

Community Impact Internships Program

2023 Internship Profiles



JOHNS HOPKINS
UNIVERSITY

Student Affairs
Center for Social Concern



CIIP 2023 Cohort

The Center for Social Concern (CSC) fosters a lifelong commitment to active citizenship among JHU undergraduates by integrating education, action, and reflection into community-focused programming for Hopkins' students within Baltimore City. Reflected in our approach, we envision a world in which Hopkins students are active citizens within their current and future communities.



The Community Impact Internships Program 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. Internships focus on community-identified projects in Baltimore and run from June to August. This program is made possible by gifts totaling over \$3 million from a private donor.

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 our partners.

This Summer 2023, 41 interns and 8 peer mentors worked at 49 different community partners in eight different impact areas, including Community Arts, Neighborhood Organizing, Nonprofit Management, Family Wellness, Youth Education and Advocacy, Food Access and Environment, Healthcare, and Government and Policy. Through hybrid and in-person working models, interns worked with their supervisors on projects ranging from organizing community events, assisting with youth summer camps, researching local policies, to harvesting fresh produce for community programs. Take a look inside this booklet to read more about the transformative experiences from this summer!



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Community Partner: Art with a Heart
Intern: Jackeline Franco
Site Supervisor: Christina Ralls



What is Art with a Heart?

Art with a Heart's mission is to enhance the lives of people in need through visual art. Art with a Heart brings visual art classes to vulnerable youth and adults in schools, shelters, group homes, community centers, hospitals and senior facilities.

- For several weeks, I have traveled to Enoch Pratt's Central Branch library in order to assist the teachers leading a classroom full of teen youth workers that are a part of a specific program my placement provides. These teens do a variety of art projects and I am there to support them and the teacher.
- At my main job placement, I help start some and finish some art projects that are either requested by clients or are class samples for the programs Art with a Heart provides. This includes learning how to do mosaics, clay sculptures, geometric designs, and digital art.
- Once a week, I assist the teacher in doing professional development work, which is a day dedicated to teaching the youth workers skills that could be implemented and applied when they are entering the workforce. This includes teaching them how to cope with negative emotions, how to professionally have a conversation with a coworker that is making it difficult to work with, and how to compose professional emails.

Art with a Heart is a non profit organization that does community service through art of several forms. They create art projects for other non profit organizations who may request for their own specific events, and for the city including the sculpture project called "The Heart of Baltimore". I would go to Enoch Pratt's Free Library central branch to work with teen participants that are a part of the youth workers program that has teens learn and create art projects in order for them to sell through the Art with a Heart stores and to have them develop art skills. They are given specific tasks based on the lesson plan and then we have a day during the week dedicated to teaching the youth workers workforce skills. I would then travel back to the main office of Art with a Heart to see what kind of assistance my program area, which is Heartwares, needs. This can vary day to day but usually I have to create small art projects like geometric design sketches for mosaics and other kinds of art forms as class samples because the youth workers programs are placed in several different locations throughout Baltimore. I also assist in any requested paid art projects for customers. What I have learned throughout this internship so far is that this organization can be a form of art therapy. My students tell me how they are allowed to feel young and less stressed when stepping into the classroom because it is a time solely to do art and not worry about anything else. This time of consistently doing art projects, even though typically seen as leisure time, can be used to develop vital skills such as empathy, teamwork, and problem solving skills.

Community Partner: Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition
Intern: Atri Surapaneni
Site Supervisor: Harriet Smith



What is the Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition?

Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition (BHRC) is a community-based organization that mobilizes community members for the health, dignity, and safety of people targeted by the war on drugs and anti sex-worker policies; we advocate for harm reduction as a part of a broader movement for social justice.

This summer was an unprecedented time for the BHRC. BHRC was in the process of becoming its own nonprofit, which came with it with lots of paperwork, administration, and tasks that required staff to step up into new positions and roles to ensure the organization could keep functioning and be prepared for the future. Being a part of this transition allowed me to contribute to projects and areas that I would normally not have had the opportunity to help out with. During this period, I learned to be adaptable and patient and plugged myself into different committees where I could contribute and learn.

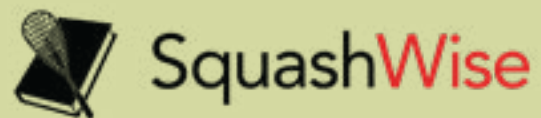
Every day, I got to see the nitty-gritty details of how BHRC functions and how connected all the different teams, services, education, operations, and mobilization are. It was fulfilling to see full circle the kits I made be distributed at outreach. I also developed a greater understanding of how funding is distributed to nonprofits and what is necessary to maintain that funding, which includes diligent data collection, reporting, and analysis. The summer survey project also highlighted issues the intersectionality between issues including food insecurity, housing, police, and drug users. Learning about history and ongoing advocacy efforts changed the way I think about nonprofits, government, and policy, and reinforced my interest in and support of harm reduction methods. Fundamentally changing the way culture and society sees drug use is necessary for creating any long-term change, but it is also important to continue to take small steps each day to help community members now.

Every staff member I worked with brought a fresh perspective and unique passion and dedication to their work. I came in wanting to learn more about how a harm reduction organization conducts its operations and every day I got to work on furthering BHRC's goals of social justice through a harm reduction lens.

- Led fundraising outreach efforts and contributed to venue and event planning for BHRC's annual Celebration of Life event
- Assisted with safer use kit-making and distributed kits and wound care supplies to community members and joined syringe cleanups with BHRC's services team on outreach shifts
- Designed a Summer Satisfaction Survey designed to understand nutrition and food insecurity among community members who use BHRC's resources
- Contributed to Maryland ACCESS reporting and site visit efforts, SAMHSA site visit, SSP reporting for FY23, and organized Overdose Prevention Site (OPS) advocacy ideas and initiatives in preparation for the presentation of Community Engagement Report to Baltimore City Health Department



Community Partner: Baltimore SquashWise
Intern: Karen Linares Mendoza
Site Supervisor: Sarah Howell



What is Baltimore SquashWise?

SquashWise partners with Baltimore's youth and families to advance equity in squash, education, and personal development opportunities. We are a dedicated agent of change providing a place where students reach their academic, athletic, and life goals and where the squash community becomes more accessible and welcoming for all.

- Created and administered Health and Wellness classes for students 6-9th grade, which included experiential activities that modeled the day's lesson. Classes included teaching students how to properly fuel their body before and after exercise, germ infection prevention, and safe technology use.
- Constructed a rotating schedule with team-building opening activities for the entire duration of summer camp which were a highlight of the program. Campers participated in every activity to win points towards a large CampCup competition which I also designed and supervised for the duration of camp.
- Collaborated with the Development Director of SquashWise to discuss the impact and adaptation of community-centered fundraising in the non-profit sector. Discussions included looking at the business perspective of how to run a non-profit as such, with a focus towards SquashWise's newest capital project: the remodeling of the historic Greyhound station to serve as the program's permanent location.
- Assisted with the program's large recruitment efforts to spread our services and engage many more schools and students with the different kinds of programming SquashWise provides year-round. Tasks included creating visual information sheets and tabling events for the greater Baltimore community.

Just like the name alludes to it, SquashWise is a two part program which combines the incredibly fun sport of Squash with a dedication to support motivated students in their education journey.

Squash has historically been an exclusive and male dominated sport played mostly by the population on the higher end of the socioeconomic status. The equipment, courts, and scarce locations all contribute to the limited access that most people have to the sport of squash, which creates a huge disparity and inequity within the larger scope of sports and physical activity.

When I was first matched with SquashWise, I was excited to have the opportunity to be back on the courts; but what I was looking forward to the most was the experience I would have with all the kids who would participate in the program. For almost a whole month my team and I spent the days planning activities and the structure of camp. After creating a new and fun plan for engaging the most students possible during camp, I also began to think about how we could foster long-term involvement and engagement in the program through leadership positions.

Days at camp always begin with the opening activity I lead with both the rookies of the program and the returners who have already had exposure to SquashWise. These two groups take turns completing three lessons which include a Health and Wellness session that I contributed to periodically. I am completely stunned at how much Squash progress our rookies have made in the span of two weeks. Yet, what I've loved the most is the community that has been formed with all the campers and staff throughout this month. Every day, I learn a lot about how these kids are what make the program alive. I am inspired by how each kid breaks down barriers to become players that have skill and tons of energy to give.

One big highlight from this summer has also been the opportunity to teach and bring the fun of Squash into the CIIP intern cohort by leading and hosting a Squash Night at SquashWise's courts. This was an amazing time to show the fellow interns about my placement and its mission while allowing them to try out the game for themselves. In the future, I hope this initiative could grow to a place where placements collaborate with each other to form an even greater network of people going out each day to make Baltimore city, a better place today.

Community Partner: Baltimore Urban Baseball Association
Intern: Abhinav Mahesh
Site Supervisor: Andrew Weltlinger

What is the Baltimore Urban Baseball Association?

Baltimore Urban Baseball Association (B.U.B.A) was founded in 2016 in Baltimore City. As a not-for-profit organization, BUBA aims to rejuvenate baseball in Baltimore City. We teach, coach, mentor and educate through baseball to enhance the quality of life for our urban youth.



My favorite aspect of interning at BUBA is the fact that every day has something different in store. Whether that be the bus ride over to the facility, the tasks I complete in the day, or what I order for lunch, I can say with confidence that I have really enjoyed the work that I have done so far.

Before my internship had started, I was not sure if my work would involve playing baseball or having a role behind the scenes in supporting BUBA. Upon my first conversation with Andy, my supervisor, it was clear to me that this summer would require an all-hands-on-deck approach from both of us to guarantee the sustainability of the program. Within the first couple of weeks of working at BUBA, I quickly became accustomed to various platforms that we use, including Virtuagym, Shopify, and Printful. Along with streamlining the attendance and registration process, I created new merchandise designs and cleaned up our online store to boost our sales. Andy and I were also able to get in contact with a good friend of BUBA, Dom Freeberger, who was kind enough to host a camp for our youth athletes. Freeberger, who won the BIG East Player of the Year, was able to teach our youth valuable skills that went beyond baseball.

My favorite memory at BUBA was without a doubt meeting Reds' Left Fielder Will Benson and Assistant Coach Jeff Pickler. It was rewarding to see our youth athletes become inspired by the wisdom that the pair shared with us. On a more personal note, it has always been a childhood dream of mine to meet a professional baseball player. Thanks to this program and BUBA, I was able to fulfill that dream, and it is a memory that I will hold onto forever.

As I close out the summer, I hope to continue helping out Andy and BUBA toward reaching sustainability. I look forward to continuing my relationship with BUBA in the future and coming back to support it in any way I can.



- Revamped merchandise website using Shopify and created new designs with Printful.
- Coordinated the development of the new BUBA website
- Facilitated the visit of Reds' LF Will Benson and Coach Jeff Pickler to inspire and coach Baltimore youth.



Community Partner: Baltimore Youth Arts
Intern: Carolina Garcia
Site Supervisor: Gianna Rodriguez



What is Baltimore Youth Arts?

Baltimore Youth Arts is a creative entrepreneurship and job training program that provides artistic and professional opportunities to young people ages 14-25, focusing on those involved in the justice system. Our mission is to assist young people in gaining the creative, personal, and educational skills that will enable them to become leaders in their communities.

- Conduct administrative tasks to ensure the organization is running and youth get paid, including researching grants and in-kind donations, learning about partnerships and nonprofits that support BYA and completing their tasks, such as Fusion Partnerships and the Summer Funding Collaborative
- Work on supporting the communications role of BYA by creating social media posts and other communication outlets to share BYA news and opportunities. I've created a variety of posts highlighting BYA's summer programming, promoting new roles, and I also worked on a blog post on a youth spotlight for the summer
- Completed daily tasks, such as handling the free food for BYA's summer programming through the Maryland summer food site program
- Enrolled youth onto cityspan and began to look into BYA's data and feedback and evaluation surveys to gather insights for the future
- Learning to understand the juvenile justice system, its complexities, and the ways in which art can impact communities, for good, and allow youth to take ownership of their own autonomy

I cherish my time with Baltimore Youth Arts (BYA) and feel incredibly special to have worked closely with such inspiring, creative, and passionate individuals. BYA merges the arts with youth development by supporting and providing artistic and professional opportunities to Baltimore youth impacted by the justice system. At Baltimore Youth Arts the work is interactive, explores self empowerment, and works deeply to build deep connections between the youth, staff, and their communities. Everyone at BYA takes the time to listen, thoroughly support and look out for one another, and allow the youth to be the main character of their own stories. BYA provides the space for youth apprentices to be themselves at their own accord. It is so heartening to watch as individuals find their voice and begin to bloom into their full potential as they explore their interests and curiosities.

I've myself done some exploring and work to build stronger connections with my community and Baltimore city with the help of BYA. BYA has helped me foster connections in the city and has given me the best lesson outside of the classroom. It is so special to observe the tight knit community connections and relationships in Baltimore especially when you witness the magic and endless possibilities these connections can make. My internship with BYA has also shifted my perspective on career fields, especially in the public health sector. Baltimore Youth Arts doesn't follow a corporate or traditional workplace, but still makes a great impact on its communities and puts their mission and community involvement at the forefront of their work.

As my time at BYA comes to an end, I will not take for granted the power of youth opportunity focused organizations and art, which holds the power to wield one's own creativity. I look back at a similar program I had the opportunity of participating in and the great impact it has left on me to this day. The work that Baltimore Youth Arts is doing is vital, especially with the focus on opportunities not readily accessible to every youth. I believe BYA and programs like BYA have the power to inspire communities and transform lives. The energy is vibrant at Baltimore Youth Arts and I'm thankful for all the lessons I've learned this summer, even the unexpected ones.

Community Partner: Black Church Food Security Network
Intern: Valeria Leal Serna
Site Supervisor: Linneal Smith



What is the Black Church Food Security Network?

The Black Church Food Security Network is an association of congregations, farmers, food advocates, and community activists working together to create an alternative food system in the Baltimore metropolitan area.



