my supervisor taught me what it means to be a strong advocate for the students and what strong advocacy can accomplish. We may not be able to resolve larger systemic issues such as inequitable transportation or food access, but by being flexible, creative, and consistent, we can support and encourage our youth.

My 2018 CIIP experience has been absolutely incredible and I know it’s largely due to the wonderful people I have been able to work with and meet this summer. I want to thank Eli and Kaetlyn for organizing such an amazing summer and for being such a reliable support system. Qubilah, thank you for trusting me with CodeWorks and thank you for teaching me how to be a strong ally and advocate for our youth. I’m still so so so sorry about messing up the t-shirts. And lastly, I want to thank my students (who will probably never see this). You guys ask way too many questions sometimes, but thank you for being so wonderful, kind and enthusiastic. I hope to see everyone again in the fall!

- Developed and supervised CodeWorks, a 5-week intensive coding program for Baltimore Youth, providing the youth and instructors with administrative support
- Served as a morning instructor for students transitioning between middle school and high school
- Analyzed and collected data on the progress, demographics, and interests of the students at CodeWorks

Community Partner: Code in the Schools
Peer Mentor: Soyun Kim
Site Supervisor: Qubilah Huddleston

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, afterschool, and summer programming for youth age 4-21, as well as professional development for educators throughout the region.
The ERICA office is just one room with three desks. There’s one desk for each of the staff members and one desk for me. As far as nonprofits go, ERICA is tiny. But being in that office for the last eight weeks meant that I was a first-hand witness to the enormous impact ERICA has on the lives of refugees and asylum seekers in Baltimore. It meant that whenever participants would come in and meet with Betty, ERICA’s executive director, about everything from their application for asylum to their search for a job, I was there. It meant that at any point during the day I could have a conversation with my other supervisor, Zayid, about anything ranging from the progress of my work to the wording of an email to political issues regarding immigration and refugees in the United States. It meant that I developed a new perspective and a profound appreciation for the work that Betty and Zayid do, and a sense of gratefulness that I got to witness and be a part of it.

One thing that stood out to me this summer was that the participants I talked to all mentioned the importance of the personal connections they forged with others through working with ERICA. One man told me about how in the aftermath of the travel ban in early 2017, he was feeling unwelcome and scared he would never see his mother again. But after he told his story at a march organized by ERICA, he was met with an outpouring of support. People came up to him and told him that they loved his speech, that they were happy he was here, and that they were there for him. He said that this was one of the first times he felt welcome in the US, and it helped him start to feel like this was his home. Another man told me how the thing he was most grateful for was the social support he got from ERICA volunteers, who did things like take him shopping, invite him over for dinner, and bring him to a game at Camden Yards. There is a lot I’m going to take away from my summer working at ERICA. It was an incredible experience, and I’m leaving my placement feeling more motivated and passionate than ever. But the thing that has stuck with me the most throughout the entire eight weeks and the biggest thing I’m going to take away is that when you’re trying to make a difference, one of the easiest but most important things you can do is show someone that you care.

• Helped plan and organize ERICA’s annual fundraising event
• Helped develop ERICA’s social media presence and manage its social media accounts
• Conducted interviews with program participants and volunteers in order to evaluate ERICA’s volunteer program
• Recommended new procedures and worked to develop a new volunteer management strategy
There are many bases to cover when moving into a new country. I myself had just turned 18 when I moved into the United States and had to figure out the ins and outs of adulthood while integrating myself into a new culture. At the same time, however, many doors opened for me, a privilege that is reserved to a select number and type of migrants. For some, the only doors opening are those of organizations like Esperanza Center, which means a lot of bases have to be covered by one non-profit at a time. Yet, just as “esperanza” means hope in Spanish, this center has been doing an amazing job at being a one-stop shop for those that have otherwise not been so warmly welcomed. Even though my placement was in the health clinic, I soon learned about the many other services we could refer patients to, including legal and social services, ESL classes, and employment counseling.

On a typical day, after dozens of friendly “buenos días” from the 9 AM rain-or-shine line at the center's entrance, I would start my mornings at the front desk, intaking patients and interviewing them for eligibility. Here, “eligibility” counter-intuitively meant making sure they weren’t eligible for health insurance, thus focusing our resources on those that haven’t received any yet. I would then hear about their symptoms, medical and life stories alike to prepare them to be seen by the health providers. When the day wound down, I would help patients in need of specialty care navigate the complex healthcare system which Hopkins has tried to make more accessible through the TAP program, providing free services to patients living within ten zip codes.

Being an intern at the health clinic thus allowed me to learn both about the workings and, pardon my French, the not-workings of the American healthcare system. It also taught me some medical diagnostic basics and provided hands-on experience that confirmed my passion for the field. But I think that most importantly, it pushed me to make daily connections and build relationships on trust, the power of vulnerability, and the strength of empathy. I have been inspired by the resilience of both our staff and our patients and look forward to integrating this esperanza into my next semester.

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).
“Authors use coded language when talking about slavery in our history. We do the same with sexual violence. We need to call shit what it is. Instead of calling it jerk-like behavior call it what it is – rapey behavior”

“The #MeToo movement was started by a black American social activist named Tarana Burke for black and brown women and girls who are survivors. Most of the media focus has been on white women in the industry”

“There is this image that the perpetrator is a monster, but it’s Pop Pop, it’s uncle, it’s your brother...there’s shades of grey and it’s complicated”

“We keep focusing on the perpetrator but there’s so many bystanders around”

“There needs to be healing places for perpetrators; if you throw them in jail, does that change the person? What happens when they get in a relationship?”

“I talk to my daughter consistently about sex, her body, power, control, violence – I talk about it openly”

I didn’t really know what to expect during my internship at FORCE this summer, but as I reflect on my experience, it could not have come at a more important time in my life. My internship at FORCE and the CIIP program has really allowed me to think more introspectively about myself as well as my friends, my family, and other people. Sexual assault, domestic violence, and rape culture pervade our society very deeply. The quotes that I have listed above were said by panelists at an event celebrating Afro-Latinx, Afro-Caribbean, and the African diaspora who are survivors of child sexual abuse. Upsetting rape culture is a tremendously difficult thing to do. There is no instant fix that is black and white. Nevertheless, that is the ultimate goal of FORCE. Upsetting rape culture is calling out people when they say or do rapey things. Upsetting rape culture is making the movement inclusive of black and brown people, children, the disabled, undocumented people, the LGBTQ community, the elderly, and the people who are forgotten and left out of the movement. Upsetting rape culture is recognizing that it can happen to you, your brother, your cousin. Upsetting rape culture is understanding that perpetrators are usually the people closest to you. Upsetting rape culture is comprehending that perpetrators need to be held accountable to their actions but also need to be healed, not isolated. Upsetting rape culture is making conversations around sex and boundaries at a young age a normality in all cultures. With that being said, I’ve really enjoyed my internship at FORCE this summer and I hope that I can continue upsetting rape culture throughout my life.

Community Partner: FORCE
Intern: Woudese Befikadu
Site Supervisor: Hannah Brancato

What is FORCE?
FORCE: Upsetting Rape Culture creates art actions to upset the culture of rape and promote a culture of consent.

- Transcribed and coded the interviews of survivors of sexual assault
- Created a candidate questionnaire for the upcoming gubernatorial election questioning candidates’ platforms to end rape culture and domestic violence in the city
- Created fact sheets on the relationship between 1. immigration, ICE, and sexual/domestic violence and criminalization
- Used sewing techniques to sew quilts together and assisted with quilt workshops
- Completed a quilt for a person who is incarcerated and a survivor of sexual assault
This summer, I helped out with a variety of services that the Franciscan Center provides, but mainly focused my time in the Responsive Services Department. It was my favorite aspect of the summer because it allowed me to have one-on-one conversations with individuals and understand what they’ve been going through. I’ve been able to meet and connect with folks from all walks of life. One of the interviews I did on my own was with a man facing issues with housing discrimination. Throughout our conversation, I was nervous about being unable to address his issues and kept searching for a way that I’d be able to help. However, he told me, “it feels so great just to be able to share this with somebody. I’m scared that if I tell any of my neighbors, the landlord will make our lives even harder.” It was then when I understood that the most important role for the Center was to be a support system. While that support is typically thought of as our physical resources, it’s largely about humanity. Sometimes people just need someone to listen and treat them like human beings.

