



Explorer's Program



WHAT IS MY BLOCK MY HOOD MY CITY?

My Block, My Hood, My City is a community based social impact organization that provides youth with new experiences, exposing them to possibilities beyond their own communities.

The M3 mission is to help teenagers overcome the poverty and isolation they face, boost their educational attainment, and open them up to opportunities that make a difference in their lives.

WHAT IS THE EXPLORER'S PROGRAM?

The Explorer's Program takes teens from divested communities on explorations around the city of Chicago. The explorations are focused on educational themes such as vocation & entrepreneurship, food & culture, art & expression, and recreation & play.



**EXPLORE
EXPERIENCE
EVOLVE**



Click on the play button for a few Exploration examples!

Exploration Specifics

My Block My Hood My City acts as a vessel to connect Chicagoans to places in their city they've never seen or experienced. The Explorer's Program facilitates custom experiences between youth and partner organizations focused on experiential learning. Every week of the school year, M3 takes a group of teenagers on an exploration, visiting hidden gems businesses, uncovering communities, and challenging preconceived notions. By taking teenagers out of their comfort zone, but right next door in their own city, they can see what Chicago has to offer and experience a different perspective that will awaken ownership and pride.



- My Block My Hood My City brings 10-12 high school-aged youth to a host organization to engage and learn from those who work there.
- M3 also hosts youth virtually with groups of students in our space to a host organization to engage and learn from those who work there.
- The explorations happen from October to May, during after school hours, and last 1.5 to 2 hours

Core Exploration Structure

- Learning about the business
- A tour of the facility
- A hands-on activity (required)
- Food and informal networking

Host Expectations

- A suggested \$600 donation
- Food on-site or delivered
- After school availability
- A hands-on activity
- Potential future internship opportunities for select youth

How to get involved

Please contact Cynthia Valentin, Explore's Program Manager for more information on how to get involved. Please provide the name of your organization, contact info, and available dates.

cvalentin@mbmhmc.com



Frequently Asked Questions

IS THERE A COST FOR PARTICIPANTS?

No, all students participate free of cost. The expenses are covered by apparel sales, grants, and host site donations.

HOW DO STUDENTS GET TO EXPLORATIONS?

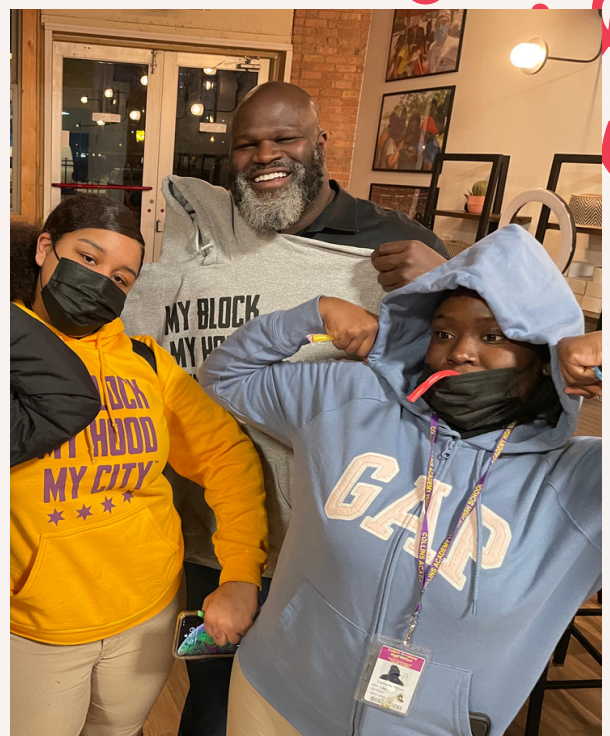
Students are picked up by the Explorers shuttle and are dropped off at their homes after the exploration.

WHAT KINDS OF EXPLORATIONS DO STUDENTS GO ON?

Explorations fall under a variety of categories, such as vocation/Education, art expression, culinary experiences, recreation, and at least one community service exploration a year.

HOW ARE STUDENTS CHOSEN?

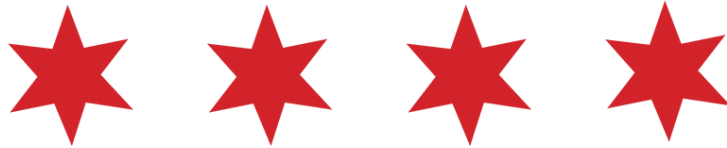
M3 partners with schools and community-based orgs. in divested Chicago communities, and works alongside staff to select youth to participate for the length of the school year.



MY BLOCK

MY HOOD

MY CITY™



Covid 19 Precautions

Here at My Block, My Hood, My City, the health, and safety of our youth, employers, and host are at the top of our priority. We will continue to follow guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and our Mayor, Lori Lightfoot.

PRECAUTIONS

- *optional mask wearing for youth and staff (unless asked by host)*
- *sanitized hosting environments*
- *socially distance learning*
- *Individualized packaged meals*