When I first got my placement, I was a little (a lot) hesitant about it. I admired the organization's mission, but I was not sure the placement was right for me. But after talking to previous interns and the staff members, I decided to challenge my sense of comfort and embrace the opportunity. With food justice being an issue that matters to me, I wanted to learn about it, understand its historical and local impact in Baltimore, and work towards sustainable solutions. Looking back, my experience at Black Church Food Security Network has been a rollercoaster - I have laughed, cried, reflected, learned, and, most importantly, experienced personal growth in unexpected areas.

I went into my placement hesitant and unsure how and where I would fit in. But soon, I learned that regardless of our diverse backgrounds, everyone shared the commitment to fighting for food justice and equitable food access for our communities. I witnessed firsthand how much goes into making a change, from collaborating with local farmers, to inspiring event attendees to learn about the organization, and even engaging in conversations with a state senator to advocate for policy reform. Although non-traditional in many ways, my placement has taught me that commitment and determination are the seeds for change, and these are grown alongside hope and perseverance. I have also learned that not everything is immediate change and movement - an idea I still struggle to accept. It is impossible to ensure that everything goes according to plan. Sometimes, plan A, B, C, D, and even Z, will fail or not yield the results we hoped for. However, there lies the most important personal lesson I learned this summer: How we address these challenges will determine the magnitude of our success. And while we might not be able to change the world overnight, the impact of our collaborative efforts will contribute towards lasting solutions.

I will forever be grateful for what I learned this summer and walk away contently knowing that I have contributed, in maybe little ways, to an important cause. I look forward to hearing from future interns and hope their experience surpasses mine in many ways, as well as continue witnessing the impact that Black Church Food Security Network has in creating a better and more just world.

- Collaborated with team members in coordinating events and optimizing logistics.
- Assisted in drafting thoughtful and relevant questions for meetings, facilitating productive discussions.
- Demonstrated exceptional note-taking skills during meetings, ensuring accurate documentation of key points and action items.
- Proactively identified areas for growth and development, proposing action plans for implementation.
- Exhibited self-efficiency and demonstrated efficient time management throughout the placement, meeting deadlines and delivering quality results.



Community Partner: Black Yield Institute & Baltimore Underground Science Space
Intern: Braheem Richardson
Site Supervisor: Eric Jackson & Lisa Scheifele

What is the Black Yield Institute?

Black Yield Institute is a Pan-African power institution based in Baltimore, Maryland, serving as a think tank and collective action network that addresses food apartheid.



What is Baltimore Underground Science Space?

BUGSS is a non-profit public laboratory offering classes, seminars, and lab access so that anyone can safely and affordably investigate the living world. By democratizing these technologies we hope to facilitate more nuanced dialogue and exploration of the incredible potential, as well as limitations and ethical issues.



Working with Black Yield Institute (BYI) and Baltimore Underground Science Space (BUGSS) this summer has been a wonderful experience. At first I felt somewhat apprehensive at BYI, because my assigned projects were very new to me; however, I was also excited to follow up on my intention to be a part of more black-centered spaces and meeting more black folks, and to expand on and apply the knowledge I gained working with the Black Church Food Security Network last summer. Over the course of the internship I became more and more comfortable and was able to let go of a lot of my initial worries about how I would fit into the mold. I really enjoyed BYI's orientation, as it helped me connect personally with their ethos. One of the most impactful ideas I held onto that came from Baltimore's Strange Fruit, a film produced by BYI, is the value of history-- specifically the value of the people who hold that history. The knowledge that long-term community members have through their experiences and the history they can retell are priceless. I also learned how important owning land is, for it holds political, economic, and communal power as a form of wealth. Both of these ideas were very well connected to my projects focused on land policy research and making connections with black food justice organizations of the African diaspora worldwide.

As for BUGSS, the time I have spent there has helped me define my interests. I especially noticed my excitement for wonder, and I know now that wonder is something I want to be intentional about including in my future endeavors. Specifically, my wonder on how things function in the world was enriched within this experience with BUGSS. Helping out with the OpenInsulin project was indescribably fascinating. I enjoyed studying insulin, its biological role & function, the process for its manufacture both logistically & biochemically, and finally being able to physically view and simulate this with the project. These ideas and techniques can be so simple in my head or on paper, but actually performing them is so gratifying and valuable. This was my first time actually working in a physical lab space outside of university classes, but everyone on the team was immensely helpful in guiding me. I love that BUGSS is a space which introduced me to so types of people, from the biologists to data scientists, that I could learn from.

I am so grateful to have met my supervisor Eric at BYI; he rested so much trust and faith in me and I truly appreciate every word of wisdom and all of the guidance he gave me throughout the experience. I'm also grateful to my supervisors Lisa and Tom, who were so present in making sure I had a great learning experience.

- Created a database and conducted research on land reformation legislation & policy worldwide, with a focus on policy at the municipal level that gives vacant/surplus land to people, farmers, or nonprofit organizations.
- Conducted interviews and made connections with different international and local black food sovereignty organizations of the African diaspora
- Completed a short BYI orientation and part of the Sankara-Hamer Academy Firestarter course
- Conducted in-person lab work, learning and performing techniques such as SDS-PAGE, Western blotting, as well as cell plating and production.
- Reviewed and researched scientific literature for insulin production and techniques, as well as explored legislation policies for insulin regulation.

Community Partner: By Peaceful Means
Intern: Renee Wu
Site Supervisor: Nawal Rajeh

What is By Peaceful Means?

By Peaceful Means has a mission to interrupt physical and structural violence by empowering youth through peace education, advocacy, and employment.



By Peaceful Means is a small non-profit financially supported by St. Frances Academy in East Baltimore. It has been around for 17 years since Ralph Moore and Nawal Rajeh first came up with the idea of holding a free summer peace camp for kids aged from 5 to 13 in Baltimore. The camp lasts for 5 weeks and usually accepts 40-50 campers, and the theme is always about peace and social activism.

The first month of the work is usually online since the camp doesn't kick start until the second week of July. The workload is light during this first month as interns are often asked to do research on peace heroes for this year and also to do a bunch of logistical work such as updating the roster, reaching out to event speakers and organizations, as well as procuring supplies and materials for the camp.

After the camp starts, the work is more routinized and most of the time you will just spend time accompanying the kids to the classes and the activities. Everyday the camp starts with breakfast and the morning circle during which we do the peace prayer and some activities. After that, campers go to their own class where we teach them about the peace heroes and hold stations on different topics such as literature, finance, geography and history. In the afternoons, the campers will have a variety of studios to choose from, including art, music, yoga, dance, chess, poetry, etc. Through the whole internship, the intern has a lot of freedom and space for creativity and for practicing your own ideas. You could design lesson plans based on what and how you want the campers to know about this week's peace heroes. You could lead a studio extending from your own skills or interests which you think could be beneficial for the campers. The first week of staff training also means the coworkers will have a chance to get to know each other and be as supportive as we can be throughout the camp. The kids are adorable no matter which age group, and they could bring you happiness that you could not have imagined at any second.



- Planned and organized a summer Peace Camp for 40+ kids from Baltimore City
- Coordinated and oversaw logistical work including recruitment, supplies, field trip and events planning
- Creatively designed lesson plans and taught a "peace hero" class



Community Partner: Calvin M Rodwell Elementary/Middle School
Intern: Clayton Turner
Site Supervisor: Amanda Richardson & Natasha Brannum

What is Calvin M Rodwell Elementary/Middle School?

Calvin M. Rodwell Elementary/Middle is located in Northwest Baltimore. Each school day begins with a recitation of the motto, “We’re on our way to college!”— a commitment backed by outstanding instruction from a highly qualified staff. Elementary students receive comprehensive training in core subject areas and are also provided with music, technological awareness and unique culinary arts programming.

- Assisted in preparing and organizing school resources for the summer camp program.
- Performed a large role in instructing, mentoring, and coaching the students within the “Mustangs Rise” summer camp.
- Supported community liaison work through the school, such as food donations.
- Helped the school transition between school years by organizing spaces and documentation.



Working with Child First Authority at Calvin Rodwell this summer has been a fruitful experience. I am thankful to be able to work outside of Hopkins in the community as this learning was from real life. Any given day could not be anticipated because new unexpected challenges and opportunities presented themselves constantly. This allowed me to learn to think on my feet and adapt to different situations better. This was because the school environment was constantly shifting and moving. When I first started, school was still in session, then there was a preparation period for the summer camp, and finally the actual summer camp program. For all these periods I was working on different projects which allowed me to gain a variety of experiences and be flexible with my work. I was also able to work with many people at the school and in the camp, and it was nice to form relationships with them all. Because of these interactions I was able to better understand the community and I know much more about Baltimore now than before summer. Getting to know the students has also been great. They are very energetic but smart and I enjoy hearing their perspectives on things. Right now, I am technically closer in age to the students than the teachers, but I have a similar role to the teachers within the program, so it had been very interesting to experience the school environment at this point in my life. To that point it is nice to be on the other side of things in a public school. I have learned about so much that goes into running and working in a school this summer and it is interesting to see how everything comes together at the end. Ultimately, my experience at Calvin Rodwell has been very beneficial and I am glad to have worked with everyone involved within the school and the Child First Authority program.

Community Partner: Central Baltimore Partnership
Intern: Carlos Gamboa
Site Supervisor: Aaron Kaufman

What is the Central Baltimore Partnership?

Formed in 2006, the Central Baltimore Partnership’s mission is to galvanize the renaissance of Central Baltimore. We pursue our mission by partnering with neighborhood organizations, non-profits, educational institutions, businesses and government agencies.



During my internship with the Central Baltimore Partnership (CBP), I not only gained first-hand experience working for a non-profit, but also had countless meaningful interactions with local residents and community partners. By splitting my time evenly between office work and community engagement, I could both plan interventions and see their impact on the ground.

CBP is an umbrella organization dedicated to the revitalizing Central Baltimore for the benefit of its current residents, including supporting small businesses, promoting local artists and events, and improving residents’ well-being through the Greenmount Life Opportunity and Wellness (GLOW) initiative. CBP funds partner organizations’ programs that work towards these goals. Given that I am majoring in Public Health, my shifts at the office were primarily spent planning, supporting, and evaluating public health initiatives. I am not yet qualified to create and implement programs independently. However, my research provided valuable insights about the prevalence of unhealthy food in corner stores: my work will be used to inform CBP’s future interventions in this area. I supported ongoing programs by following up with community partners and checking that they are receiving enough support. I also determined evaluation metrics to ensure the efficacy of these programs.

On the other hand, I also learned about the neighborhoods and interacted with the residents that CBP supports. My supervisor took me on myriad walking tours, educating me about the area’s history and visiting ongoing program sites. Baltimore’s sordid history of racist public policy and disinvestment provides valuable context for current disparities. I could see my work in action when visiting community partners and observing their programming. For example, I sat in on several of DENT’s educational programs for local youth. By working directly with the community, I could see that the support I provided, even if relatively minimal, has made a positive impact on Central Baltimore and its residents.

- Research factors contributing to the prevalence of unhealthy foods in corner stores, as well as effective interventions to address these challenges.
- Assist CBP’s partners with their current work, including supporting ongoing programs, evaluating past interventions, and planning events.
- Engage with community partners and residents through site visits and check-ins.





Community Partner: Chase Brexton Health Care - Center for LGBTQ Health Equity
Intern: Aamilah Chowdhury
Site Supervisor: Kate Bishop

What is Chase Brexton Health Care?

Through health care services, education, training, research, and advocacy, The Center for LGBTQ Health Equity at Chase Brexton Health Care is working to end the health disparities that exist with in LGBTQ communities and give patients worldwide—regardless of how they identify—the opportunity to live the healthiest life possible.

- Served as a patient advocate using sex-positive, trauma-informed, and harm reduction strategies
- Coordinated patients with community & social services with rapid resource referrals
- Coordinated patients with care staff and help to schedule specialty & primary care appointments
- Prepared LGBTQ+ resource toolkits centered on improving sexual and gender minority (SGM) patient care for providers and for clinic-led organizational changes
- Assisted with off-site in-community HIV testing

At my placement at the Chase-Brexton clinic, I primarily served as a patient advocate I work with walk-up, information-seeking patients who are looking for transitional resources (information on gender affirming surgeries or legal-name changes for instance). I also refer patients and community members to active community and social services for access to computer classes, housing, food, and legal resources for instance. I often coordinate with patients so that they can meet with specialty physicians outside of the clinic, oftentimes for gender affirming surgeries that the clinic does not perform. On the internal side, I prepared LGBTQ+ resource toolkits centered on improving sexual and gender minority (SGM) patient care for providers and and external clinics. I worked with the Social Work Department at Chase-Brexton to assist with their POWER project, through which I assisted with off-site in-community HIV testing in the HIV testing truck! Through this internship, I loved that I got to know the incredibly sweet patients walking through the door.

Medicine isn't "sexy." Many pre-med students walk into medical school with this mindset, but there remain large gaps in a patient's comfortability and ability to get the medical care needed during transitional, pivotal moments. To remedy this, I helped to do the legwork to ensure they got the care they needed and deserved; the work that appears "messy," whether it was calling back and forth between doctors or tracking down clinic staff to help. I took this work on graciously. I wasn't going to let the weight of the task burden me, because I was more saddened by the patient stories I heard, some that involve negative physician-patient interactions. Physicians can walk into a patient room with all the scientific knowledge, but without the humility to address their patients with the correct pronouns. I'm walking away from this internship with an understanding that a lot of work still needs to be done. Even more so, I found a greater place for narrative medicine in my path to medical school.

Community Partner: Code in the Schools
Intern: Abby Swamidoss
Site Supervisor: Trish Garcia Pilla

What is Code in the Schools?

We empower Baltimore City youth to thrive in the 21st century economy by expanding access to quality computer science education and building pathways from school to jobs and higher education. By focusing on youth traditionally under-represented in technology fields, we work to eliminate structural barriers and inequities in education and industry.