Despite the burdens that people have held, the spirit of the Center is typified more by the love and rapport that the clients and employees have for each other. I will always remember how clients would hug when meeting with their friends during our daily lunch. And how I would bump into them on the way to work and we would laugh about their struggles with technology or whatever was new with them. And how my coworkers knew all the clients by name and had inside jokes with them.

Baltimore is fundamentally a city which struggles with resources and the Center strives to bridge the gaps by providing basic resources — such as food, clothing, housing and employment assistance, and transportation — to families and individuals in crisis. It’s so common and easy for Hopkins students and those outside of Baltimore to caricaturize the city as one of poverty, crime, and decay. Although those issues demand attention, the Franciscan Center has allowed me to look more deeply and truly feel the hope, faith, and resilience that characterize Baltimore residents in the face of institutional betrayal.

I’m incredibly grateful for this opportunity to engage and build relationships with people in the Baltimore community and to learn about the city’s institutions through these experiences and our discussions at the Center for Social Concern. There is compassion and empathy through understanding, and I will take that with me onwards.
I started this summer curious about what working in the nonprofit field is really like, and after CIIP, I can confidently say that I have learned everything I wanted to. FreeState Justice is a legal services nonprofit that serves the Maryland LGBTQ community through free legal services, impact litigation, policy advocacy, and trainings conducted in community institutions such as healthcare providers and schools. My position was the Development and Communications Intern and, although I didn’t have much contact with our clients or other community members, I gained a much greater understanding of the inner workings of nonprofits and the work necessary to create the impact seen on a community level. Specifically, I learned a lot about the funding sources and structures behind nonprofit work. It was exciting and rewarding for me to see words that I had written on my own be submitted to international foundations to request up to $100,000. It feels good knowing that I have become very comfortable with grant writing, a concrete, marketable skill that I knew nothing about before, through this internship. Along with donor communications, website editing, and event planning, I feel comfortable saying that I now know how nonprofits really work.

Additionally, I have seen firsthand how a well-funded and relatively larger-scale organization can remain rooted in its community. Every single decision the board and staff makes is based on what our community members need, and the mutual respect that the staff attorneys and clients have is undeniable. I began this internship feeling concerned that I would feel less connected to Baltimore than some of my other interns because I would not be conducting fieldwork or meeting with community members, but seeing how the work that I was doing directly affected and helped FreeState’s clients quickly assuaged those concerns. I am overjoyed to know that relatively abundant funding and grassroots connection are not mutually exclusive. Overall, I am ending this experience feeling deeply inspired by the tireless and mindful work of my colleagues, and completely supported by my community, whether that be the community of FreeState Justice, CIIP, or Baltimore itself.

Community Partner: FreeState Justice
Intern: Nicole Kiker
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.

- Wrote grant proposals, letters of intent, and grant reports to foundations funding FreeState Justice’s activities
- Wrote tax acknowledgements and other communications to FreeState’s individual donors
- Planned and publicized fundraising events with community partners on FreeState’s social media and website
A specter is haunting Baltimore — the specter of the nonprofit industrial complex. Well, there are a whole lot of other things haunting Baltimore but the nonprofit industrial complex (NPIC) is the one I learned the most about while working at Fusion Partnerships. One of the NPIC’s effects is that the mainstream nonprofits we know and love serve primarily as a tax haven for plutocrats and are focused more on stroking these plutocrats’ egos for funding instead of working towards social justice.

Fusion fights against this norm by serving as a fiscal sponsor for organizations created for and by community members. What that means is Fusion incorporates these partners into its own 501(c)(3) and handles a wide range of services like payroll and insurance — things that typically don’t come to mind when creating a grassroots organization. Fusion’s partners encompass organizations doing everything from running neighborhood farms to developing reentry programs for the formerly incarcerated but they all have the explicit aim of pursuing social justice. That was something that I learned to understand and then appreciate over the course of this summer as I learned the complex and problem-ridden nonprofit landscape in Baltimore.

The people who I worked with had, at times, a tedious and thankless job where they had to juggle competing interests while staying true to Fusion’s core values. In the face of issues from the daunting NPIC to having to file a whole bunch of documents, my coworkers exhibited an amazing level of patience and love towards the work that they do. Fusion is an organization unlike any I had worked with before and the people there are models for the kinds of people I want to work with in the future.

What is Fusion Partnerships?
Through collaborative action, including fiscal sponsorship, Fusion Partnerships works to be a catalyst for social justice and peace.
Historic East Baltimore Community Action Coalition, Inc. Youth Opportunity (HEBCAC YO!) Baltimore is an organization that provides GED classes and job-readiness training for youth and young adults striving to reach their academic and professional goals. As an intern, my job at YO involved everything from managing a daily breakfast/lunch program to assisting in the classroom or even running class when the teacher was away. The role was both challenging and rewarding.

I had the opportunity to build meaningful relationships with so many young people that I would never have otherwise had the chance to work with. Many of these young people are self-driven and work hard to chase their dreams. Often, they also deal with all kinds of challenges from raising young children, to navigating housing instability, to managing family crises. This internship opened my eyes to the day-to-day adversity faced by young people in Baltimore. One of the most frustrating aspects of this experience was witnessing how bright and capable students faced barriers in their education through the public school system.

While we may occasionally hear about school funding issues in the news, working at YO meant witnessing the real human impacts of pervasive and persistent under-funding in public schools. There is a real disconnect between the “follow your passion” narrative preached to young people, and the inability of the school system to support the different needs of socioeconomically diverse students. At YO, I was truly inspired by the resilience and self-sufficiency of many of these youth. It was an honor to play a small part in their respective journeys. As much as I hope I’ve been able to teach the students at YO, the truth is I’ve learned far more from them about the challenges in Baltimore, about life and about having hope for the future. I’m so excited to continue working with students on their math and English skills, and can’t wait to see some familiar faces walk across the stage at next year’s graduation.

Community Partner: HEBCAC YO!
Intern: Emma Lee
Site Supervisor: Jamille Pitts

What is HEBCAC YO!?
The YO Program provides comprehensive services to out-of-school youth ages 16 to 22 and moves them closer to economic independence. Committed teachers lead classes so youth can get their high school diplomas and then connect them to high-growth careers. Caring mentors make referrals to supportive social services and offer leadership development opportunities in a safe place.

• Tutored students in GED math and language arts
• Planned and assisted on weekly field trips
• Managed the daily food program
• Worked on job interview coaching and resume building
Before joining Impact Hub, I remember telling my supervisor, Michelle, that one of my goals was to make at least three mutually beneficial relationships by the end of my internship. Thinking back, she probably found this funny to hear knowing that I was likely to surpass my goal within the first week of being in the space. If so, Michelle was 100% correct, because this is exactly how my summer at Impact Hub Baltimore transpired!

I am lucky to have had endless opportunities to meet at least two new people every day because of how Impact Hub promotes connecting and collaborating with one another. One of my tasks this summer was to coordinate in-depth interviews with a sample of its community to translate into stories. However, I met and learned about so many more social changemakers than my pre-internship self could ever have imagined. At Impact Hub, something as simple as refilling coffee mugs can serve as a catalyst for greater insights on important ongoing work in Baltimore, and even launch new collaborations to scale meaningful impact across the city.

People also seem to realize their best selves at Impact Hub: members often shared with me that they are both more motivated and innovative in being part of its network. In this spirit, I witnessed firsthand how crucial it is to have a supportive community that champions the success of others, while selflessly sharing needed resources and encouragement in the process. Even when I doubted my abilities to create Impact Hub’s first impact report, those around me always reminded me that my unique perspective and skills are important. I quickly discovered that this culture of selflessly uplifting others is a strong sentiment amongst Impact Hub’s community, and nurturing work environment at-large.

Overall, this summer has been filled with unforgettable individuals and learnings. Being a transfer student, my academic career at Hopkins (much less Baltimore) is considerably shorter than the majority of my peers. Thanks to Impact Hub, my love for Baltimore has exponentially grown this summer, and I am almost certain I will be sticking around longer after graduating next year.
This summer, the students at The Intersection chose to run an awareness campaign for the Lockbox Fund, a constitutional amendment that will ensure that casino profits are used as additional funding for Maryland Public Schools.

No matter what I asked of the young people, from trainings to canvassing, they met the challenge with a maturity that adults rarely expect from people in high school. They actually enjoyed canvassing! While I was ready to escape the heat in the first fifteen minutes, the students were so energized talking to community members that I was the one being dragged along.