This summer I worked with the nonprofit organization, Code in the Schools. Code in the Schools' or CITS' mission is to empower Baltimore youth to thrive in the 21st century economy by expanding access to quality computer science education and building pathways from school to jobs and higher education. By focusing on youth traditionally under-represented in technology fields, this organization works to eliminate structural barriers and inequities in education and industry. CodeWorks is a summer program offered by CITS for Baltimore youth aged 14-21. Youth are compensated for their participation in learning game development, data science skills, Python skills, website development, and more from various qualified instructors.

When I first learned about my placement, I assumed I would be spending a majority of my summer working with code and technology; however, I was delighted to learn that my supervisors, Dianne and Trish, were interested in improving youth engagement in the CodeWorks program. The goal was to ensure that CodeWorks felt like a nurturing, positive, fun, and co-created work experience to learn, build community, and belonging for all its participants. We wanted youth to feel at home at CodeWorks and to build strong, meaningful connections with our participants.

So instead of spending my days with computers, keyboards, and coding as I had anticipated, I spent most of my time greeting and chatting with the CodeWorkers, working closely with members of the CITS organization, and just getting to know people. I felt inspired by the enthusiasm of the CodeWorker youth, each of them are so passionate about learning and all extremely talented; but, I also felt proud to work with the members of my nonprofit. Their incredible work ethic and dedication to their cause was contagious and inspiring, and I am so grateful to have been a part of this amazing organization.



- Organized a scavenger hunt and orientation presentation for youth in the CodeWorks program using Slack and Mentimeter.
- Led the submission of payroll for over 80+ youth and recorded daily attendance information for YouthWorks.
- Used Salesforce to contact CodeWorkers and their families to assist with program management.
- Worked as part of the program management team and the youth engagement team.



Community Partner: Corner Team
Intern: Samson Dessalines
Site Supervisor: Savannah Thompson

What is Corner Team?

Corner Team uses Olympic-style boxing to strengthen core competencies that improve academic performance, encourage healthy and active lifestyles, and build strong communities of engaged citizens.

- Taught 8 STEM classes related to boxing to a group of 15 teenagers.
- Led a group of kids in renovating a vacant lot into a clean and public space for the Baltimore community.
- Assisted coaches in workouts and other activities like rowing and camping.



My internship at Corner Team has been a really fun and interesting experience, to say the least! I work with the Youth Works kids every Monday through Friday from 9 am to 3:30 pm and each kid has a unique personality that brings life to the boxing club. Every day I would bike to work for about 10 minutes, but other forms of transportation like the bus is pretty reliable whenever I don't feel like biking. We would then start our day with a mental health activity, and we focus on improving our kids' mindfulness during this time. We would also talk about the theme that we are discussing for that week. For example, we are currently in Week 2 right now, and our theme for the week is RESPECT. So for the beginning of the session, we would do an activity about respect and explain why it is important. Moving on, we would work out and train some of the basic boxing skills like jabs, crosses, and footwork. After that, we would either transition into my STEM classes that I lead on Tuesdays and Thursdays, or we will do a class about leadership and literacy on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. On Saturdays, we would work on our vacant lot which is supposed to become a public and clean space for the people of Baltimore. This is probably the hardest part of the internship, and working out there is a borderline workout! Nevertheless, the work that we do is important and I know that the kids feel fulfilled in helping others. Corner Team also has some activities planned for the kids to do in the upcoming weeks, like rowing, sailing, cooking, and camping! I am excited to see what the future has in store for that lot, and I hope that we can finish it up by the end of the summer! All in all, I learned a lot from this internship, such as time management, mental health, and public speaking. I feel like I have become a better speaker in general, and that I can lead others better and convey what I wish to plan out. I also feel supported by my co-workers at Corner Team and by all of my friends at CIIP! I would not be where I am right now without their help, and I am really grateful to be a part of this team.

Community Partner: Court Appointment Special Advocate Program of Baltimore
Intern: Hadeed Habib
Site Supervisor: Reah Vasilakopoulos

What is CASA of Baltimore?

CASA of Baltimore's mission is to provide court appointed special advocates to speak for the best interests of abused and neglected children involved in Baltimore's juvenile court system to encourage reunification, help them find a permanent family, and reach their full potential.



My summer internship with CASA of Baltimore has been massively influential in regards to both my professional career as well as my personal understanding of Baltimore and my general growth. When I was first informed of my placement with CASA, I was extremely excited to start working and helping out in whatever way I could. At the time, however, I had little to no understanding of the exact work CASA did as well as what the structure of the Baltimore foster care system looked like. In the first days of my internship I quickly learned that the amount of time, energy (both emotional and physical), and effort that the volunteers and staff of CASA put in was exponentially more than what I had assumed. I had known that non-profit work required a great deal of dedication and commitment but I had not accounted for the additional level of effort needed when dealing with legal systems like the foster care system. While gaining an understanding of the work CASA does, I also greatly increased my knowledge of how the foster care system disproportionately impacts marginalized and low income communities in Baltimore. After learning about how CASA seeks to support this communities and foster youth as a whole, I gained a further appreciation both for the work CASA does as well as the potential support I could provide as an intern. Throughout the length of my internship I gained vital experience in creating community partnerships, organizing online databases, and generally streamlining the process of generating positive change with local communities. Through these skills I developed, I also gained an increased understanding of how I hope to occupy space in the future, whether that is in Baltimore or elsewhere; my conversations with CASA staff, volunteers, and community members have influenced the way I want to interact with and support my own communities in the present and the future. My experience with CASA is one that has deeply guided how I view my place in any space I'm in, the power to create change I hold, and the way I can use my privilege and knowledge in the future.

- Created a database of over one hundred local community organization contacts and reached out to create partnerships
- Designed social media and various outreach posts to increase CASA's presence in Baltimore
- Organized farmers markets tabling events





Community Partner: Dent Education
Intern: Rachel Baffoe-Bonnie
Site Supervisor: Kelsey Ko



What is Dent Education?

Dent Education promotes equity by empowering under-resourced youth to discover and develop their innate creative potential to shape the world around them.

- Piloted college/post-secondary education program based on students' future career goals and personal interests
- Managed and logged attendance hours for students via the Youthworks summer employment program
- Coordinated field trips and outside speakers on behalf of assigned Dent sites
- Created and solidified relationships with Dent staff, partners, and students

I was given the amazing opportunity to intern at Dent Education, a non-profit organization that is committed to serving and empowering Baltimore City youth through their own creative ventures. By utilizing Design Thinking models and connecting students to experts around the city that specialize in areas such as product design, business ventures, and social innovation, "Denterns" come out from the summer Bet on Baltimore program with their businesses and initiatives more supported than before.

When I initially found out that I was paired with Dent, I was overcome with excitement and nervousness at the same time. Although I was happy to find out that I would be working with youth, I had no background in anything related to working in the business industry. However, through my onboarding process with my fellow college-aged "Fellows", site supporters, and the coaches for the program, I was provided a space to ask as many questions (regardless of how "obvious" I felt the answer might be) and learn alongside others who had been a part of Dent since its conceptions. My role as a Fellow was described to be the "glue" to the sites that we supported; in this role, I coordinate meals for the students at my two sites, mark and enter their timesheets through Youthworks for their payroll periods, and support my coaches in any way I can. In trying to find ways that I can bring my previous experiences working with high schoolers, I proposed an education program where I would present weekly sessions about all things surrounding college/post-secondary and how to find programs that tied in with their specific interests. It has been fulfilling to see the students at the site that I am piloting this program with engage and share what they want, college or not, after they graduate high school.

After reflecting on the experiences that I have had this summer, I feel so blessed to have had the chance to work with such incredible youth and staff members. I am not only taking lessons that I've learned from my time during onboarding and Bet on Baltimore, but connections and friendships that I will carry well into my time at Hopkins and beyond. I think it would be fair to say that this organization has definitely made a positive "dent" in my college experience thus far!

Community Partner: Enoch Pratt Free Library
Intern: Sharada Vishwanath
Site Supervisor: Maura Elwood



What is Enoch Pratt Free Library?

Our mission is to empower, enrich, and enhance the quality of life for all through equitable access to information, services, and opportunity.



My internship at the Enoch Pratt Free Library has been immensely fulfilling. I previously had no experience with nonprofit management and am thankful I got the chance to learn about how library systems operate from the inside out. A significant accomplishment I got to be a part of was Summer Break Baltimore, the free reading program for all ages. We had over 17,000 registrations for the program for which we had to pack books and t-shirts to deliver across the library branches. Getting to see the excitement on people's faces when we dropped off brand-new books, and witnessing the fruition of our hard work was incredibly rewarding. Through this process, I learned a lot more about Baltimore, and how its history informs even what events or books will be more successful in different locations.

I was definitely pleasantly surprised to learn how many connections, some direct, some not so obvious the library holds to public health. Equitable access to information and proximity to resources is a social determinant of health, and as one of the 'last remaining public spaces' libraries provide various levels of support to individual and family level wellness. My supervisor was describing to me how she noticed that libraries function as a 'third space', free from policing, and the sometimes taxing environments of homes and workplaces. Working at the library has also helped me form unexpected connections between larger pictures of public health, writing, and literacy, and has informed me how I'd like to tie personal goals with professional ones in the future. It's clear that a library acts as an anchor to a community and I am so grateful I got to learn about and contribute to such an impactful system this summer.

- Supported and enhanced Baltimore's free reading program, Summer Break Baltimore, to promote learning, literacy, and the building of home libraries throughout the community.
- Monitored data on new registrations and communicated across 21 branches to package and deliver materials for services and outreach
- Created and administered evaluation tools to better implement the program in the following years.
- Mentored youth workers with personal goals, leading successful pop-up programs as well as delegating tasks to facilitate programming.



Community Partner: Episcopal Refugee & Immigrant Center Alliance
Intern: Frank Meng
Site Supervisor: Betty Symington

What is ERICA?

The Episcopal Refugee and Immigrant Center Alliance (ERICA) welcomes those fleeing injustice, poverty, and persecution in other countries. With volunteers and community partners, ERICA helps refugees, asylum seekers, and other vulnerable immigrants in Greater Baltimore rebuild their lives through one-on-one problem solving, emergency assistance, and educational workshops.



- Managed ERICA's annual Silent Auction campaign, raising \$12,000 through effective donation solicitation and creation of 80 display sheets.
- Conducted 30 surveys among ERICA participants to gather data on their housing situations and collected feedback for program improvement.
- Provided direct services to a diverse group of refugees and asylum seekers, assisting with relocation, legal documents, and employment, working with a dozen individuals to support their successful integration.

Two weeks into my internship at the Episcopal Refugee and Immigrant Center Alliance (ERICA), I scrapped the entire introduction chapter of my thesis due to the transformative experiences I had while working with Betty, my extraordinary supervisor, refugees, and asylum seekers. As an aspiring sociologist focused on immigration, I had always considered academic research and the classes I took on policy and theory as crucial to understanding and solving the complex issues immigrants and refugees face. However, I came to realize that we often overlook people's lived experiences, which precisely reveal the mechanisms of inequality within our exclusionary immigration system. Unfortunately, I can't share many details of my work due to the nature of dealing with refugees and undocumented immigrants. Nevertheless, tending to refugees and bearing witness to their struggles and resilience in the face of adversity has become a crucible of self-interrogation. It has compelled me to confront the privileges that cloak my own existence, uncovering layers of unexamined assumptions that have guided my scholarly and personal journey. Whether one has a visa, was born here, or can speak English, these are privileges that we often overlook and take for granted.

There is no institutionalized infrastructure to support newcomers, especially those with language barriers or those who lack access to shelter or food, and those who don't know where to find support. Hearing first-hand accounts of people spending 43 days walking to the border and facing other inconceivable challenges are experiences that cannot be captured by mere data points. Because behind each data point are real people with real experiences. As I grappled with the realities faced by the displaced and marginalized, the imperative to harness academia as an instrument for positive societal transformation has become unmistakably clear. It has impressed upon me the dire need for scholarship to become an impassioned agent of change, capable of illuminating systemic injustices and advocating for a more egalitarian and inclusive social fabric.

Community Partner: Esperanza Center
Intern: Sarah Marquez
Site Supervisor: Yaneldis Boullon



What is the Esperanza Center?

The Esperanza Center is a comprehensive resource center whose mission is to welcome immigrants by offering hope, compassionate services, and the power to improve their lives.



"Offering hope." This motto has surrounded me for the past two months during my internship at the Esperanza Center, a clinic that offers free healthcare for uninsured Latino immigrants. Co-workers and patients alike see the clinic as a safe space where together we work relentlessly to get patients affordable healthcare. This of course comes with many obstacles. Between language and economic barriers, immigrant communities are often silenced or forgotten.

In the clinic, we try to break down these barriers by helping patients schedule appointments, apply for financial aid, and find Spanish-speaking providers. In the process, I've gotten to know many patients, each with a unique and touching story to be told. Many are heartbreaking, others inspiring. I am incredibly grateful for the patients who opened their hearts to me. As one of our doctors at the clinic says, "Patients are our greatest teachers".

All these stories have one thing in common: they show the strength of the Latino community. These people remain hopeful and motivated despite how hard it is to access healthcare while undocumented. With my supervisor, Yaneldis, we often had conversations to reflect on these challenges. For example, for many of our patients communicating without an interpreter is impossible, but using an interpreter is also uncomfortable and can often lead to misunderstandings. This showed me firsthand the importance of advocating for accessibility in health care. This is part of the reason why I found my work at Esperanza so inspiring, it was work done by Latinos for Latinos.

From my summer at Esperanza, I take away countless skills and lessons (among them, the importance of listening more than you speak). I also take away a different outlook on life. This experience has instilled in me the concept of cultivating hope in my personal life and serving others to spread that hope. Esperanza Center uses hope as a beautiful tool to empower immigrants and give them a voice in healthcare.

- Authorized, processed, and scheduled referral appointments with specialists for hundreds of patients at the Johns Hopkins Hospital through the Access Partnership (TAP) program. This helps address the language barrier that our patients face as we ensure that patients receive the care they need and have access to interpreters.
- Organized the referral system folders for our volunteers and the TAP coordinator so many unprocessed referrals were updated and scheduled. This involved cataloging all referrals that were scheduled in the REDCAP internal server so they can be tracked.
- Took charge of every day phone calls so patients would not have to wait weeks for a response to their voicemails. Instead, through our call log I was able to help them the same day, making our patient communication system more efficient and improving patient satisfaction.
- Researched and assembled a catalog of affordable clinics and dental services around Baltimore City and neighboring counties to provide to the immigrant community. It was then distributed among the community so people could access other healthcare resources not offered at our clinic.



Community Partner: Eubie Blake Cultural Center
Intern: Raquia Hunt
Site Supervisor: Derek Price

What is Eubie Blake Cultural Center?

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



- Assisted in rebuilding the center's media presence by creating articles highlighting current exhibits, upcoming programming, and offered programs and activities.
- Researched and compiled information on arts-related enrichment programs happening in underserved communities in Baltimore.
- Interviewed event curators while attending events to assist in showcasing the talent cultivated in Baltimore's neighboring communities.

The Eubie Blake Cultural Center is a historic center in the Mt. Vernon neighborhood that has become a fixture in the area dedicated to supporting and cultivating Art education in underserved communities. The Culture Center houses many programs such as Ballet After Dark, RISE Arts, and Keur Khaleyi. Through these programs, Eubie Blake has created a safe space for youth in Baltimore to actively participate in the growth of their individual creativity. As an intern at the cultural center, I have had the pleasure of interviewing event curators who are, oftentimes, artists themselves. They were individuals who sought to pour their energy back into the community that grew them. Starting the summer, I didn't know a thing about the Art community or how it could be important and impactful on my own journey. Within the first few weeks at Eubie that all changed. It has been amazing to talk to so many people about their passions, be it dancing or visual arts, or something altogether different. Through this internship, I was able to learn more about art education from a social aspect in terms of how it is often underfunded in underserved communities and not advocated for as much as STEM career paths. I also had a chance to experience firsthand how art and other performative activities can be used to reach neurodiverse children, an experience that piqued my interest due to my neuroscience background. My main role was cultivating articles to be used for the newsletter to spread awareness about the cultural center's existence in the Mt. Vernon area, however, I've done so many other things. From watching a live band and tap dance performance to seeing an African dance showcase to learning the ins and outs of exhibit curation and setup, the list goes on. All in all, this placement has been perfect for exposing me to the Baltimore that we don't often talk about as Hopkins students. This Baltimore extends way past the "Hopkins bubble", it is the Baltimore responsible for murals scattered throughout the city and other beautifying art. For that, I am truly grateful.

Community Partner: Farm Alliance of Baltimore
Intern: Layla Salomon
Site Supervisor: Alison Worman

What is Farm Alliance of Baltimore?

The Farm Alliance of Baltimore is a membership organization of urban farms, neighborhood growers, and friends. We use connection, resource sharing, and collective advocacy with respect to food, land and water to expand communities' self-determination and power.



When I was paired with Farm Alliance of Baltimore, I was really excited to see what the placement would have in store for me over the next couple of months. I came in with strong interests in sustainability and environmental justice, but I didn't have any experience with farming, and I was a bit intimidated to be entering a field (literal and metaphorical) where I had pretty much no idea what to expect. However, the people at FAB are so welcoming, and it didn't take long for me to feel like a part of the team.

My supervisor, Alison, was abroad for the first few weeks of the summer, but Myeasha stepped in as an incredible teacher and mentor, especially on the Black Butterfly Teaching Farm, where I worked twice a week. She always made me feel like my questions were welcome and appreciated, and I was constantly being given new jobs to learn and experience. On the office side of things, Mariya was there to help me familiarize myself with FAB's existing systems and current projects and figure out how I could help with them. With both of their help, I was able to get into a routine that balanced farm work, office work, and independent study of resources surrounding issues like food sovereignty. On her first day back from working in Indonesia, Alison sat down with me to discuss any goals I had or particular interests I wanted to focus on for the rest of my time with the Farm Alliance. Since returning, she has been an incredible supervisor and has helped me gain direction and get a better feel for how things normally work at FAB.

Over these last months, I've grown a lot more familiar with issues surrounding food apartheid and inequality in Baltimore and gained a much greater appreciation for what goes into taking produce from a sapling to a meal. I've also gotten to see just a few of the close-knit communities that make up this city firsthand. It has been a privilege to contribute something valuable to a place I've come to love, and after this summer I can easily see myself continuing with this kind of work.

- Helped plan and host a community event with free produce and activities including flower bouquet making, sack races, a cooking demo, vegetable digging, and more
- Worked on the Black Butterfly Teaching Farm twice a week, assisting with harvesting, washing and packing produce, and other farm maintenance
- Assisted and visited member farms, learning about different urban farming practices in Baltimore and connecting with a network of local farmers
- Aided in organizing and keeping records, as well as other general office work



Community Partner: Franciscan Center
Intern: Rachel Oh
Site Supervisor: Sabrina Gay

What is the Franciscan Center?

The mission of the Franciscan Center is to provide emergency assistance and supportive outreach to persons who are economically disadvantaged in an effort to assist them in realizing their self-worth and dignity as people of God.



- Completed HMIS intakes to support the Responsive Services team and ensure efficient data collection of clients.
- Shadowed social workers and assisted in providing essential emergency resources like Maryland state IDs applications, eviction prevention, dental and vision referrals, and SNAP applications, to empower clients and address immediate needs.
- Conducted outreach to CBOs and encampments to ensure equitable access to services and resources for individuals experiencing homelessness.
- Designed informative materials, including flyers, QR codes, and Amazon lists, to support key upcoming events and facilitate effective communication with clients and staff.

Working at the Franciscan Center has been an incredibly transformative experience for me. My role has been diverse, from completing intakes for the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to running the clothing experience on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Additionally, I have created design flyers and QR codes for events, conducted outreach to encampments, and assisted in distributing food during dinner service. The opportunity to engage in every section of the center has made me feel like an integral part of the Franciscan family, and the genuine care and appreciation from my colleagues, especially Sabrina and Rosslyn, have made each day fulfilling.

One of the most significant aspects of my work is directly interacting with our clients. These conversations have provided me with invaluable insights into the lives of those experiencing homelessness, allowing me to form genuine connections and share moments with individuals who may not always have a platform to voice their stories. Many clients are eager to share their experiences, vent about their situations, and offer advice about life in Baltimore. In these exchanges, I have found myself learning from and being inspired by their resilience and strength. Their stories have taught me about grievance procedures in Section 8 housing leases, the supplemental role of DSS pantry boxes for low SNAP benefits, and creative uses of salad dressing to season chicken. Clients have also inspired me to learn ASL to better communicate with some, and I've researched outpatient treatment programs.

Moreover, collaborating with organizations like the Identity Access Project has opened my eyes to the barriers faced by homeless individuals, such as the lack of identification or a permanent address. Through this partnership, I have witnessed firsthand how the center assists clients in overcoming these obstacles by providing support with identification applications and fees. These experiences have underscored the importance of addressing systemic issues alongside providing immediate assistance.

Overall, my time at the Franciscan Center has been an enriching journey of learning, empathy, and personal growth. I have to give an additional thanks to everyone at the center that inspires me to live and serve with the Franciscan values of compassion, respect, and empowerment.

Community Partner: FreeState Justice
Intern: Diksha Iyer
Site Supervisor: Lauren Pruitt

What is FreeState Justice?

FreeState Justice is Maryland's statewide advocacy non-profit that seeks to improve the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer ("LGBTQ") Marylanders.



Being at FreeState Justice has helped me figure out what my purpose is. With the amazing experience that I had at Out For Justice last year, I knew that I was interested in analyzing policy (what does it really mean when a government passes a certain policy, and what are some of the implications/(un)intended consequences of these decisions?) and engaging with the communities that these policies impact. With FreeState Justice, I have continued my efforts to understand policies, expand my research skills to include legal research (such as seeing what precedents stand in a particular case) and policy research and analysis (what does a policy really say?), and figure out how the backend legal work gets done. I learned the intricacies of the legal system (and learned a lot of Latin along the way) and which legal drama movies are the most accurate (I have a running tally from all of the lawyers I've met). I was able to go to court and witness arguments, presentation of evidence, witness questioning, and arbitration - all of which I had never seen before outside of a TV show. Sidenote: it's nothing like the TV shows.

However, most importantly, I've figured out what my driving goal is. I used to feel quite conflicted because of the difference in my interests: statistics, policy, and community engagement. I could not see how my interest in crunching and collecting numbers could overlap with the fun I have when immersing myself in the more qualitative work of policy analysis and tying it to community engagement, where I learn about the deeper impact of these policies. With FreeState, I learned how to meld these together.

The whole aim of community engagement, for me, is to expand my knowledge past what my lived experiences can provide and my ability to liaise with FSJ's clients has given me the opportunity to start to make connections between their various identities, their lived experiences, and their various outcomes when impacted by a given policy. From this, I have learned how to understand policy better through anecdotal evidence and individual testimonies. Sometimes looking at the numbers is not enough to really understand how pervasive and far-reaching the negative impacts of seemingly protective policies are. Without engaging with people with different identities and experiences than you, you will not understand why a particular policy is harmful. FSJ taught me how to better my engagement skills - learning how to learn was a big part of my experiences here.

- Learned how to draft and file various legal documents for processes such as name and gender marker designation changes, motions to seal, and worker discrimination claims.
- Attended court cases to advocate for FSJ clients in areas such as divorce, child custody, and name changes
- Researched various policies to develop FSJ's policy platform for the upcoming legislative session, including HIV decriminalization, the Transgender Respect, Agency, and Dignity Act, inclusive sex education in schools, and requiring gender-neutral bathroom signage in all public buildings.



Community Partner: Fusion Partnerships Inc.
Intern: Nicole Rivas
Site Supervisor: Allison Duggan

What is Fusion Partnerships?

Through collaborative action, including fiscal sponsorship, Fusion Partnerships works to be a catalyst for social justice and peace.



- Collaborated with co-workers to set up the inFusionFilm Festival Art Exhibition at MAXGallery, as well as attended and (at times) helped facilitate other Fusion or inFusion grantees' events
- Scheduled meetings with and interviewed about 15 inFusion grantees to understand their programs better, their community impact, and their story to eventually create "one-sheeters" for each program as a part of what inFusion calls "storytelling for sustainability"; this included sitting in on cooking classes and sewing classes!
- Responsibly transcribed, summarized, and interpreted interview content and assembled pictures (taken by myself and/or grantees) to adequately capture grantee's stories
- Utilized Canva to design "one-sheeters" geared to help inFusion grantees promote their program, find volunteers, and seek funds beyond inFusion grants if desired/needed.

My main project this summer was a long term one. I was assigned to create one sheeters for inFusion grant recipients and their programs. This meant that I had to schedule interviews, conduct them, and then turn them into beautiful one sheeters (including pictures!) all while developing connections and trust with the grantees. I feel grateful that my supervisor and coworker have assisted me in connecting with all the grantees, including the inFusion grant committee. It took a lot of introducing me and reintroducing me considering that all of the grantees are very busy people and most of them were meeting me for the first time in person when their interviews occurred. That being said, through the Fusion events and art exhibitions that happened in between interviews, I eventually became a familiar face and I'm happy to know I've made connections through my "storytelling" work. I'd also like to mention that Fusion events were a highlight of my experience, especially the inFusion Film Fest and Art Exhibition, where I learned a lot (about Baltimore, behind the scenes of non-profit event planning, and even how to install art in a gallery) in addition to meeting a lot of cool people and talented local artists.

Interviews for one sheeters mostly took place in the Fusion office but a good portion of them took place at McElderry Park Community Association Center, the heart and soul of a lot of the programs inFusion sponsors. This community center is always bustling. Even when it was somewhat empty, I could count on seeing at least one or two friends that I've gotten to know through my visits there. I feel grateful that grantees at McElderry Park Center and otherwise have trusted me enough with their stories and have in some cases, invited me into their spaces. For example, one of my favorite interviews to conduct was at Amazing Grace Church, where I sat in on a cooking class. As I reflected in a blog post, I was worried about how to ethically approach my task, as I was entering a new space and looking over people's shoulders while they cooked to ask questions about the program they participate in. It turned out to be a great (and delicious) experience, where I was lucky enough to take part in a space full of good food and good people and try everyone's chicken and mac n' cheese—everyone was eager for me to taste test their food! This particular group's generosity, hospitality, creativity and openness was mirrored everywhere else Fusion responsibilities took me which I'm super grateful for.

Community Partner: Greenmount East Leadership Project
Intern: Joshua McGrew
Site Supervisor: Isaiah Johnson

What is the Greenmount East Leadership Project?

The Greenmount East Leadership Project is a non-profit committed to inspiring the youth of Greenmount East, Baltimore to reach their fullest potential by providing them with the skills and knowledge necessary for their journey to adulthood and success.



This summer, I was placed as an intern with Greenmount East Leadership Project (GELP), a nonprofit grassroots organization that provides a variety of programs throughout the year for youth and their families. My main project was the development of the Summer Youth Empowerment Academy, a newer program that aimed to support 20 at-risk students aged 14-19 through experiences that would take them outside the classroom, introduce them to a variety of career paths and teach essential life skills in a safe and positive environment.

In the first half of my internship, I spent my days planning out each aspect of the 5-week summer program. I reached out to individuals from various career areas to come speak about their careers and experiences. I also planned trips to the National Mall in DC and local college campus tours, designed promotional materials for the organization's other programs and events, and did writing for multiple grants. My biggest task was to create the summer program's first youth workbook, which would contain summaries on each speaker and workshop, mindfulness journals with daily prompts, and note-taking sheets designed to help the youth engage with the program.