In the beginning of the summer, when I was introducing organizing strategies and sharing my experience in the organizing community of Baltimore, they were receptive and already well informed. The majority of them had participated in advocacy in Baltimore City previously, and I learned a lot about their perspective and priorities.

To enrich their understanding of the wider world of activism in Baltimore, we had a meeting with Kim Trueheart. She is an active citizen in West Baltimore and the director of a recreation center just a few blocks from Bard High School. What was to supposed to be a one hour meeting became three hours of storytelling and bonding. Some of the students loved her so much that we met at her recreation center later in the summer to begin brainstorming potential collaborations between our organizations for the future.

Moving into the school year, I am confident that they will continue their work, and feel truly empowered in their ability to enact change in their city!

Community Partner: The Intersection
Intern: Lauren Fink
Site Supervisor: Meera Balasubramanian

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.

- Facilitated high school students in civic engagement around the Lockbox fund, a proposed constitutional amendment
- Coordinated meetings and training with influential community members
- Assisted high school seniors with the college application process
One of the most important lessons I learned this summer was the value of community. I have come to see that the Joy Wellness Center is not just a yoga studio, or a nutritionist’s office: it is a community center. Feeling like part of a community and having people to share with and relate to is one of the major aspects of health and life fulfillment that is often a side note in discussions of health, even in my major of public health. Here at the Center, the participants become a friend group in almost all the classes I’ve seen. They’ll come an hour early and stay late talking to the other people in the class, sharing stories and advice, gossiping, and empathizing with one another. These organically-created support networks are powerful in helping people achieve health, and I heard many stories from participants of the different classes at the Center about how their life has changed as a result, from finally quitting smoking to losing tons of weight (one woman lost 150 pounds after participating in the weight management workshop this past year!).

I’m also coming out of this internship further convinced of the power of holistic health modalities. The impact of one meditation class or group discussion on balancing your life may not be immediately visible, and many would not say that after one yoga class you’ve helped save someone’s life in the same way that a successful heart surgery can. Realizing this can be discouraging for people who are passionate about these modalities, and in the short term I’ve found myself questioning the meaning in health education work. After all, we live moment to moment, and it can be easy to lose the larger picture of how our efforts are making a difference. By interning at the Joy Wellness Center, though, I’ve seen that the benefits are bountiful in the long term. There’s a sign in Waverly that I passed everyday on my way to work that says “Slow is Beautiful.” In a world that increasingly places value on speed, productivity, and delivering, it sometimes feels wrong to embrace the slow processes of life and the fact that things take time. I think we need to embrace that all the more, especially in the healthcare realm. True health is slow; it is the collective of the small actions we commit to every day.

Community Partner: **Joy Wellness Center**  
Intern: **Grace Windheim**  
Site Supervisor: **Tracy Holcomb**

**What is Joy Wellness Center?**

At Joy Wellness Center (JWC), we offer programming in four areas to respond to these needs: Movement Education, Healing Arts, Stress Reduction, and Nutrition Education. Classes include yoga, mindfulness-based stress reduction, breathing, nutrition, walking, smoking cessation, massage, meditation, acupuncture, and reflexology. All programs and therapies are designed specifically to create transformative, healthy, life-affirming changes in the lives of our patients.

• Maintained the organic garden, including watering, weeding, planting, harvesting and documenting the process through film and photos
• Performed administrative tasks - manning the front desk, engaging with visitors over the phone and in person, and preparing and helping run integrative health classes
• Designed marketing and educational resources, including a shareable calendar/spreadsheet database of free events around Baltimore and posters advertising the Center, its classes, and the garden
• Presented to high schoolers on food access and public health
• Worked on outreach projects for the Farm Alliance of Baltimore
When I came to Jubilee Arts, I was fully aware that I was not the most experienced at the main focus of the program with which I would be assisting. I would later come to realize that I could be of help in many other ways. Jubilee Arts is a community arts center that offers classes in dance, clay, painting, sewing, and more to people of all ages. Each summer, they run a program called Art@Work through YouthWorks which offers youth the opportunity to see what it would be like to work in the arts, specifically mural painting. While I am not a visual artist myself—dance and poetry are my arts of choice—I have been a lover of murals since high school, where I explored famous Miami murals in Wynwood and did a theatre project inspired by Basquiat’s work. I have always been impressed and inspired by the work people can do in such large spaces and by the impact it has on the surrounding community. What made me most excited was the fact that these youth would soon walk or drive by their artwork and be able to tell themselves “I helped make that happen, that was me.” It is a powerful experience to make a difference in your community, but it is something else to have a more tangible product of your hard work and commitment. While I mostly worked from the office, making and answering phone calls to community members, preparing paperwork for both staff and youth orientation, and putting together the certificates of achievement the youth would receive at their final presentation, I also got the opportunity to interact with community members during dance classes held by Jubilee and canvassing for events and Art@Work projects. This was probably my favorite part. I love hearing the stories of people who are willing to share their love and light for their community. One of the mothers of the community and her daughter, who I met, ended up being subjects of one of the murals in Druid Heights. The look on their faces when YouthWorkers and other Jubilee staff would say “Oh! You’re the ones from the mural” was beautiful. They were visibly excited but also nervous to be a part of such a project. I will never forget that mother-daughter duo. I also loved hearing about the youths’ different aspirations, like moving to New York and becoming a fashion designer. It warmed my heart to know that they were working towards a career in the arts seeing as that was one of the goals of the program. I recently spoke to my supervisor about coming back to volunteer during the school year and she said it would be a great idea, so now I do not have to say goodbye to Jubilee, which gave me such a rewarding experience this summer.

Community Partner: **Jubilee Arts**

Intern: **Nicole Garcia**

Site Supervisor: **Nora Howell**

**What is Jubilee Arts?**

Jubilee is a community program providing arts classes to the residents of the Sandtown-Winchester, Upton, and surrounding neighborhoods in Baltimore, Maryland. Jubilee Arts is located on Pennsylvania Avenue, an area with a rich history of African-American culture, and is helping to bring the arts back to life in our community! We offer programming in dance, visual arts, creative writing and ceramics in partnership with the Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore Clayworks, area artists and writers, and dancers.
When I first heard that I would be a social work intern at the Keswick Multi-Care Center, I was slightly intimidated. The position is usually filled by students who study social work at a graduate school level and have a very solid foundation going into the internship. Quite to the contrary, I was a biology major who was a complete ingénue in this discipline. When I strolled into Keswick on my first day, I was greeted by some of the friendliest staff I had ever met and my mentor, Jamore, was an incredible teacher who always knew when to instruct me step by step and when to let me take the reins and make my own mistakes.

I started out by simply watching Jamore work while taking notes and frantically trying to commit all my observations to memory. After a week or two, I slowly integrated myself into the social work department, carving out my own niche of managing admissions. As I became more comfortable and more competent at my job, I branched out to help in the long-term care departments as well. I learned very quickly that recovering from a medical procedure is hard enough; when aging and losing independence factors into the recovery process, the transition becomes exponentially more difficult.

Throughout my stay at Keswick I tried to figure out how I would make an impact and a concrete answer eluded me for most of the summer. I knew I was helping the staff by lightening their workload but otherwise I could not think of anything. When my first batch of residents started to discharge back to their homes, one lady with whom I had formed a close friendship said, “Thank you so much for all you have done for me. You have been with me through so much.” Very recently, another resident discharged and was in tears as the staff said their goodbyes and gave her hugs. All she could manage through her tears was a quiet, “Thank you so much.”

I began this internship believing I would make some overarching difference in the facility’s policies or something along those lines. However, as my internship comes to a close, I realize it truly was the little things and the small acts of kindness that mattered. The residents simply want company: someone who would listen to their stories and show that they cared enough about them to check on them each day. I have learned more than I ever could have hoped to learn and I look forward to applying these newfound skills wherever I go in the future.

Managed the social work portion of the new admissions for the rehabilitation hall by conducting admissions interviews
• Reviewed patient health information and medical history to screen for any conditions or medications needing to be brought to the staff’s attention
• Ensured quality of life for long term residents by conducting cognitive assessments and mood assessments
• Checked in once or twice per day on every resident on my floor either to just brighten their day by listening to them or to address any needs or concerns they may have

KESWICK
Right Care. Right Time. Right Place.

Community Partner:
Keswick Multi-Care Center
Intern: James Yu
Site Supervisor: Jamore Johnson

What is the Keswick Multi-Care Center?
Keswick’s mission is to provide compassionate, quality care to the residents and individuals served, along with sensitivity and understanding to family members. Our goal is to provide a complete continuum of long-term care that encompasses the community/home, adult day care, and nursing care. Keswick is committed to providing quality care through innovative and futuristic approaches to older adults of all races and creeds.
I had no idea what to expect when Mr. Manko, Liberty Elementary’s principal, told me that I would be a “mini principal” for the next eight weeks. I soon learned that the role encompasses pretty much everything. On one day, we might clean out a classroom, leave school to meet with a community partner organization, and come back to school to vacuum, sweep, and mop some more. On another day, we might meet with another principal, mediate a conflict between two students, send out the weekly newsletter, and then search through every classroom to update the Chromebooks. Having the chance to work on distinct tasks with a wide variety of people is part of what makes the job so exciting and engaging.

Beyond these tasks, my internship at Liberty has given me a peek at the complexities within the education system. Mr. Manko hung up a picture in the main office depicting a scene from Star Wars: Episode II, where the Jedi are surrounded and getting attacked from all sides. Mr. Manko joked that working in a school can sometimes feel like that, and I can see why. It can feel like all the forces are working against us when we send multiple emails about leaky ceiling tiles and flooded classrooms, and nobody comes to fix it. I wonder “How is this acceptable?” when I learn about teachers at other schools who haven’t had a lunch break or planning period in the past year. It’s frustrating that there are so many teacher vacancies in classrooms while there are also many teachers who can’t find employment in the city. At the same time, it’s incredible to see the innovative ways that schools have dealt with limited staffing, funding, and resources. I’ve been amazed by the creative tweaks that have been made to budgeting and scheduling at Liberty, and I love hearing the conversations between staff members and community partners about potential solutions to improve attendance and alleviate classroom conflicts.

In spite of the challenges, my time at Liberty has been filled with feelings of joy. When I think about the school, I picture the colorful student artwork that decorates the walls and streams down from the ceilings. I recall being greeted every morning by a warm “Good morning, Ms. Zhang!” when I walk through the hallways. Most importantly, I think about the relationships that I have built with teachers, administrators, classroom aides, interns, secretaries, Youth-Workers, and more. These wonderful people show up each day to support our students and make Liberty Elementary the best place to be.

Community Partner: Liberty Elementary
Intern: Laetitia Zhang
Site Supervisor: Joseph Manko

What is Liberty Elementary?
The mission of Liberty Elementary School is to provide teaching and learning that accelerates student achievement and supports the social and emotional well-being of each student in a peaceful, caring, and collaborative school community.
In Baltimore, it’s easy to view City Government with a cynicism— an understandable view, given the slew of headlines concerning corruption in our city. But as I spent this summer working for Made in Baltimore, a program of the city’s Department of Planning, I found the most amazing and refreshing community of folks working towards a mission of care, progress, and equity for this city. In my day-to-day work with Made in Baltimore, I also discovered a vibrant manufacturing and maker community, and a love for supporting Baltimore’s local economy and workers.

My long-term summer project was creating media distribution plans, with many other tasks and adventures along the way. Made in Baltimore is currently making a lookbook featuring the products of Baltimore-based makers, along with a series of PSA videos encouraging folks to buy local and support light-duty manufacturers in their community. For the lookbook, I really enjoyed the chance to meet makers in person and watch the product photoshoot. I’ve met a lot of artistic, creative people on the job. In finding places to distribute our lookbook and the PSA videos, I’ve discovered cool spots all across Baltimore that I’m adding to my list of places to visit. One downside of working with MIB: I want to buy EVERYTHING that our local manufacturers make!! There’s so much cool stuff being made right here in Baltimore. We actually have a really booming fashion and apparel industry, which I never realized before.

Beyond my work with Made in Baltimore, I got to learn about and partake in the very cool projects of the Department of Planning and Office of Sustainability. The Office of Sustainability is currently writing its 2018 Sustainability Plan, a big guiding document for the office and its work. I participated in the working sessions for the economy sections of the plan, and gave my feedback and edits. I’m really impressed that the Office is creating this plan from an equity lens, and centering issues of discrimination and inequity in Baltimore. The Department of Planning in general has a really great workplace environment, and everyone here supports each other through successful and hard times alike. I’m so thankful to CIIP for giving me the opportunity to spend a summer here, and I hope that I find myself engaged with the department and the office again in the future.
This summer, I’ve split my time between United Workers’ campaign for the human right to housing and Maryland Physicians for a National Health Program’s legislative advocacy, especially through the Healthcare is a Human Right campaign. These two organizing efforts have given me a chance to work in campaigns at two very different stages of development.

I’ve already worked with United Workers for more than a year, and I’ve participated in shaping the direction of the campaign as we work to fund the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and create community land trusts. I help direct the effort to ensure that we have enough ballot initiative petition signatures and then determine how best to divide the time of our canvassing team as we continue to collect signatures. Through the action planning team, I also participate in deliberations about how we should best balance complex political dynamics, where we compromise, and where we stand and fight.

Through United Workers, I’ve learned about what goes into developing a strategy and telling a story through a campaign, and I use that experience to move the campaign for Fair Development forward. I’ve also used that experience to begin and lead the Healthcare is a Human Right campaign’s effort to push a congressperson to support Medicare for All legislation. With Baltimore area leaders, I spent much of my summer wrangling volunteers, reaching out to community organizations, and helping HCHR build a base and a strategy in Baltimore and the county. Leading an organizing effort – off of a college campus – has been a new experience.

In meetings with HCHR leaders, I’ve been able to bring experience and knowledge from United Workers and other organizing efforts that I’ve been a part of, and then work to expand the capacity of the campaign to get the campaign off the ground. It has been gratifying to provide HCHR with my energy and skills to move the group forward, building a larger base and momentum that they can use in the coming months to make serious political change in Maryland.

- Organized the beginning of a campaign with Healthcare is a Human Right MD to push a local congressperson to support Medicare for All legislation. Recruited volunteers, reached out to community organizations, collected petition signatures, and coordinated petitioning efforts
- Wrote short education pieces about Medicare for All that constituents can use to educate congressional staffers about single payer
- Organized petitioning for United Workers’ Fund the Trust ballot initiative, including collecting signatures, recruiting volunteers for petitioning events, and leading an effort to check the validity of thousands of petition signatures
- Strategized with the Baltimore Housing Roundtable action planning committee, working with other BHR members to balance complex political concerns to determine the best ways to advance an agenda of Fair Development in Baltimore City

Community Partner: **Maryland Physicians for a National Health Program**
Peer Mentor: **Evan Drukker-Schardl**
Site Supervisor: **Margaret Flowers**

**What is Maryland Physicians for a National Health Program?**
Physicians for a National Health Program (PNHP) advocates for universal, comprehensive single-payer national health insurance. PNHP believes that access to high-quality health care is a right of all people and should be provided equitably as a public service rather than bought and sold as a commodity.
At the start of week two, I finally received my MTA badge and I remember how excited I was to flash it in front of bus operators to ride for free. Little did I know that donning that little lanyard essentially made me public enemy #1 in the eyes of Baltimore citizens; or at least that is what it felt like at first. Whether I was on a bus, on some street (probably North Avenue), getting my hair cut, or even at the CSC with fellow CIIPers, wearing that little lanyard gave everyone around me the permission to voice their frustration with the public transit system (pretty much BaltimoreLink).

Every single one of these interactions are what made my experience with the MTA’s Office of Planning: Office of Engagement an incredibly impactful one. I began my summer exploring the idea of transportation as a social justice issue and this office was the perfect way to develop my opinion and ideas about it. I had the opportunity to see how planners think about problems and how they work to involve community members in proposals. I saw how difficult it is to get the community involved with various projects because it takes a certain level of flexibility to be able to make it to a community meeting. I struggled to decide how to support bus operators having learned the difficulty of their jobs, while having some sour experiences with them myself. I learned from different perspectives about how access to reliable transportation can act as a gatekeeper between socio-economic classes. I learned how far we are from reaching “peak transit.” I was guided through my exploration of these ideas by my wonderful coworkers who were open about their work and their experiences. Everyone shared with me why they believed their work mattered and to me, those were some of the most meaningful encounters.

I am beyond grateful to have spent a second summer as part of CIIP. As a peer mentor, I advanced my own narrative as a Baltimore citizen and in doing so, I have come to understand the city in more comprehensive way. I write this last “blog post” with bittersweet feelings about my time with CIIP coming to an end. However, I am thankful for the impact is had on my journey and the people I worked with.