When the summer program started in July, I was finally able to see our work pay off as the youth arrived and engaged with the program. As a result of our planning, GELP made dozens of connections with local communities and got our youth to think about themselves, their views on the world and their plans for life in ways they hadn't before. Behind the scenes, I continued to communicate with speakers and locate other sources of support while creating surveys to gather data on our youth's growth and the speakers' experiences.

Working with GELP this Summer has been a memorable experience. My workload was greater than I expected, but that was matched by the impact my work had on our youth. During my time with GELP, I learned a lot about the issues that students in Baltimore City face and the importance of summer programs like the one I worked on for their continued development. I also learned about everything that goes into designing a youth program while developing various professional skills through my assignments. Working with my supervisor, Coach Zeke, has been a blessing, and I am grateful that I had the opportunity to help make an impact in Baltimore through CIIP.



- Planned the curriculum for a 5-week youth summer program
- Designed a 70+ page workbook and other supplemental materials
- Created and distributed surveys to collect data on the summer program



Community Partner: Hampden Family Center
Intern: Emily Baca
Site Supervisor: Angela Profili



What is the Hampden Family Center?

The mission of the Hampden Family Center is to enrich the lives of Hampden residents through education and professional support, and to encourage individual growth and community fellowship.

- Facilitated emotional, social, and intellectual enrichment activities for children in 1st to 6th grade including daily reading, gardening, creative writing, technology literacy, photography, and science activities.
- Mediated daily conflict resolutions between participants, further encouraging empathy, self-reflection, personal growth, and interpersonal skills.
- Supervised the safe transportation of participants during field trips within Baltimore City and daily walks to the pool and park.

The vibrant orange walls of the Hampden Family Center seem to reflect the radiant energy of the children; Crafty art pieces line the bookshelves abundant with stories depicting sports, fantasy, or even Siamese cats. After pool time, the children laugh contagiously as they wield their red and blue ice pops like swords... until I introduce our next activity. Instant groans fill the room.

"I hate reading!" Some students exasperate. I encourage three girls to read with me in the quiet room, a separate space perfect for a mind reset and away from the cacophony of noise in the classroom. With dread, the girls join me and ultimately choose a book from the series, "I Survived," which portrays the story of a young boy and shark attacks. As I start to read, the girls soon become distracted by the lights in the room, stuffed animals, or floor mats in a nearby pile. In my head, I think about some advice I heard on my first day at HFC: kids are excited by your excitement. So, I start to read more exaggeratedly, animating the chapters playfully and changing my voice for different dialogue. I tell them of my love for reading, of all the amazing intricacies that you can discover by flipping through pages of a story.

"I still hate reading!" They respond, but then ask to continue finishing the chapter.

During the next couple of weeks, the children slowly become less apprehensive about our reading sessions. Some would even enjoy the time to dissociate from the real world and enter the fantasy of another. It feels as if I pushed a rock down a hill; the initial movement of the weight is daunting, but as momentum builds, the rock rolls down on its own. I am grateful for my invaluable experience at the Hampden Family Center, and for reminding me of the power of education and of the indelible mark passionate, encouraging people can have on another.

Community Partner: Impact Hub Baltimore
Intern: Jennifer Li
Site Supervisor: My-Azia Johnson



What is Impact Hub Baltimore?

We support and connect a community of Baltimore changemakers by providing an inspiring workspace and innovative programming to scale and sustain their social impact. Together, we are building an innovative local economy that advances equity and opportunity.



Nested in the heart of Station North, less than two miles from Homewood campus and five minutes from Penn station – two places I'd spent much of my freshman year – lies Impact Hub Baltimore, a bustling space that represents the best of Charm City's extensive entrepreneurial spirit. Stepping into Impact Hub embraces you with a warm feeling about the beauty of the city. It's not just the glistening lights of the Inner Harbor, or even the roaring stadiums at Camden Yards that keep hope alive in Baltimore. The essence of Baltimore, what makes Charm City "Charm City," is its people.

I spent the last few months developing relationships with Baltimore's plethora of small business owners and saw firsthand the city's spirit of resilience and resourcefulness. In the face of challenges, Baltimore's tight-knit community has demonstrated its ability to adapt and evolve, finding opportunities amid a system designed to keep its participants down.

From the first day of my internship, I was fully immersed in Impact Hub's mission to further civic wealth through an ecosystem-driven approach. Their emphasis on social impact provides a unique opportunity to explore the intersection of public health with other vital sectors, particularly in areas of economic empowerment. Recognizing avenues of public health through social determinants of health is distinctly valuable in a city like Baltimore, where camaraderie may have at first developed out of necessity, but when it happens, it happens strong! After all, in the constant echoings of my supervisor: "Baltimore loves Baltimore!"

Still, I especially appreciated their localized mindset toward community development. Rather than merely viewing the city as a backdrop for its operation, Impact Hub embraces the city as a vital partner and participant in its vision for change. Within this framework, I found myself completing what I perceived to be meaningful work. Along with managing, writing, and coding the internal and external newsletters that went out to an audience of thousands of "Doers, Entrepreneurs, and Innovators" and promoting internal workshops, events, and learning intensives to support their network of leaders and changemakers, I was able to meet an incredible, diverse community of social entrepreneurs that made this summer one to remember.

- Curated weekly and biweekly newsletters targeting Baltimore entrepreneurs to provide valuable insights, resources, and opportunities, reaching a subscriber base of 6000+ community members.
- Designed 200+ engaging graphics and content to drive the successful promotion of internal events & clinics and streamlined the content creation process by creating a versatile library of templates for future campaigns.
- Facilitated the relaunch of the "Member Spotlights" and "Skill-shares" programs, highlighting the unique journeys and skills of Baltimore's local entrepreneurial scene through an asset-framed approach.
- Utilized web-design expertise to conceptualize a dynamic overhaul of the website and newsletters, with future plans to implement these changes to strengthen the Impact Hub reach and mission



Community Partner: Jubilee Arts
Intern: Dua Hussain
Site Supervisor: Ashley “Ms. Black” Yates

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. 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.



- I am the social media manager of Jubilee Arts. A large part of my job is making sure that I am posting on all of the social media accounts, especially Instagram. I market the organization to those who haven't yet seen our work. Along with this, I coordinate the pictures and videos that are taken of the classes and Youth-in-Business program.
- I am a teaching assistant for any and all classes that I am at the site for. If there is anything that the teachers need, I will do it for them or help them with it. I interact with the students and help them with their work.
- Administrative tasks. I am also involved in setting up the spaces for classes that are coming in throughout the day. Along with that, when I am there, I help take attendance for classes.
- Outreach. One of the other things I do on a daily basis is make calls to people in the community to both remind them of classes they're signed up for, as well as classes they could sign up for.

My internship at Jubilee Arts has been one of my best experiences in Baltimore thus far. My work at Jubilee allows me to connect with the communities around it and truly feel like a part of Baltimore. However, it isn't just connecting through my work. Jubilee and Intersection of Change, the organization that Jubilee is a part of, give me plenty of ways to get involved with the community outside of work. This includes going to volunteer at the farm, going to see the neighborhoods around us, and just visiting the nearby market. The best part, though, is my coworkers and the general staff at Intersection of Change. I have met some of the most amazing people that have taught me so much.

My supervisor, for example, is always trying to maximize my experience at Jubilee. She brings me to meetings where I can see the inner workings of a non-profit, even though there is nothing I can do to help her in those spaces. She simply wants me to learn.

Not only that, but having to work in an area that is so different from Hopkins Homewood has opened my eyes to things that Baltimore citizens face on the daily basis. I complain about the fact that getting to work requires two busses and still an extra ten minute walk, but this is a problem people in these neighborhoods constantly deal with.

When I first came into Jubilee, I was really nervous about getting to work. I wasn't sure what would be expected of me. I wasn't sure what the vibe of the space would be. I didn't know if I would fit in or even add anything to the space.

But, now, I can say that I'm profoundly sad that I will ever have to leave this phenomenal environment. I truly feel like I have grown more as a person and as a professional in the past few weeks than I had in the past few months. My friends at Jubilee not only support my growth as a person, but also the path I will take as a professional.

Community Partner: Keswick Multi-Care Center
Intern: Natalie Wang
Site Supervisor: Rosalyn Stewart

What is Keswick Multi-Care Center?

Keswick Multi-Care Center is a locally owned, not-for-profit organization that provides a variety of services dedicated to enhancing quality of life for older adults.



Keswick Multi-Care Center offers a variety of levels of care for older adults, for both residents and those living in the community. As a facility with the capacity to offer skilled nursing, rehabilitation, and assisted living, the residents and patients have a wide range of needs. Those who are able attend events like bingo and art class, where I get the opportunity to assist and socialize with the residents. Over my time here, I've gotten to know the art class regulars—it's gratifying that we are now both friendly faces when we pass each other in the halls or chat during classes. On the medical care side, I also shadow biweekly wound rounds with physicians where I assist with documentation. The care teams collaborate to ensure that patients get the treatments they need.

In addition, Keswick houses Wise & Well, which gives those 50+ years old who are not residents the opportunity to engage with wellness activities. They also have a strong mission towards community health, which is where my role with Community for Life (CfL) comes in. I manage a caseload of clients who receive government funding to support their aging in place needs. To ensure that older adults can stay safe living in their homes, we connect them with vetted vendors to help with transportation, repairs, decluttering, lawn care, and other needs. I have also learned to navigate situations where the clients' needs exceed our ability to help. While there are external programs that we can refer them to, the uncertainty of whether they can get the help they need fuels me to serve the clients as best as I can. I'm grateful to be working at Keswick in collaboration with the community health team to help support older adults in Baltimore City.

- Managed caseload of clients referred to Keswick Community for Life by the Maryland Department of Aging, providing access to services to empower older adults to age in their homes.
- Followed up on low-income technology grant recipients who received free tablets and home WiFi from Keswick grant funding.
- Assisted in resident and Wise & Well activities, such as: art class, bingo, garden club, and brain blasts.
- Shadowed and assisted in wound rounds with physicians.



Community Partner: Made in Baltimore
Intern: Olubusola Babalola
Site Supervisor: Andy Cook

What is Made in Baltimore?

We support makers and manufacturers in Baltimore City. Our mission is simple: Encourage investment in Baltimore's economy by growing the market for locally-made goods and supporting the people who make them.



During my time as a Made in Baltimore intern this summer, I've had diverse experiences and worked on various projects. From my initial one-on-one meeting with my supervisor, Andy, it became evident that this internship was ideal for gaining real-life experience in the Entrepreneurship and Management field. Made in Baltimore, a nonprofit organization operating under the Baltimore Development Corporation, is dedicated to supporting small businesses and entrepreneurs in Baltimore, along with facilitating job and skill development programs.

My first week provided a comprehensive overview of the internship, exposing me to the ongoing projects, particularly as they approached their busiest season. Made in Baltimore was actively wrapping up several programs and planning numerous conferences and events. Additionally, they were relocating their store for the upcoming holiday season. Being involved in these endeavors was truly eye-opening.

As an intern, I performed typical tasks like scheduling meetings, sending emails, and attending business meetings. However, I also had unexpected opportunities that enriched my experience. For instance, I took part in tours for the Baltimore Sewn Trades Program at Open Works and visited Made in Baltimore members' sites. These visits provided insights into their businesses, and accomplishments, and offered valuable feedback to improve Made in Baltimore's support in the future. Exploring these spaces opened my eyes to a different side of Baltimore, discovering many intriguing places I would have otherwise missed.

One memorable experience was our team retreat at an inspiring site, where we engaged in natural dyeing using indigo grown on the nearby urban farm. Through these diverse experiences, I learned the immense effort required to be an entrepreneur and gained a deeper understanding of Baltimore City's development, the role of investors, Hopkins, and the community in supporting small businesses and boosting the local economy. Baltimore truly fosters a community that values and supports its small businesses, contributing to an economy that is by and for Baltimore.

Community Partner: Martha's Place
Intern: Mimi Avril
Site Supervisor: Jasper Nance

What is Martha's Place?

Martha's Place is a Baltimore, MD recovery program for women overcoming substance abuse and homelessness. We provide a structured residential program with housing and support services to help clients maintain sobriety and develop life-skills vital for independent living.



Martha's Place is a residential program providing recovery services to women who struggle with addiction. At the beginning of my internship, I established goals of building relationships with the residents of Martha's Place, becoming familiar with the social life of addiction, and learning the ethics of addiction work. I connected best with the residents by asking if they would like my help applying for jobs, disability services, or through what emotions came up for them when I facilitated our group reflection sessions. It was in this way too that I became familiar with the lived reality of those in addiction and the social process that played a role in creating and maintaining their experience of the disease. Many of the residents experienced abuse and trauma and lacked the social support needed to live healthy lives, allowing them to turn to drugs and alcohol as an escape. While in active addiction, many lost jobs, had relationships deteriorated with loved ones, contracted infectious diseases, and lost housing. The aftermath of losing so much to addiction required them to need social services in order to piece their lives together. Furthermore, through working with residents, I developed my practice of addiction work. Often times, what the residents shared with me was emotionally impactful and I worked to strike a balance of providing thoughtful responses and being empathetic and sympathetic. This was initially hard as when I was confronted with stories of trauma and hardship, I often felt overwhelmed and unsure how to respond. But throughout my tenure. I become knowledgeable of when to just listen, provide support, to probe, and when to offer services. Prior to my internship, I was aware of the disproportionate impact of the opioid epidemic on Black communities and the need for harm reduction policies to reduce consequences for people who use drugs. This experience expanded my limited knowledge of the opioid epidemic by allowing me to have hands-on experience and to develop relationships with the people who are most impacted by it, and to develop a harm reduction practice of my own.



- Led group reflection sessions on mental health
- Provided case management
- Coordinated social activities



Community Partner: Maryland Center for History and Culture
Intern: Sharon Lee
Site Supervisor: Deborah Wood

What is the Maryland Center for History and Culture?

The Maryland Center for History and Culture collects, preserves, and interprets the history, art, and culture of Maryland. By exploring multiple perspectives and sharing national stories through the lens of Maryland, MCHC inspires critical thinking, creativity, and community.