Community Partner: Maryland Transit Administration
Peer Mentor: Awoenam Mauna-Woanya
Site Supervisor: Teddy Krolik

What is the Maryland Transit Administration?
The Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) is a division of the Maryland Department of Transportation, and one of the largest multi-modal transit systems in the United States. MTA operates Local Buses (CityLink and LocalLink), Commuter Buses, Light RailLink, Metro SubwayLink, Maryland Area Regional Commuter (MARC) Train Service, and a comprehensive Paratransit (MobilityLink) system. MTA also manages the Taxi Access system, and directs funding and state-wide assistance to Locally Operated Transit Systems (LOTS) in each of Maryland’s 23 counties, Baltimore City, Annapolis, and Ocean City.

• Assisted coordination and participated in outreach for North Avenue Rising and launch of Transit App
• Researched and reported on various projects including one for Chicago Transit
• Visited and interacted with bus operators from all four bus divisions in the city
• Learned and used software such as ArcGIS, Google Fusion Tables, and Remix to assist with various projects
• Assisted with data management for outreach contact information
• Organized and updated an office wide World Cup competition

“Journey’s End?”

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These past few weeks have been an emotional rollercoaster for me. For starters, this is the first summer away from home. Before this internship, I had never worked in the nonprofit sector. As a Hopkins student, I had reservations and fears about interacting with Baltimore City youth. To sum it up, I was a tense ball of anxiety coming into CIIP. But as I’m coming close to end and taking time to reflect on my experiences, I can confidently say that I would not have spent my summer any other way!

As all of my CIIP predecessors have done in the past, I was assigned to work on f’s Art of Medicine Internship (AMI), an intensive five-week program for their rising juniors to participate in clinical shadowing at Johns Hopkins. Working with these students and having the opportunity to hear their stories and goals have honestly been the highlight of my summer. Seeing them work hard and stay focused during a time where many of their peers are relaxing at home is inspiring. Each one of them wants to make a difference in this city and become healthcare professionals. Although the program was only five weeks, I became a fan of the students from week one, and I’m sure my predecessors can agree. These students are the future of Baltimore, and to be a part of that is incredible.

I will end this blurb with a cute anecdote. While I was at Artscape this year, I was wearing my MERIT T-shirt. I had three instances where people approached me saying how fantastic MERIT was and how the organization has impacted their lives. I became more filled with pride after every conversation and to be honest, felt like a Baltimorean or like I had an impact on the community. It was a heartwarming experience and one of the biggest takeaways from my CIIP experience at MERIT.

Facilitate MERIT’s pre-medical summer internship for 34 underrepresented, Baltimore City high school students at the Johns Hopkins Hospital

Assist instructor with teaching clinical curriculum and utilizing grading tracker in cataloging students’ performance in the program

Advise MERIT scholars on clinical shadowing, college applications, and career goals

Community Partner: MERIT
Intern: Keone Aliphios
Site Supervisor: Tina Kanonuhwa

What is MERIT?
MERIT aims to eliminate health care disparities by transforming underrepresented high school students into healthcare leaders.
During my summer at the Nate Tatum Center, I really felt like I became a part of the community in the Barclay neighborhood. Coming in, I knew nothing about community organizing and what it pertained to, but I did have an idea that I was going to be interacting with a lot of people – and I was right. The role that my supervisor Farajii has as a community organizer is a very diverse one that involves being a part of many different circles, and I was able to follow him around and experience it all first hand. Of course, I had my challenges; so many times, I found myself in a community meeting or at an event feeling like I didn’t really belong because I don’t live here. However, over time I started to overcome that feeling, and realized that what really mattered was having a genuine interest in helping the community in any way possible, no matter where you come from. And from there, I really feel like I became comfortable within the community.

I was able to connect and build relationships with many different kinds of people, just from simple conversations. I practiced showing compassion every single day and kept my ears, mind, and heart open to everyone I interacted with. And through everything – all the community meetings, the hours spent flyering and canvassing the neighborhood, the planning and preparation for community events- I learned to appreciate the people. There are so many relationships that I cherish and will truly miss when I leave. I’ll miss interacting with the neighborhood kids who come into the center every day because, even though they give me headaches most of the time, their untapped potential gives me hope for the future. I’ll miss listening and learning from the elders of the community, in particular Ms. Connie Ross, who is one of the matriarchs of Barclay, and also someone who accepted me into the community with open arms. And finally, I’ll miss working with my supervisor, Farajii Muhammad, a true man of the people, and the best mentor I could have asked for. Ultimately, I’m glad to say that my placement at the Nate Tatum Center has provided me with experiences in community work and relationships with beautiful people that I will truly never forget.

Community Partner: **Nate Tatum Community Center - Strong City Baltimore**
Intern: **Achim Younker**
Site Supervisor: **Farajii Muhammad**

**What is Strong City Baltimore?**
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.

- Attended and participated in numerous community meetings in and around the Barclay neighborhood
- Solicited sponsors for and assisted with community events throughout the summer, including the Day in the Park cookout, Field Day, and Back to School night event
- Supported residents who came in the center and assisted them with whatever services they needed
Most people are led to believe that being a great attorney is about your ability to speak well and craft a great argument. While that’s definitely a huge part of it, my most valuable takeaway from my summer at the Office of the Public Defender hasn’t been the importance of talking, analyzing, or presenting. It’s all come down to one simple action: listening.

I have learned so much from listening to our clients, whether they are telling us about their passion for sports and rap, or honestly sharing their side of the story of when they were arrested. Our clients, who are all younger than me, are some of the strongest people I’ve met. I’ve learned about the unspeakable trauma and pain that so many of them have faced. And by listening, I’ve been moved by their resiliency in the face of all, and I have been frustrated too at the sheer injustice of our kids being trapped in a broken justice system.

It is so humbling to be invited into a child’s life in the moments when they feel that the world is completely against them. Looking into the eyes of each kid this summer, I know that the world isn’t made up of good people and bad people. Everyone just wants to be seen for the whole person they are, in the context of everything that has ever happened to them — not just for the mistakes they’ve made. It’s what I want for our justice system. It’s what our kids want.

It’s been incredible to have worked alongside public defenders who devote their lives to telling children that their voices matter. I feel lucky to have had a supportive supervisor like Mark, who gave me opportunities beyond the office so that I could go out into the community and talk to youth about their rights and the legal system. Most of all, I’m so grateful for these kids, for they have forever touched my life and helped me grow in ways I couldn’t imagine. Our clients have reminded me time and time again that listening to and believing someone with an open, empathetic heart can be the path to a more just society. They inspire me to keep fighting the good fight.

- Assisted with preparation for court (watching video evidence, speaking to clients and their families, understanding elements of the case and developing case theory)
- Attended trials and hearings
- Visited potential youth placements including group homes, behavior modification programs, and hardware-secure facilities
- Presented Know Your Rights trainings in the community and volunteered as a facilitator for Teen Court on Thursdays

**Community Partner:** Office of the Public Defender - Juvenile Division
**Peer Mentor:** Kelsey Ko
**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.
This summer, I had the opportunity to intern at Open Works, a place that strives to make their equipment and “maker spaces” accessible to all. Open Works is trying to be interactive with the surrounding areas and Baltimore neighborhoods at large, striving to be community oriented, focused, and based. My main task involved working with Theresa “Nacho” Montiel’s summer “Teen Maker” programming for ten youth involved with a community group and further employed by the city YouthWorks program.

We spent several weeks organizing, preparing, and finalizing details for the summer curricula. Amongst other tasks, this involved creating different lesson and action plans, meeting with shop technicians and specialists trained on the industrial laser cutter machines and 3D printers, arranging guest speakers and planning field trips. I sat in on teen and senior classes, getting trained in the wood and textiles studios, in addition to becoming certified to use the laser cutter. I experienced the uplifting effects of “making,” working with personable Open Works staff members to take home a variety of items over the summer. I was pleasantly surprised by how much I have enjoyed working with the teens too, assisting and building along with the group members in the shops and helping to run professional development workshops. Learning along with them in many moments, I found it moving to see the teens produce various works and to hear them talk in our Friday presentation series.

After calling attention at the beginning of programming that some hurtful language a few of the teens had used was upsetting, I was nervous the teens and my relationship would be negatively impacted and I wouldn’t be as readily welcomed in group dynamics this summer. My assumptions were misguided and I feel quite privileged to have worked with such funny, determined, and friendly teens. I appreciated being included in their honest chatting and feel like I have gotten to know them on a more personal level. Still, I enjoyed answering some of the teen’s more technical questions and chatting about student’s projects and ideas. In the textiles shop, one of the young women asked if I was going to make my own pajama pants and work on my own projects with them that summer. The thought hadn’t occurred to me and I appreciated her consideration. We didn’t have enough material for pants so I ended up making a pair of hemmed orange and grey, Open Works colors, flannel pajama shorts. The teens teased me for how elated and goofy I looked when holding up my finished product; they were spot on in describing how happy and pleased I felt! Many of the teens and I have joked with each other and developed a friendly relationship; I’ve cherished our time together so far. I am excited to spend a few more weeks with the teens as they finish programming, can’t wait to see what else lies in store!
My time at Out For Justice (OFJ) has been an incredibly unique experience. Working at a grassroots nonprofit with only two paid employees meant that I worked more hours than anyone and often had to start projects independently. I ended up being grateful for OFJ's work environment. The lack of structure meant I learned how to be proactive and was allowed to take on more responsibility than most summer interns. I really got to know the ins and outs of OFJ and connect one-on-one with their members.

Speaking to members about their experiences with the criminal justice system and helping returning citizens with their resumes and job interviews was important to strengthen our organization's ties to our community. I helped plan two membership meetings this summer to discuss OFJ's policy agenda for this upcoming legislative session. One of my favorite events of the summer was a town hall we co-hosted with one of our partners, Maryland Justice Project. It was empowering to be in a room alongside justice-involved communities, returning citizens, nonprofit leaders, and community advocates. The moderated discussion about ending the incarceration of women and girls in Maryland taught me a lot about how gender inequality is amplified in the criminal justice system.

Working on many different projects this summer meant developing a diverse set of professional skills. Taking the lead on projects like website design meant improving my graphic design and photography skills. Working on OFJ's behind-the-walls case management meant that I gained a better understanding of the daily realities of incarceration and the legal rights of incarcerated citizens. Most importantly, this summer allowed me to deepen my knowledge of Baltimore City and develop meaningful connections with our community members, and I’m excited to continue to volunteer for OFJ in the fall!

**Community Partner:** Out For Justice  
**Intern:** Jessica Zhang  
**Site Supervisor:** Nicole Hanson

**What is Out for Justice?**  
Out For Justice is an ex-offender, member led organization that promotes policy reform of policies that adversely affect the ex-offender re-entering into society successfully. Out For Justice strives to change the perception of the ex-offender by promoting the 3 Es, education, empowerment, and engagement.

- Improved member engagement by creating a new member database system, a new texting service to contact members, and a series of weekly email newsletters  
- Assisted in building a comprehensive brand image for OFJ by cleaning up their logo, creating brand guidelines, designing marketing materials, posting on their Facebook page, and working on their website design  
- Helped with behind the walls case management by writing letters of appeal to local representatives, filing inmate grievances with prison administration and the ACLU, and assisting in petitions for post-conviction relief with the Office of the Public Defender
The Ruth M. Kirk Recreation and Learning Center is a community bastion. Even before my work at the summer camp began, I saw how the doors would swing open with children coming by to relax after school, and how familiar faces would stop in for a box when we had a food bank. And then the camp started: a group of ten to fifteen energetic kids coming to learn and play every day.

It’s been a privilege to be among them. Not only as a role model — that in itself, already one of the greatest privileges — but as someone able to witness the growth of their creative, academic, and personal lives. They have left an impression on me time and time again. The sincerity of their engagement, their earnestness, and their striving to be heard — these qualities appear so evidently in the eager, waving hands, the concentration of reading a page from a story or a poem, the pride in having completed a worksheet. And then to see their creativity, their imagination, their individuality flower in the arts projects we do, as they add buns and curly hair to paper bag puppets, splatter pink and blue across their paintings with the ends of paint brushes, and layer stickers and decorative tape and pictures in their “About Me” magazine collages: it is a joy.

I am often surprised at the extent of their engagement, too. Amidst their complaints and frustrations that our academic activities far too closely resemble school, they work, anyway. I find myself in a quiet room, a little caught off guard every time. They focus; they put effort in; they try so hard. Or they are practically jumping out of their seats for their turn to be called on, to read, to offer a response, to share.

Has it been a challenge? Oh yes, there have been many challenges. Dialing down rowdiness, breaking up fights, showing them how to treat their own emotions and their social interactions in an increasingly positive manner. But being here with them, as the ring of my name and the tone of my voice become no longer unfamiliar to them, as I become one stitch in their fabric of their lives and they, fifteen stitches in mine can only be described as meaningful.

Community Partner:
Ruth M. Kirk Recreation Center
Intern: Alicia Badea
Site Supervisor: Arthur “Squeaky” Kirk

What is the Ruth M. Kirk Rec 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.

• Created daily lesson plans focused on language arts and math, including group reading and discussions targeted at increasing literacy skills and math worksheets individualized per grade level
• Organized arts and science projects to serve as an outlet for creativity, imagination, and curiosity
• Modeled positive behaviors to encourage cooperative social skills, mediated conflicts, provided emotional and academic support, and developed relationships with the children through one-on-one conversations
• Helped with food banks and day to day operations, including meals
I am so grateful for the opportunity I was given to work at Shepherd’s Clinic this summer. When I first walked into the clinic, I had no idea what to expect. I had never worked in a clinical setting before, and I was afraid of my inexperience showing. While my inexperience certainly did show, I am glad that Shepherd’s was my first foray into the world of medicine. Not knowing anything meant that I learned something new every day. And boy did I learn a lot. From using the top software for medical scheduling and record keeping to calling medical departments around the city and handling patient referrals, I was able to dig deep into the administrative side of healthcare. Digging deep involved a lot of paper. The sheer amount of paperwork involved in every medical interaction surprised me.

Digging deep also involved listening. I listened to patients’ stories, doctors’ orders, and nurses’ jokes. I listened to people from all walks of life, from people who have lived in the same neighborhood their entire lives to immigrants from Europe to asylees from Africa; I was exposed to more kinds of people than ever.

I listened intently, not only to get to know the people I was working with and working for, but also to limit the possibility of miscommunication. Medical information is sensitive, and patient privacy under HIPAA is a top priority for any clinic. I’ve learned the ins and outs of the law and can now confidently handle records I was initially afraid to manage.

I’ve also learned the ins and outs of Shepherd’s policies. In order to be eligible to receive care at our clinic, our patients must reside in one of the nine zip codes that comprise our catchment area, and they must make too much money to qualify for Medicaid, but not enough to actually afford healthcare. As I’ve spent this summer getting to know this patient demographic, I’ve come to realize just how big this gap between Medicaid and affordable insurance is. It makes me proud to work at a place like Shepherd’s Clinic, a place that brings together a small group of compassionate, diligent people to make a real difference in the Baltimore community.

• Worked at the front desk answering phones, scheduling appointments, and screening new patients
• Connected patients to resources, both medical and otherwise
• Managed patient referrals to specialty care departments and maintained paper and electronic health records
• Communicated with patients, doctors, and staff at medical centers throughout the city

Community Partner: Shepherd’s Clinic
Intern: Luke Bonanni
Site Supervisor: Ellen Sangiamo

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.
Growing up, I promised myself I would never work in an office. But, as the saying goes: it is not the house that makes the home, but the people in it. And to be honest, I feel the same way about Star Track. Though the organization may be housed in a cookie-cutter office building, the rainbow calendars on the walls, the plethora of Beyoncé posters, and most importantly the staff, transform the space into a fabulous, thrilling environment to work in.

Growing up as a queer mixed-race person, I found that some of my main identities were the same ones that caused me the greatest grief and anxiety. But every day that I came in to work I had the privilege of not having worry about code switching for fear of being “too gay.” Rather, I got to be as fabulous as I wanted with my coworkers (who in all honesty were sometimes even more fab than me, which I absolutely loved). In fact, everyone was so open with each other that we had office gossip sessions where we talked about anything from problems with plumbing to my own issues with internalized oppression.

And aside from the event planning and general administrative tasks, I would say that socializing with my coworkers and community members was the most important aspect of this internship. Having the opportunity to hear about native Baltimoreans’ experiences, be they queer or otherwise, I nonetheless felt myself better prepared for the interactions I had with community members at events and programming such as the Kiki Ball, Press Play, and even the LGBTQ 101 session I co-taught with my coworker-turned-gay-mother, Kurt.