The photo shows me and Deborah, my supervisor, next to Kermit, one of Jim Henson's most famous and beloved creations. As an education intern for MCHC, I mainly worked with the new Henson exhibition. In addition to training to give tours and lead school programs for the exhibition, my main project was to create an outreach program for groups that could not come to the museum in person. After some initial brainstorming, we decided on a lesson plan that could be accessible for teachers on the website for the fall. Finally, I worked on a personal project to increase language accessibility within existing educational programs for various exhibits.

To sum my CIIP experience in two words, it is: perspective change. At Hopkins, we are constantly surrounded by the most ambitious, driven, and incredibly successful peers that most times serve as inspiration, but sometimes evoked in me the illusion that I wasn't as good as the rest. I am good, but not great. I fit in, but I am not extraordinary. Coupled with the career anxiety that had been growing two summers since, my headspace entering CIIP was...not so great.

As the internship progressed, I also had opportunities to speak with staff members from different departments such as marketing, finance, grants, and human resources. MCHC encouraged me to schedule meetings with anyone I wanted and chat about anything I wanted. These conversations, as well as the immense autonomy and creative freedom I was extended for my projects, were the reason for my perspective change this summer. During orientation, we spoke a lot about the Hopkins bubble. Although we talked then about a geographic bubble, I came to realize there exists a mental bubble as well: the reason why I was so paralyzed with fear about my future. The idea that there is one set path to your dream job, or that you must plan vigorously during your college years and dare not deviate from it, is a view that many students hold, but my time at MCHC changed that. Spending time with young children, especially in an education setting, is my passion, and I had forgotten how much I loved it while caught up in the chaos of attaining the perfect career. I do not know exactly what I'll be doing after graduation, but I can only hope to feel the wonderful feeling I felt every day at work, doing what I love.

Community Partner: Mayor's Office on Immigrant Affairs (MIMA)
Intern: Estelle Yeung
Site Supervisor: Carey Cabrera

What is MIMA?

The mission of the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs is to promote community wellbeing, economic development, and the integration of immigrant communities by identifying needs and opportunities that immigrants bring to our city, while developing public-private partnerships to strengthen the development of these communities.



This summer at the Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MIMA) has been such a wonderful learning experience. Conducting outreach at community resource fairs and events throughout the city has made me feel more connected to Baltimore City as I learn more about the demographics of each neighborhood. Speaking with community leaders and immigrant families in person has been a great way to learn firsthand about issues immigrants face in Baltimore City.

MIMA is uniquely positioned within city government because the Mayor's office has high visibility, enabling MIMA to play a capacity-building role among organizations serving immigrants. MIMA is not a direct service provider, so most of our work is externally-facing. This includes collaborating with nonprofits serving immigrants like Esperanza Center and CASA de Maryland. Another example of our role as a capacity-builder is our ability to aggregate resources to serve immigrants, especially through BNAAC, the Baltimore New American Access Coalition. This is a free benefit navigation program for immigrant families in Baltimore City to assist them in accessing public benefits.

A significant portion of my work this summer has been managing the volunteer program and researching a new volunteer translator/interpreter corps for MIMA. Most of our volunteers assist us with language access, especially on translations with quick turnaround times. Our volunteer network is a resource that smaller nonprofits also utilize, as MIMA receives requests for translations by nonprofits with limited resources. MIMA essentially serves as a bridge, connecting city government resources to community leaders and immigrant families.

I've learned so much about language access, partnership with city agencies and nonprofits, and conducting community outreach with immigrant communities this summer. Thank you to Carey, my supervisor, and the entire MIMA team for making this internship so special.

- Conducted community outreach with Baltimore's immigrant communities, especially francophone and AAPI communities, for the Baltimore New American Access Coalition.
- Attended community resource fairs and events to represent MIMA.
- Managed volunteer program, coordinated language access requests for translations. Established framework for a new volunteer translator and interpreter corps, forming strategic partnerships with external organizations.
- Assisted with emergency management projects involving asylum seekers.
- Created a map of MIMA's welcome guide using a data mapping tool.



Community Partner: MissionFit
Intern: Isabella Tasser
Site Supervisor: Wesley Jamison



What is MissionFit?

At MissionFit, we provide a safe space, resources for health and an environment for continued personal growth.

- Expanded social media outreach and engagement by posting content on a consistent basis
- Worked with my supervisor to update the Strength Ambassador handbook and create a youth-facing curriculum that outlines the different workshops, breath work, and movement labs that are taught throughout the program
- Participated in life skills-based workshops and discussions with the Strength Ambassadors and coaching youth in the Rise Up Ride Out program
- Researched and then led a workshop teaching the Strength Ambassadors about proper interview etiquette and sending professional emails

Going into this summer, I was very excited to expand my experiences and relationships in Baltimore outside of Hopkins since I felt that I hadn't made the most of my time during my freshman year. As soon as I started working with my supervisor, I was immediately welcomed into a space that I grew increasingly comfortable in as the summer progressed. Wes, my supervisor, walked me through what my role in the Strength Ambassador program would be; I would aid the two coaches, Wes and Ross, in developing curriculum, but also partake in the workshops and labs as if I myself was a Strength Ambassador. In essence, I'd be learning how to become a better coach by working as a student and as a support system simultaneously.

For the first few weeks of my internship, I was remote as I was tasked with preparing binders for the start of the Strength Ambassadors program as well as designing sponsorship decks for MissionFit's main fundraising event. These assignments were definitely challenging at first since I had never needed to think about reformatting manuals or decks for marketing purposes; the added visual aspect meant that I had to take time focusing on the cohesiveness of the design as well as ensuring that I communicate the message in a concise manner.

The Strength Ambassadors program officially started on July 10, so I was able to learn more about the dynamics of that program and the Rise Up Ride Out program and how they would overlap. Essentially, RURO would bring teens to MissionFit twice a week and the Strength Ambassadors would gradually take on more of a coaching role.

I found it extremely gratifying to watch as the Strength Ambassadors grew as leaders, and I was surprised to find that I was also becoming more comfortable using my own voice. I realized that I was just as much a student as they were as I learned many valuable skills like how to manage my stress with breathwork, how to fuel myself as an athlete, how to effectively educate others, and so much more. Not only did I feel that I had made meaningful contributions throughout my internship, but I believe I have created long-lasting relationships with people I respect and view as mentors. At MissionFit, we would end everyday with a gratitude circle, so I thought it only fitting to end by expressing my own gratitude towards all of the amazing people I've worked with this summer, from Wes and Ross to the Strength Ambassadors and everyone involved with RURO. Thank you for providing me a space to discover my own goals and purpose, and I'm excited to stay involved with MissionFit in any way I can.

Community Partner: MOMCares
Intern: Fatima Baloul
Site Supervisor: Keiona Gorham

What is MOMCares?

MOMCares serves under-supported mothers with a NICU experience in Baltimore City by providing postpartum doula care including transportation, childcare, advocacy, self care opportunities, and nutritious meals to mothers and their families.



MOMCares is a nonprofit that serves Black mothers and families by offering support services, such as prenatal and postpartum doula care to the pregnant mama's and especially those with high-risk pregnancies and / or NICU experience. MOMCares empowers these mothers or mothers-to-be through Healing Circles, Donation Days, Mommy Wine Downs, the Young Mothers Program, and so much more. Ultimately, MOMCares provides a safe, compassionate environment for Black and Brown mom's to feel advocated for, respected, and heard.

MOMCares has been an organization I genuinely have valued and aspired to be a part of as soon as I arrived at Hopkins in 2021. Now, as an incoming Junior that has spent the past 2 years in a time of healing and growth, interning with MOMCares has been the most rewarding experience. Being involved with the team and these mothers has placed me in the exact work I want to pursue in the future, and I am forever grateful for that. The team, especially my supervisor, Keiona Gorham, has shown me how invaluable it is to be human and to have compassion and love that runs so deep.

I serve as the co-program manager of the Young Mothers Program, which is an opportunity for a small group of young mama's in Baltimore to join the MOMCares team 4 days a week for a few months as we open a space of support and a sense of family through discussion and reflection on pregnancy, parenting, lactation, financing, mental health, and more, along with monetary and physical benefits for the mothers and their babies. After a few weeks, the mother's have trusted one another and us to share their vulnerability. The team and I have been able to learn the mamas individually and cater sessions that best serve them. It is beautiful to witness these ladies join us in celebrating their pregnancy, yet simultaneously recognizing the hardship and dynamic experiences of motherhood.

- Create flyers for all social media platforms related to the upcoming events and programming at MOMCares, including childbirth education classes and calls for donations
- Co-facilitate the Young Mothers Program and guide the mother's through deep breathing exercises, discussion, and wellness activities; plan the wellness activities with a coworker
- Support the MOMCares team in any tasks!



Community Partner: The National Great Blacks in Wax Museum & Womb Work
Intern: Bersabe Tilahun
Site Supervisor: Chrishna Williams & Dora Lee Fakunle

What is The National Great Blacks in Wax Museum?

The National Great Blacks in Wax Museum is a wax museum in Baltimore, Maryland featuring prominent African-American and other black historical figures. The Museum houses approximately 150 figures of people from the past, like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks, and from the present, like President Barack Obama.

What is Womb Work?

WombWork Productions, Inc. brings together art and spirit through traditional art forms and showcases socially relevant productions that empower performers and youth in social change issues.

- Demonstrated adeptness in managing and curating social media content: strategically developing a comprehensive calendar of significant events to maximize audience engagement
- Meticulously documented and captured vital organizational processes—contributing to enhanced community awareness when showcasing an acute attention to detail and proficiency in record-keeping
- Led a creative and innovative approach to the redesigning of The National Great Blacks in Wax Museum’s branding to underscore proactive results (i.e. website, logo, merchandise, etc)
- Cultivated collaborative relationships with closely-tied organizations, such as Womb-work Productions in order to foster meaningful partnerships and amplify the National Great Blacks in Wax Museum’s outreach within the community

During this transformative summer internship, the experience I had with the National Great Blacks in Wax Museum has been nothing short of inspiring. As I have been provided with a profound sense of purpose and fulfillment, this opportunity has immensely contributed to fostering my personal and professional development.

Throughout these eight weeks, my responsibilities encompassed a diverse array of projects and activities—spanning social media management, website updates, blog posts, newsletters, emails, and printed materials. The opportunity to contribute to such varied and essential aspects of the museum’s communication strategy allowed me to hone my creative abilities, whilst providing me with a comprehensive understanding of effective communication in the nonprofit sector. The highlight of this internship has undoubtedly been my introduction to all the people who have made the museum what it is today.

Alongside meeting incredible individuals who took part in the upbringing of this organization, Dr. Joanne Martin has played a vital role in my connection to our partnership. Hearing the mission she and her husband had brought into reality allowed me to realize the importance of permanency in Black history that continues to be erased. Witnessing the culmination of efforts from my team to create an impactful and memorable space for the Baltimore community has been a deeply rewarding experience— I am incredibly proud to have witnessed its continued success.

Beyond professional growth, this internship has been a personal journey of discovery. By immersing myself in an environment that values and cherishes its history, it has left a lasting impression on me. I have come to appreciate the importance of social impact, and community engagement. Moreover, seeing the involvement of our audience through continuous interactions has reinforced the power of unity when sharing similar identities within the National Great Blacks in Wax Museum. Moving forward, I aspire to leverage these newfound skills and insights to contribute the celebration of our enriched history and culture. So as CIIP comes to a close, I am thankful for this opportunity that I’ve been given and for having a team as supportive and uplifting. I’m eager to see their growth beyond our collaboration this summer.

Community Partner: Neighborhood Design Center
Intern: Eliza Principe-Garcia
Site Supervisor: Julia DiMauro



What is the Neighborhood Design Center?

We support the growth of healthy, equitable neighborhoods through community-engaged design and planning services. By providing the tools, expertise, and partnerships necessary to realize neighborhood visions, we support broad participation in the evolution of the built environment.



I started my summer at the Neighborhood Design Center unsure of what to expect, both from the work itself and from how that experience would affect me. My experience here has been transformative. I’ve learned so much about fields that I had never interacted with before: from the intense process of grant writing and review, to how many designers, contractors, and architects are needed for an infrastructure project, and how to manage a community-based design project. I have learned so much about Baltimore City, and have visited communities I’d never been to before, like Greenmount West and Sharp Leadenhall in central and South Baltimore, or even heard of, like Irvington in West Baltimore.

Since most of NDC’s work is helping with projects from other community organizations throughout the city, projects are always different; different people, different types of projects, and volunteers with different skill sets. In my work with my supervisor Julia, I’ve helped present a banner design will eventually be mounted across the Historic Sharp Leadenhall neighborhood (right next to the Ravens stadium!), organized a community engagement event to get feedback for a playground Greenmount West is building, and helped with the creation of a new community space in Irvington. With NDC’s executive director, Jen, I’ve worked closely with the Upton Planning Committee on helping to facilitate three major architectural projects. Every project is different, and every project provides new and ample opportunities to learn and grow.

But what continues to amaze me about NDC are the people involved. I participated in dozens of meetings with other co-workers, with community partners, and with volunteers, and across the board, the NDC staff went out of their way to form positive close relationships with everyone they worked with. I got to know the rich, diverse backgrounds and personalities of all my co-workers. I got to experience the passion the volunteers had to donate their expertise for projects. And I was fortunate enough to meet community partners who not only worked with us, but also invested so much energy into advocating for their neighborhood. Baltimore, I feel, is defined by its people and I am so blessed to have been able to experience all these perspectives and help improve these people’s built environments.

- Researched resource guides on city beautification programs in collaboration with members of the Baltimore City Department Neighborhood Development and Outreach to be distributed to community partners across Baltimore.
- Created development timelines for the Upton Planning Committee’s creation of a Black Arts and Entertainment District’s Welcome Center and restoration of former representative Parren Mitchell’s former home spanning over 18 months.
- Organized and facilitated a community engagement event in collaboration with the Greenmount West Playground Association to get feedback from community members on a playground that is being built.
- Helped facilitate a presentation for over 50 youth to educate them on the Neighborhood Design Center and engage them in community focused work.