Ultimately, aside from the innovative event planning and amazing public health work, the down-to-earth, no-holds-barred socializing between coworkers as well as community members is what makes Star Track such a special program. As a program that is mostly composed of the very people we try to serve, Star Track builds community without by building it within. Getting to really become an integral part of this community through CIIP has been meant more to me than words can express.

- Prepared safe sex materials and tended general administrative needs
- Staffed outreach events including the Kiki Ball, Gayme Night, Karaoke Night, etc., and tabled/canvassed at different venues and networking events to increase awareness about Star Track
- Attended and participated in meetings on collaboration with other organizations as well as general staff meetings
- Researched resource guides regarding other social determinants of health not directly offered by Star Track, including community farms, free legal aid, vocational trainings, peer-mentor groups, etc.
I came into SNAE Inc not really sure of what my role here would be. At this point, Station North was just that elusive JHMI stop demarcated by a decrepit bench; I knew that it housed Charles Theatre somewhere along the street, and was vaguely artsy. Now, towards the end of my internship, I could probably walk around from mural to mural like a kid’s dot-to-dot picture.

But my internship has done more than let me really familiarize myself with Station North. Over the summer I’ve gotten to see the inner workings of SNAE Inc and the multitude of other start-up arts organizations, nonprofits, and businesses that make up the flourishing Baltimore arts and entertainment scene. I got to experience 9-5 work life and contribute to the rebranding of an organization and apply my skills and interests in photography/design to help in ways that were needed--while also improving upon those skills myself.

Artscape is when you really see the district come to life. I was assigned to take photos during this three-day period, and instead of the empty and dreary photos I expected to get from unforeseen downpours, I had a lot of fun taking shots of people dancing in the rain, of exciting performances, and dramatic sunsets. Experiencing Artscape and other events and getting to know the district’s organizations were essentially what my summer was about--whether it was through photography, reaching out to business owners, learning about them online, or visiting the organizations myself.

Though I didn’t come into the internship with any idea of my role here, I came out really happy with my experiences. And in the end, I’m always glad to get to know a bit more of Baltimore.

- Reached out to surrounding community partners to compile information on each organization, to be used as a public resource and reference for SNAE
- Took photos to be used on the new website--including interior and exterior shots of Station North businesses, murals, artist portrait and studio shots, and Artscape photos
- Created an updated and interactive map of the district’s organizations
- Regularly updated the current website and assist in the establishment and rebranding of the new website

Community Partner:
Station North Arts & Entertainment, Inc.
Intern: Erin Zou
Site Supervisor: Amelia Rambissoon

What is Station North Arts & Entertainment, Inc.?
Station North Arts & Entertainment, Inc. employs an arts-based revitalization and place-making 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 Strength to Love Farm has been an enlightening experience. Every day I spent on the farm was an opportunity to learn something new. Through Strength to Love Farm, I have had the pleasure to meet fantastic people that are doing everything they can to contribute to the community. The foundational principle upon which this organization operates is compassion. I have consistently witnessed beautiful moments of compassion and generosity from my coworkers to the community. Whether it be gifting a plot of land to a local resident, giving local children the invaluable opportunity to learn about the process of urban farming, or offering free produce to a passerby, there is no other way in which the people at Strength to Love Farm could be any more accommodating of their community.

The work I have had the privilege of doing on the farm has been physically taxing. The summer heat in Baltimore is merciless and being located in the middle of a maze of asphalt only exacerbates the issue. I continue to be impressed by the unflagging persistence of my coworkers in these adverse conditions. They would work to the point of exhaustion and beyond. I admired how much they were willing to sacrifice for the wellbeing of the farm. Their intense dedication to the farm has inspired a mirrored sentiment within myself. I have grown to feel connected to the farm and, in a larger sense, the community that it affects because of the example set and welcoming dispositions of the individuals that I have worked with throughout this summer.

By far my favorite part of working on the farm has been reaching out to people in the community and promoting the healthy and delicious fruits of our labor. Working at the market is definitely one of my favorite jobs because it provides a window into seeing exactly who we are working so hard for. I loved being able to discuss the healthy benefits of our vegetables, and what made selling produce all the better was knowing that what I was giving these individuals was going to make them happy. I do not believe I had one customer leave my vegetable stand without a smile on their face. I have everyone that I worked with to thank for providing me with such a wonderful opportunity to learn and not only grow food but also grow closer to the city of Baltimore in the process. Thank you.

Community Partner: Strength to Love 2
Intern: Scotty McGaugh
Site Supervisor: Denzel Mitchell

What is Strength to Love 2?
Strength to Love 2 is a community based program in west Baltimore’s Sandtown-Winchester community that uses a 1.5 acre farm to offer employment to citizens returning to the community form incarceration. The farm also helps to address the food desert issue in and surrounding our neighborhood.

• Managed and maintained the health of crops and produce via weeding, irrigation, fertilizing, humane pest remediation strategies, or use of organic pesticides
• Seeded and planted new crops for future harvest
• Harvested and prepared produce for sale
• Marketed to and personally interacted with client base at the Waverly Farmer’s Market
United Workers (UW) follows an organizing praxis based on a set of values: universality, equity, participation, transparency, and accountability. These words are not meaningless platitudes; they are demands. United Workers’ is demanding that fair development in Baltimore City be universal, equitable, participatory, transparent, and accountable. But, UW does not limit the targets of these demands to affordable housing stakeholders in Baltimore City. They ask universality, equity, participation, transparency, and accountability of themselves. As an intern, I saw firsthand how these values interrogated every aspect of UW’s organizing.

Universality: Organizing should benefit all and alienate none. When I joined UW, I was apprehensive. I am a non-Baltimore native with socioeconomic privilege, an outsider to fair development organizing. Thankfully, my fears were short-lived. Though I am an outsider, I was not treated like one. When I joined United Workers, I joined a team, quite literally. I became a member of the canvassing team and the Action-Planning Team.

Equity: Organizing spaces must be shared equitably. In spite of UW’s inclusivity, I will always be an outsider. I was reminded of that fact every week, especially while canvassing. I was a Johns Hopkins student petitioning against unjust developers like Johns Hopkins. While my privilege meant that I could never lead an affordable housing movement, it reinforced my resolve to become an effective ally.

Participation: Organizing decisions involving community issues require community participation. UW taught me how to be a leader. Attending weekly strategy meetings, I observed talented organizers galvanize a non-air-conditioned room on a weekday night. I watched how they gently steered each attendee towards the campaign’s goals without dominating the space. Because they were silent leaders, everyone was included in the conversation.

Transparency: Organizing decisions must be open and transparent. One of my favorite parts of canvassing is telling community members that they are welcome at UW’s meetings, even if they have never heard of us. I have grown to appreciate how my organization builds power by giving others power: a seat, a voice, and a vote.

- Canvassed for United Workers’ Fund the Trust Ballot Initiative, which (pending 10,000 signatures from Baltimore City voters) would allocate 20 million dollars towards the Affordable Housing Trust Fund
- Strategized with United Workers’ Action Planning Team, the Baltimore Housing Roundtable (BHR), and other BHR-affiliated groups to determine how to build people-power and put public pressure on City leadership to support the Fund the Trust Act
- Conducted email and phone correspondence for United Workers and the Baltimore Housing Roundtable, including updating members about meetings, inviting Baltimoreans to events, and speaking one-on-one with prospective leaders
- Researched neighborhoods and community groupings in East Baltimore to increase United Workers’ outreach

Community Partner: United Workers
Intern: Mira Wattal
Site Supervisor: Adriana Foster
My summer could not have been spent any better than by getting my hands in the soil of Whitelock. Being able to connect with the earth through growing food has been eye opening and humbling. Connecting with the community of Reservoir Hill through the food we have grown is inspiring and motivating. It is at the intersection of the two that I have come to understand the importance and value behind urban farms.

Healthy fresh food is a privilege that many people in our own City of Baltimore do not have. This problem, however, is unfortunately not widespread but seems to reflect patterns of institutional racism that has historically targeted communities of color like Reservoir Hill. Urban farms, like Whitelock, however, are working to fight the problem of food access. As my summer went on I wanted to learn more about the impact and effectiveness of urban farms and slowly began to learn about this through my conversations with community members. Having neighbors come up to me and have conversations with me has been the most rewarding aspect of my work at Whitelock. Conversations quickly turn to their love of Baltimore, of the farm, and of the people they have met through the farm. Hearing that vehement, enthusiastic support of the farm coming from the people of Reservoir Hill has shown me how much value and love there is for the improvement of the food system and has made me feel like a true part of the community through Whitelock.

My work at the Farm Alliance of Baltimore has complemented my experience at Whitelock. Being part of a larger, membership-based organization of urban farms has really shown me the power behind collectivization. Beyond having more influence on policy and social change through collective action, one of the most valuable aspects of an organization like the Farm Alliance is support. Through my work on the Alliance's Instagram, I have been able to see that support network come together, and solidifying that network through updating the website has ensured that I have left my legacy.

Whether I spent my time on a computer or amongst a row of thriving basil crop, I have learned so much about the nonprofit world and food justice, and I am leaving with so much enthusiasm and energy to continue this kind of community-engaged work!

- Worked as a farmhand helping to prepare beds, seed, and weed
- Supervised volunteers
- Updated and made the Farm Alliance of Baltimore’s website easier to use
- Helped revive the Farm Alliance of Baltimore’s Instagram

Community Partner:
**Whitelock Community Farm**
Intern: Daniel Parra
Site Supervisor: Alison Worman

**What is Whitelock Community Farm?**
Whitelock Community Farm is a vibrant open space that grows food and activates community to promote social equity in the neighborhood. We work to create educational, skill building, and leadership development opportunities; increase access to healthy, affordable food; foster positive community activity; and promote dialogue about food access, neighborhood development, and environmental justice.
I can’t even begin to describe my experiences at Wide Angle, but I will say that they are all positive things! I’ve never been treated like a true adult in a working environment before. My supervisors and staff members provided me with such a warm and welcoming home, and genuinely wanted to see me accomplish the goals I had expressed. Unlike other internships, I was given the chance (and trust) to be in charge of classroom days, social media, and event planning. Wide Angle saw my desire to do more than “no one wants to do this, so let’s give it to the intern” work and gave me the chance to sincerely engage with young people.

I’ve gotten the privilege of working with over 30 students in our MediaWorks program, where I helped students produce video, graphic design, and photo work for clients. Although our students’ client work is impressive, I think their personal growth sticks with me the most. We’ve had our fair share of fun moments in terms of learning professionalism. This includes an activity where I had students practice calling each other, which ended up in a lot of silly scenarios thrown at them and interesting responses (like lots of nervous hang-ups and laughter) as they tried to navigate it in a professional manner. I’ve witnessed students who had no prior media experience gain a whole new respect for media and the arts. This was exemplified best from a student who voiced on the very first day that she didn’t care for our work because it was “not as hard as medicine,” which was the field she sought to go into. By the end of our program, she spoke about how her behind-the-scenes experience of video work made her realize that much more effort and thought goes into the whole process and how impactful a video message can be on addressing community issues and that she is now considering doing some video work as a hobby while she studies medicine.

But my favorite memory of this entire experience was watching all of our students represent the talented young professionals that they are at our Closing Ceremony. Within five weeks they transitioned from downright refusing to present to showing up at our event with huge smiles and their Sunday’s Best on because they were proud of everything they had done. I watched these once-nervous students present with confidence -- eye contact, booming voices and memorized lines! Going into CIIP, I knew I would undergo a life changing experience, but I could never have prepared myself for this level of change; I’m extremely lucky to have had the opportunity to work with so many remarkable people in Baltimore.

Community Partner: Wide Angle Youth Media
Intern: Nancy Zhang
Site Supervisor: Tia Price

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.

- Taught high-school and college-aged youth about professionalism, including interview etiquette, cover letters, and public speaking
- Organized community events, upcoming programs and workshops, ranging from outlining meeting dates, agendas, setup, and locations
- Created a classroom organization system to track attendance and individual growth
This has probably been the most emotionally enlightening and challenging internship experience. Each day brought an array of challenges, but I can say I learned something from every one of them. The most nerve-wracking thing was coming in with such little knowledge of what I was to be doing for the next eight weeks. There was only so much to be learned from a few Google searches or a short interview in the space. My only goal was to make myself a helpful part of the staff and an ally to the youth.

I most appreciated my fellow staff members throughout my experience. I was the youngest in the office but still felt included. Being at Hopkins has often made me forget the diversity of Baltimore, so it was enlightening to work with a diverse staff. Not only were people racially diverse, but also socioeconomically diverse. They were funny and accepting of people coming as they were, allowing me to be myself more than I usually am at work.

Coming into the job, I knew the age range we served was from 14 to 25 years old. Youth typically treated me no differently if they knew I was younger than them, with some relating to me more because of it. However, it left me to wonder how I have been lucky enough to go to college and be able to serve people. So many of our youth were dealt cards outside of their own control, leaving them constant hurdles to overcome.

While I was not a case manager, I often found myself still building close bonds with certain youth and helping them through job and housing issues. There were days where I was emotionally drained by the things I would hear. The importance of self-care in social work and small nonprofits is wildly important. But while caring for myself, I spent each day trying to do anything I could for each youth that needed me. With each hug, with each thank you, with each happy baby, I grew to love YES and everything that is done to keep the organization running for our youth.

Community Partner: **Youth Empowered Society (YES)**
Intern: **Janaya Brown**
Site Supervisor: **Greg King**

**What is YES?**
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.

- Supported staff and youth experiencing homelessness during drop-in, providing clothing, food and drinks, and bus tokens
- Created weekly event calendars to hand out to youth each week, as well as planned the framework for several programs to run in the space
- Started an electronic notes form for better data input and keeping by staff members on youth updates

**Community Partner:** Youth Empowered Society (YES)
**Intern:** Janaya Brown
**Site Supervisor:** Greg King

**What is YES?**
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.
The first thing my phenomenal boss Jon told me about this job was that “here at YouthWorks, we just make it up as we go.” This mentality resonated with me during this entire summer, as I worked with some of the most hard-working and dedicated people in the world, but also with the most versatile and adaptable cohort I could have been placed with. They always trusted in my ability to keep up with the insane speed of this program, and gave me the perfect amount of responsibility that allowed me to grow so much over these weeks. Thanks to my coworkers I have been able to learn so much about this city – its politics, its hidden gems, its issues and the unbelievable resilience of its people. They have taught me about how to become a more compassionate leader and especially about how to have my voice be heard.

It would be unrealistic to say that there were not moments of immense stress under this job. That being said, both CIIP and my supervisor gave me the support systems to manage and do my work to the very best of my ability. Moreover, the connections I was making, and the impact that I knew my work had for YouthWorks, most definitely kept me going throughout the times when I was overwhelmed. And perhaps the greatest gift of all during my time with YouthWorks this summer was getting to have six wonderful YouthWorkers that made the experience worthwhile.

The six YouthWorkers I was assigned to at times made me want to pull out my hair in frustration and exhaustion. That being said, they were single-handedly the most valuable part of this experience, and they taught me everything from Baltimore lingo to responsibility, from compassion to what music I should be listening to. The amount of laughter and joy they have given me has helped me forge a relationship with them that really showed me the beauty of YouthWorks. YouthWorks does more than just employ 8,000 youth over the summer. It offers them the opportunity to learn and grow in a safe workplace environment and gain agency in their money and budgeting. But it also teaches worksites and supervisors how to be accommodating, how to forge strong inter-generational bonds, and how to take a step back and see their organizations with a more youthful stance. With everything I have learned and all of the work I was able to do, I am forever grateful to this program. I look back, more cynical and yet more hopeful (a paradox, I know) about government work than ever before. Even more so, I am honored to have been able to be a part of making YouthWorks the best program it could possibly be.

Community Partner: YouthWorks
Intern: Malika Dia
Site Supervisor: 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.

Supervised and trained a team of six YouthWorkers tasked with visiting YouthWorks sites and interviewing YouthWorkers on their experience of the program
• Assisted with YouthWorks programming such as supervisor training, expungement sessions and debit card administration
• Conducted supervisor surveys and produced a report of their feedback and concerns
• Produced materials for a variety of YouthWorks projects, programs and presentations
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 2018 CIIP Leadership Team for all of their hard work!

**CIIP Director**: Eli Lopatin  
**CIIP Program Assistant**: Kaetlyn Bernal

**Peer Mentors**: Clarissa Chen, Johnathon Cook, Evan Dukker-Schardl, Naadiya Hutchinson, Soyun Kim, Kelsey Ko, Awoenam Mauna-Woanya, Isadora Schaller

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