Community Partner: Office of Councilmember Mark Conway
Intern: Makaila Hyman
Site Supervisor: David Pontious

What is the Office of Councilmember Mark Conway?

The Office of Councilmember serves the Fourth District of Baltimore City. Mark Conway is an experienced public servant and community leader. He is working in City Hall to make the district and Baltimore a safer and more prosperous place for every family.



- Completed Research on Baltimore Recreation Centers and Baltimore's Youth
- Completed Research on Crematoriums and the Environmental Impacts
- Collaborated with Baltimore Agencies to address the day-to-day issues of Baltimore's 4th District Residents

This summer, I am interning with the office of Councilman Mark Conway, who assists Baltimore's 4th district. My duties include directly engaging with the community by responding to emails and phone calls from people in need, contributing to research, and discussing bills and policies with Councilman Conway's team.

One of my major projects was researching the environmental impact of crematoriums in residential areas. I found that crematoriums have a negative impact on air quality, and that this issue disproportionately affects low-income communities. I also found that in similar cities, densely populated cities, they use crematoriums in suburban areas and found it to be more safe for residents. I presented my findings to Councilman Conway's team, who will use my research to inform policy decisions.

Another project I worked on was researching Baltimore's recreation centers. I found that these centers are underutilized and that there is a lack of resources available for the city's youth. I proposed several ways to make the centers more efficient, such as offering more programs and activities that appeal to young people. I also suggested partnering with local organizations and higher institutions in the area to provide recreations with more resources and provide youth with more opportunities for mentorship.

In addition to my research, I also engage with the community on a daily basis. I respond to emails and phone calls from people in need, and I work with Councilman Conway's team to address their concerns. I also communicate daily with different agencies throughout Baltimore City to help the residents. I have gained valuable experience in community engagement and have developed skills in communication, research, and policy analysis.

Overall, my internship with Councilman Conway's office has been a valuable learning experience. I have gained a deeper understanding of how local government works and have developed skills that will be useful in my future career. I have also made a positive impact on the community by contributing to research and engaging with residents. I have learned so much about local government and the work that goes into maintaining a community with such diverse needs.

Community Partner: Office of Councilmember Zeke Cohen
Intern: Alex Paolucci
Site Supervisor: Maggie Master

What is the Office of Councilmember Zeke Cohen?

The Office of Baltimore City Councilmember Zeke Cohen works to lift up and work hand-in-hand with the community we serve. We are committed to executing a world-class constituent service operation for all residents of the First District. Our team continuously strives for excellence. We care about being responsive to the needs of our constituents.



I went into my internship with Baltimore City Councilmember Zeke Cohen feeling cautiously optimistic. As someone who dreams of working in public policy, I was excited to get experience in government. But at the same time, I worried city government would be too small-scale to really address my areas of interest and allow me to feel like my work is meaningful.

However, I realized pretty quickly that I had nothing to worry about, and this internship had far exceeded my expectations. I was completely off in worrying that city government wouldn't address my areas of interest- so many issues such as mental health and addiction, homelessness and lack of affordable housing, and working conditions are dealt with on a city level. I found so many opportunities to explore these issues and what Councilmember Cohen is doing about them as well as contribute to policy around them myself, which just confirmed for me that public policy is exactly what I want to do with my life.

Beyond this, I was surprised by how much I enjoyed other aspects of my job. I knew going in that constituent services were going to be an important part of my job, but I viewed them more as a necessary rite of passage for anyone working in government than something I was excited for. But as I quickly discovered, constituent services can be incredibly fulfilling. I like the feeling of helping people, even if it is on a small scale. I find it comforting to know that even if I can't change the world, I can fix someone's sidewalk, and that still means something to someone.

My internship has taught me so much about Baltimore and working in government and policy and given me so many skills that I know will be invaluable for my future. I am so grateful to the office of Councilmember Zeke Cohen for everything they have taught me and for giving me a truly amazing summer.



- Managed social media and created promotional content to post on multiple platforms
- Remodeled and updated website
- Wrote legislation surrounding city maintenance working conditions
- Researched and developed policy around public housing



Community Partner: Out for Justice
Intern: Maria Harar
Site Supervisor: Dwan Burton

What is Out for Justice?

Out for Justice, Inc. (OFJ) is an organization comprised of individuals who are both directly and indirectly impacted by the criminal justice system advocating for the reform of policies and practices that adversely affect successful reintegration into society.



This summer, I learned about how the criminal justice system does not adequately address the needs of formerly and currently incarcerated individuals. As a state, rather than focusing on reform, Maryland tends to strictly punish individuals and provide little or no training for successful reentry into society. Rather, many formerly incarcerated individuals exit the system and are met with a highly stressful situation that often leads to recidivism. As an organization, Out for Justice has successfully and currently created policies that address this injustice. In my opinion, one of the most notable aspects of this program is the active involvement of currently incarcerated individuals. Whether it be advocating for their own case or advocating for all incarcerated people, they play an integral role in OFJ community and advocacy work.

My role in the organization has been in our Bail and Legal program. My most meaningful legal involvement is being a team member in the Participatory Defense program. Participatory Defense is a weekly support program where individuals with active cases or their loved ones come to discuss case updates and get advised on next steps. Through this program, I have learned how court cases encompass more than simply showing up in front of the judge. We provide court support by showing up to trial, we help create social bio packets that humanize the defendant, and we refer them to additional programs. I have seen firsthand how having a community stand behind you in court can create a more favorable outcome in your case and am shocked that this is not standard practice.

Throughout the duration of this internship, I have been challenged to reflect upon myself. I have found myself wondering what my role is in this program, in Baltimore, etc. I have made many mistakes and been frustrated with myself but have ultimately improved and hope that my work has reflected that. Prior to this internship, I am used to generally excelling but I was forced to confront the reality that I know so little about the issues in my community and should instead take a more “listening approach” to my work. Being around Nicole, Lolita, Tonya, and David for the past two months has been an experience that I will cherish and hope that others get a chance to learn from them as well.

Community Partner: Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland
Intern: Michelle Sicard
Site Supervisor: Cate Scenna

What is the Pro Bono Resource Center?

PBRC engages and supports the Maryland legal community in meaningful and impactful volunteer service to ensure equal access to justice for those in need.



If I had to describe my time at the Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland (PBRC) in one word, I would describe it as dynamic. At PBRC, I was constantly learning, engaging, and practicing immigration law. At first, the job was demanding. I had to adjust myself to the fast-paced multitasking of serving clients– ranging from those with urgent deadlines to others with a question or two. However, I do believe that this position led me to understand the ins and outs of working in law and the importance to setting boundaries.

With every individual case, I have learned that there are so many ways the same law could apply. This makes the job quite interesting! All of the time, we get similar cases at the start, but after gathering a client’s information, a variety of solutions could appear. In other words, this position has taught me that immigration law **CANNOT** be practiced through a ‘one-size-fits-all’ approach. Each case that is presented to our team of paralegals brings its unique challenges and quirks, making this such an educational experience. I am so fortunate to also have this first-hand experience in interacting with clients, most who are Hispanic are immigrants to the United States. Just as the advice from case to case varies significantly, so do the type of individual interactions. This is such a beneficial skill to have learned during my time at PBRC and one I hope to carry with me in the future!

Finally, this opportunity has led me to realize that setting boundaries in any position is essential for success. This is something I grappled with towards the beginning of my internship. I was so eager to be everything to everyone, which leads to burnout rather quickly. As time passed on, however, I learned that my efforts and interpretation skills are enough. Although there are many things about the U.S. immigration system I have witnessed to be unfair and would love to see change, positive differences must start small. I am so grateful to have been a part of PBRC this summer and to continue to keep in contact with such an essential nonprofit to the immigration system of Baltimore.



- Cultivated a welcoming and hospitable environment at in-person court clinics and during legal advice consults
- Managed data entry, outreach, and communications to immigrants and prospective clients that sought legal services
- Offered interpretation for Spanish-speaking clients and translated documents for court proceedings
- Aided in the preparation for client hearings and information gathering (witness testimonies, legal interpretation, etc.)



Community Partner: Real Food Farm - Civic Works
Intern: Eden Teodorovici
Site Supervisor: Kevin Miller

What is Real Food Farm?

Civic Works Real Food Farm works toward a just and sustainable food system by improving neighborhood access to healthy food, providing experience-based education, and developing an economically viable, environmentally responsible local agriculture sector.

To sum up my internship experience, it was filled with unexpected challenges and valuable lessons. While I had anticipated plenty of farm work, there was much to learn about urban farming, despite my gardening experience since childhood.

At Civic Works Real Food Farm, I had the pleasure of working with a fantastic team that made me feel welcomed and appreciated from the start. Kevin, my supervisor, along with Grace and Bryan, the AmeriCorps interns, worked closely together, supporting one another through physically demanding tasks like clearing weeds and preparing rows for crops. Our camaraderie grew as we spent the entire day together, allowing us to form strong bonds and become close friends in a surprisingly short time. I feel incredibly fortunate to have found such genuine and kind-hearted coworkers, especially during my time at Hopkins. It's saddening to think that I won't have the chance to see them on campus or around anymore since we attend different schools.

Working in enclosed hoop houses on an urban farm posed a challenge, as we lacked sufficient pollinators. Consequently, I learned the art of self-pollination and participated in asexual reproduction to ensure successful crops. Along the way, I also learned the importance of not giving people the benefit of the doubt excessively and the significance of addressing concerns promptly. I realized that I couldn't fully develop my professional skills as intended with the established weekly schedule. Unfortunately, my hesitation to address these concerns promptly only delayed any potential improvements. However, progress was made and I am happily managing the farm's marketing efforts and social media.

Overall, this internship was a valuable experience that taught me greatly about urban farming, teamwork, and communication. Despite the challenges, I am grateful for the friendships formed and the knowledge gained, which will undoubtedly shape my future endeavors.

Civic Works



REAL FOOD FARM



Community Partner: Rec2Tech - Baltimore City Recreation & Parks
Intern: Nathan Dozier
Site Supervisor: Barnard Smit

What is Rec2Tech?

Rec2Tech, a grant funded Baltimore City Recreation & Parks initiative, aims to engage participants ages 5-17 in no-tech, low-tech, and high-tech activities that encourage creativity, innovation, and design thinking. Rec2Tech programs, led by designated Rec2Tech Program Staff and/or community partners, provide participants the opportunity to use tools, design products, build prototypes, and solve problems, while exploring careers in computer science, robotics, electronics, engineering, and maker education.

Working with Rec2Tech has been both rewarding and challenging. In the first weeks, I was free to do as I liked with the summer camp space and begin designing programs or helping set up decorations in any way I wanted- this type of open creativity helped me develop artistic skills and learn technology (3D printing, vinyl cutting, laser cutting, etc.) that honestly will stick with me for life.

In the later weeks, we began working with the children at the camp and while I won't say it was an easy task, it made me realize just how much I enjoy working with kids and helping make sure they have a memorable summer. I was personally very nervous on our first summer camp day but my boss, Barnard, was amazing in helping make sure I was comfortable and prepared enough to help make sure everything went smoothly.

Honestly, I felt like I made friends and tons of connections with different organizations and people throughout Baltimore that I never would have known about if I hadn't worked here!



BALTIMORE CITY
RECREATION & PARKS

- Design and help prepare summer camp programs
- Work with children and ensure the camp goes well
- Help maintain the summer camp building and make sure the space is enjoyable for kids!



Community Partner: Shepherd's Clinic
Intern: Anusha Sarkar
Site Supervisor: Ellen Sangiamo & Noor Saloum



What is Shepherd's Clinic?

We provide free, comprehensive health care for those who cannot afford commercial insurance, yet do not qualify for government assistance.

- Assisting patient care coordinator and communicating with patients to manage appointments
- Conducting screenings to determine if individuals are eligible to be patients of the clinic
- Compiling information about local community resources to better meet patient needs, medical and beyond
- Interpreting for patients during appointments or translating materials such as resource sheets or letters to patients

Shepherd's Clinic is a vital resource to patients without insurance in the Baltimore community. The clinic caters to a group often excluded from medical assistance programs while unable to afford alternative healthcare options. Throughout the summer, I have witnessed the passionate and thorough volunteer staff that ensures this community's needs are met, whether that involves primary, specialty, and behavioral healthcare, assistance with insurance applications, or additional resources. The staff and volunteers of Shepherd's Clinic have shown a deep commitment to community health, despite the many barriers that exist to assisting the uninsured.

In my varied experiences as an intern this summer, I have come to appreciate how extensive and multi-faceted the work is to keep such a clinic running. Some mornings I would come into the clinic to work on daunting spreadsheets to ensure that we have the data necessary for grant applications. On other days, I got to sit in on patient appointments as an interpreter and witness how passionate and thorough our volunteer providers are.

It has been a pleasure to see the clinic ensure that our patients receive the healthcare and support they deserve. Healthcare can be calling an Uber for a patient, giving them a food bag before they head home, or taking the time to understand why they haven't been able to make an appointment or follow a recommendation. Regardless of what form it takes, Shepherd's Clinic ensures that its patients are truly cared for. I have loved the opportunity to see this type of healthcare and to form connections with the Clinic's wonderful and unique patients, and hope to carry this passion and understanding forward.

Community Partner: St. Francis Neighborhood Center
Intern: Yasin Afrida
Site Supervisor: Ann Marie Lucas

What is St. Francis Neighborhood Center?

St. Francis Neighborhood Center is the oldest neighborhood center providing enrichment in all of Baltimore City! Our mission is committed to ending generational poverty through education, inspiring self-esteem, self-improvement, and strengthening connections to the community.



During my summer internship, my main focus revolved around creating and implementing engaging lesson plans and call-to-action projects catered to various age groups within K-8th grade, all aimed at addressing different aspects of climate change. These plans were carefully crafted to educate the students about the issues contributing to the climate crisis and empower them to take action.. I was able to collaborate with another intern and talk through my ideas with her, which was very helpful.

Collaborating with another intern proved to be an invaluable experience. Together, we brainstormed ideas and provided feedback to each other, which greatly enriched the quality of our work. Having a supportive coworker allowed us to share both our triumphs and challenges, fostering a sense of camaraderie that transformed the work environment into a space of shared growth and enjoyment. With each passing day, I eagerly looked forward to going to work, knowing I had someone by my side.

As we initiated the call-to-action projects, I witnessed how my efforts were making a tangible impact, which added a sense of reality and purpose to my work. Seeing the end products take shape and understanding their potential to inspire change fueled my satisfaction and motivation. It also made me reflect on my approach to work, leading me to recognize my inclination towards being a "product person." Though I value the process, I find greater fulfillment in the final outcomes and continuously seek to enhance my work through the results achieved.

The internship not only bolstered my professional skills but also enriched my personal growth. It highlighted the importance of taking initiative and fostering relationships with coworkers. Beyond work-related discussions, spending time outside the office strengthened our bond and brought a sense of comfort to the workplace. The internship offered me a holistic experience where my colleagues became more than just work acquaintances; they became friends.



- Created lesson plan and taught a group of 20 K-1st graders about air quality
- Created lesson plans about the 3 R's and taught a group of 16 6-8th graders about it
- Designed activities and call to action climate projects to keep students engaged



Community Partner: Station North Arts District
Intern: Jayla Butler
Site Supervisor: Abby Becker

What is Station North Arts District?

Station North Arts & Entertainment, Inc supports and advocates for a thriving and diverse arts community by promoting civic and cultural engagement, harnessing and directing resources, and preserving and enhancing the creative vibrancy of the district.

- Successfully contributed to coordinating an annual program known as Art Walk
- Successfully coordinating Station North Summer Music Series off the 1700 block of N. Charles St.
- Learned about the mechanisms of public art

**STATION
NORTH
ARTS
DISTRICT**

As the sun-soaked days of summer beckoned, I embarked on a journey of creativity, growth, and community engagement through my internship with the Station North Arts District. Little did I know that this experience would become a transformative chapter in both my personal and professional life.

From the moment I stepped into the vibrant heart of Baltimore's arts scene, I felt a palpable energy coursing through the streets. The Station North Arts District, renowned for its diverse cultural landscape and flourishing artistic endeavors, was a fitting stage for my summer internship. Under the guidance of my supervisor, I was afforded the opportunity to witness firsthand the interplay of arts, culture, and community development.

My responsibilities were multi-faceted, allowing me to explore various aspects of the arts district's operations. From assisting in organizing community art programs to promoting local events and initiatives, each day brought new challenges that ignited my passion for the arts.

One of the most rewarding aspects of my internship was witnessing the impact of our efforts on the local community. The arts district served as a catalyst for positive change, fostering a sense of pride and unity among residents and visitors alike. As I engaged with artists and attendees at events like the June Art Walk, I discovered the power of art to transcend barriers, evoke emotions, and spark meaningful conversations on social issues.

Furthermore, the internship provided numerous opportunities for personal and professional growth. The exposure to the inner workings of an arts organization honed my organizational and communication skills, while working with a diverse range of individuals expanded my understanding of different perspectives. Beyond the technical aspects, I also learned the value of adaptability and resilience when navigating the challenges that come with event planning and community engagement.

Looking back on my internship with the Station North Arts District, I am filled with gratitude for the experiences and connections it has granted me. The invaluable lessons learned and the sense of purpose instilled in me will undoubtedly shape my future endeavors. As I step into the world equipped with newfound confidence, I carry with me the belief in the transformative power of art and the importance of nurturing creative spaces for the betterment of society. My summer at the Station North Arts District will forever hold a cherished place in my heart, serving as a reminder of the endless possibilities that arise when passion and purpose intertwine.

Community Partner: Station North Tool Library
Intern: Rebecca Baxter
Site Supervisor: Jessa Wais



What is the Station North Tool Library?

The Station North Tool Library seeks to empower all people to improve their lives and environments, through affordable access to tools, skills, and workspace.



This summer has been a really wonderful experience for me. Given that this was my second year in the program, I was really excited to have the opportunity to choose my own placement. I realized that the Station North Tool Library would be a great fit to be able to explore my interest in tools/building while also learning about community work that increases access to resources.

Throughout the internship, I've been able to take lots of the classes the library offers and have learned how to use lots of woodworking tools. Another thing I've really loved about working at the Tool Library is getting to meet all of the community members involved with the library, whether on a library shift or meeting volunteers at an event. The library community is very tight-knit and everyone is very supportive and willing to help one another. One thing I love about the way the library is run is how big of an emphasis is placed on trust. When we loan out a tool we trust members to bring the tool back and most of our payments are set up to be sliding scale, so we trust members to pay a reasonable amount for their current financial situations. I think trust really makes the community stronger and I think it's great that the library promotes this. The library is also very anti-consumer culture, as we focus on reusing and fixing things instead of buying new things. By empowering people to do their own projects and only borrow tools when they need them, the library helps people take more control over their lives, save money, and live more sustainably.

My supervisor and coworkers have created a really supportive and mental health-focused working environment, which is really awesome as it has allowed me to get a better understanding of what I need to do for self-care. I've also learned how much I enjoy a job that allows me to move around a lot and have a mix of independent, team-based, and community-facing work. Overall, I've had an amazing time this summer learning about how increasing access to tools and skills can be a strategy for social justice and I look forward to maintaining the connections at the library I have built this summer!

- Helped organize and run a community tool yard sale that raised almost \$2000 for the Tool Library
- Organized inventory in the library, updated membership data, and staffed weekly community-facing library shifts where people could check out tools, take classes, and sign up for memberships
- Assisted in the formation of a data committee that will begin compiling data about members and tool usage to better shape library goals and values
- Took lots of awesome classes and learned lots of new skills, especially in woodworking!



Community Partner: Thread Inc.
Intern: Stephanie Ho
Site Supervisor: Nyasha Wills



What is Thread?

Thread harnesses the power of relationships to create a new social fabric of diverse individuals deeply engaged with young people facing the most significant opportunity and achievement gaps. Our community is committed to ending social isolation and building a more equitable culture in which everyone thrives.

- Organized and managed the Youthworks program at Thread and supported the Thread Ambassadors to ensure a positive and meaningful experience throughout the summer
- Networked and coordinated material and presentations during Youthworks, including working with the Greater Mondawmin Coordinating Council, in order to have a conversation on civic engagement
- Aided and supported post-high school young people during threadHours with barrier relief
- Assisted in starting a male support/focus group with a volunteer and post-high school male identifying individuals in order to have a safe space to talk and communicate about topics they are not always able to talk about

My internship at Thread has been a whirlwind of a journey, and I have learned so much about the community as well as myself. At first I had a really difficult time adjusting to my new work environment, because of a multitude of factors, but I also personally had my own barriers that I needed to conquer myself. I was not used to asking for support, but I realized that I needed the support in order to have my voice be heard. I was also adjusting to a new workplace environment, even though I had a lot of experience working at different places, this place was definitely different from what I was used to, because I needed to advocate for myself about the tasks I wanted to complete.

Once I developed some more connections, I was able to feel more acclimated to the work environment, and also the people at Thread. I was also put onto more projects, and staff members would recommend me to help other young people, and I was slowly able to feel like I was a part of Thread.

As we went through the weeks of Youthworks with the Thread Ambassadors, my two supervisors who were technically overseeing the Ambassadors were not always present during the day. However, I came in everyday to just hang out with the Ambassadors, and they felt more comfortable with me because they saw me everyday. We would eat lunch together and talk about issues that they might have been experiencing, and so I can relay the information to my supervisors because I am comfortable with them.

I have also connected and networked with other partnerships within Thread and I have been able to bring them in, in order to be a guest speaker for the young people in order to talk about their specialized topics. I loved talking to the current executive director of the Greater Mondawmin Coordinating Council, and we were able to work together to create a presentation on civic engagement. I was able to put my own spin on the presentation, and talked about public health and sociology which are my interest areas. I learned that some topics young people did not know about, such as the White L and Black Butterfly.

Community Partner: Village Learning Place
Intern: Jotrina Vamboi
Site Supervisor: Annie Malone



What is the Village Learning Place?

The mission of the Village Learning Place is to promote literacy, cultural awareness, and lifelong learning through access for all ages to information, resources, and educational programs.



Working at Village Learning Place has been such a life-impacting experience. Everyday is something new, from assisting in the classroom lessons, to making and trying sushi for the first time, to going to the beach, to making a rap song, and much much more. I have learned so much from these kids, and I have really decided that I do indeed want to work with youth in my future profession, so I really do mean it when I say I'm grateful for this opportunity. Being a non native, the students have been able to teach me more about Baltimore and inform me on their favorite food and fun spots, which I will definitely be going to! It's been amazing being able to form personal connections with each and everyone of the 11 students in my class, to the point where I notice when something is wrong with them and am able to fix it and really make their days better. I've been able to see and aid in their personal and academic growth this summer, and it's been very fulfilling to see how they've grown more confident.

There are so many instances where these students shocked me with their abrupt comments and insults, or their lack of awareness in certain situations, and it just reminds me of when I was an 11/12 year old, and how things were for me. It's always a joy to be able to laugh at the things they find funny and see how our childhoods resembled. Though some days I go home worn out, and thinking about how things could've been handled differently, there isn't ever a day I regret being a classroom assistant there.

The Community Service Project that we chose to do was to plant and gather vegetables from neighboring community gardens, and make a meal for those facing housing insecurities. The kids decided this on their own, and it's so amazing to see how they notice areas that the community needs help in, and they're willing to do something to help. This project also gives them SSL hours, which is required for their graduation, and it also teaches them some tips about gardening which is also a cool perk!

Overall I am so excited to continue my work with these students and VLP, and I have learned so many skills such as professionalism, patience, responsibility and more in this role, and I will carry these with me for the rest of my life.

- Served as a classroom assistant to 5th/6th grade students in the Let's Invest in Neighborhood Kids (LINK) Summer Program,
- Learned and used restorative practices among the students to encourage social development
- Fostered a sense of community and growth in the classroom through the use of virtue-based language and encouraging teamwork
- Prepared, led, and assisted with lessons in small groups and one-on-one sessions.
- Taught students the importance of community service, and they were able to each receive Student Service Learning (SSL) hours, towards their graduation requirement



Community Partner: Wide Angle Youth Media
Intern: Vivian Paguada
Site Supervisor: Peymaan Motevalli-Aliabadi

What is Wide Angle Youth Media?

Through media arts education, Wide Angle Youth Media cultivates and amplifies the voices of Baltimore youth to engage audiences across generational, cultural, and social divides. Our programs inspire creativity and instill confidence in young people, empowering them with skills to navigate school, career, and life.



- Worked with the Life Design Lab to bring a Resume & Networking workshop to our MediaWorks Youth
- Collected information on venues for future art exhibitions, community organizations to partner with for MediaWorks, and community centers and schools for our Community Voices program
- Assisted in administrative tasks such as filing and maintaining board pledge forms, student participation and release forms, attendance for MediaWorks and Community Voices, as well as transferring these forms to our new digital workspace
- Researched staff bonding activities for Wide Angle's upcoming staff retreat and Developed a food vendor spreadsheet consisting of food type, location, price range, and options for dietary restrictions for future retreats and events
- Collected information on and setup initial meetings with furniture vendors to work with in Wide Angle's transition to a new building

Coming into CIIP, my main goal was to explore areas outside of the traditional public health scene, specifically requesting not to be placed in a typical healthcare workplace. Initially, I desired to branch out to see if I could be interested in a field that was different from public health as well as develop skills that could lead into other new interests. As such, I was placed at Wide Angle Youth Media, and while at first I only thought of this as an opportunity to branch out and continue exploring my interest in media, I have since come to find myself exploring the different aspects of public health and how a non-profit like Wide Angle could play a crucial role in a community's public health.

This summer I have been incredibly lucky to work with such a welcoming and passionate team dedicated to passing on their knowledge and love for creativity to Baltimore youth. I have gotten the opportunity to go into different Community Voice placements, such as the YMCA and Deep Creek middle school, and seen firsthand how supportive each instructor is of the youth at such vulnerable times – when every teenager or young adult is just trying to make sense of things and find their way through growing pains. Some of my favorite moments this summer have been watching as students become invested in their art, an occurrence that is quite difficult to bring out of initially disengaged middle schoolers, but even more so rewarding. The care each instructor takes in creating a safe space for students is astounding and the commitment every Wide Angle employee has to showcasing the talent within the Baltimore community is admirable.

Apart from seeing how wonderful my coworkers are with the community, I guarantee they have made my summer a thousand times brighter. There isn't a day that goes by at the office without a heartfelt laugh, a spontaneous coffee run, or some form of silliness to get us through the day. There is no such thing as a typical work day at Wide Angle and for that I am quite thankful. Additionally, I have had an overwhelmingly supportive supervisor, Peymaan, who has encouraged me to explore my interests while actively taking an interest in my own development and ensuring I make the most out of my time with Wide Angle. (He even helped me change my tire when I got a flat and was stranded on North Ave... #PeymaanSavedTheDay)

Throughout the summer, I have gotten glimpses of how loving and full of life my coworkers are, both in and outside of work and I truly hope to stay in touch and continue supporting the organization in whatever way I can.

Here's to amplifying youth voices.



Thank you to our CIIP
Team for your energy &
leadership this
summer!



Coordinators:
Clarissa Chen (not pictured) &
Whit Johnson (center)

Program Assistants:
Stacey Tang &
Koye Oputa (left to right)

Peer Mentors: Estelle
Yeung, Brahein Richard-
son, Frank Meng, Carlos
Gamboa, Rebecca Baxter,
Diksha Iyer, Mimi Avril,
Fatima Baloul (left to right)

A big thank you to CSC
staff for their constant
support of CIIP!

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Student Affairs
Center for Social Concern