

Compositions: Urban Voices

Name Chicago Youth Program Teens
and Washington Park Youth
Publication Program

Year Spring 2015



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

WYPP is a mentorship program in which University of Chicago students work one-on-one with Chicago Youth Programs students to create an annual publication that highlights the issues most important to teens in their community.

By giving youth a platform to explore and speak about the topics that are important to them, WYPP endeavors to start conversations between our writers and their peers and community leaders, as well as building relationships between high school students and University of Chicago students. Additionally, the program will help to improve mentees' writing skills, and develop mentors' and mentees' journalism skills.

Chicago Youth Programs is a nonprofit organization founded in to improve the health and life opportunities of at-risk youth using a comprehensive approach aimed at developing their capabilities. CYP provides over 40 programs to youth, ages 3-25, living in the Washington Park, Near North/Cabrini Green, and Uptown/Rogers Park neighborhoods.



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Gang Violence in Schools

Written by Jeremiah McKinley in collaboration with Mari Cohen

At DuSable High School, from the bathroom to the drinking fountains, I see gang writing on the walls in black ink. As a student at DuSable, a charter school in the Bronzeville area I also notice things like fights over territory, students wearing colors that symbolize gang affiliation, and bullying. In a recent interview with Dr. Virginia Moore, principal at DuSable, and Miss Tamika Robinson, another teacher at DuSable, they were able to give their opinions on gang violence in schools like DuSable. An organization entitled VOYCE also gives insight on the zero tolerance policy and how it affects schools.

Dr. Virginia Moore, principal at DuSable since 2011, says that even though there are very few gang-related fights at DuSable, there is gang violence going on. When asked if she ever encountered a problem of gang violence in DuSable, she said, "I remember an encounter where a young man brought a gun to school because he was scared for his life because of another gang member. Luckily he walked past my office and I caught him."

She also said that running a school like DuSable is very challenging.

Miss Tamika Robinson said that she enjoys teaching English at DuSable, but because of gang violence she does not feel safe.

"Anything could happen," she said. "They could come with guns or whatever from the night before, to retaliate against a certain gang and they could end up going to the same school. So no, I do not [feel safe]."

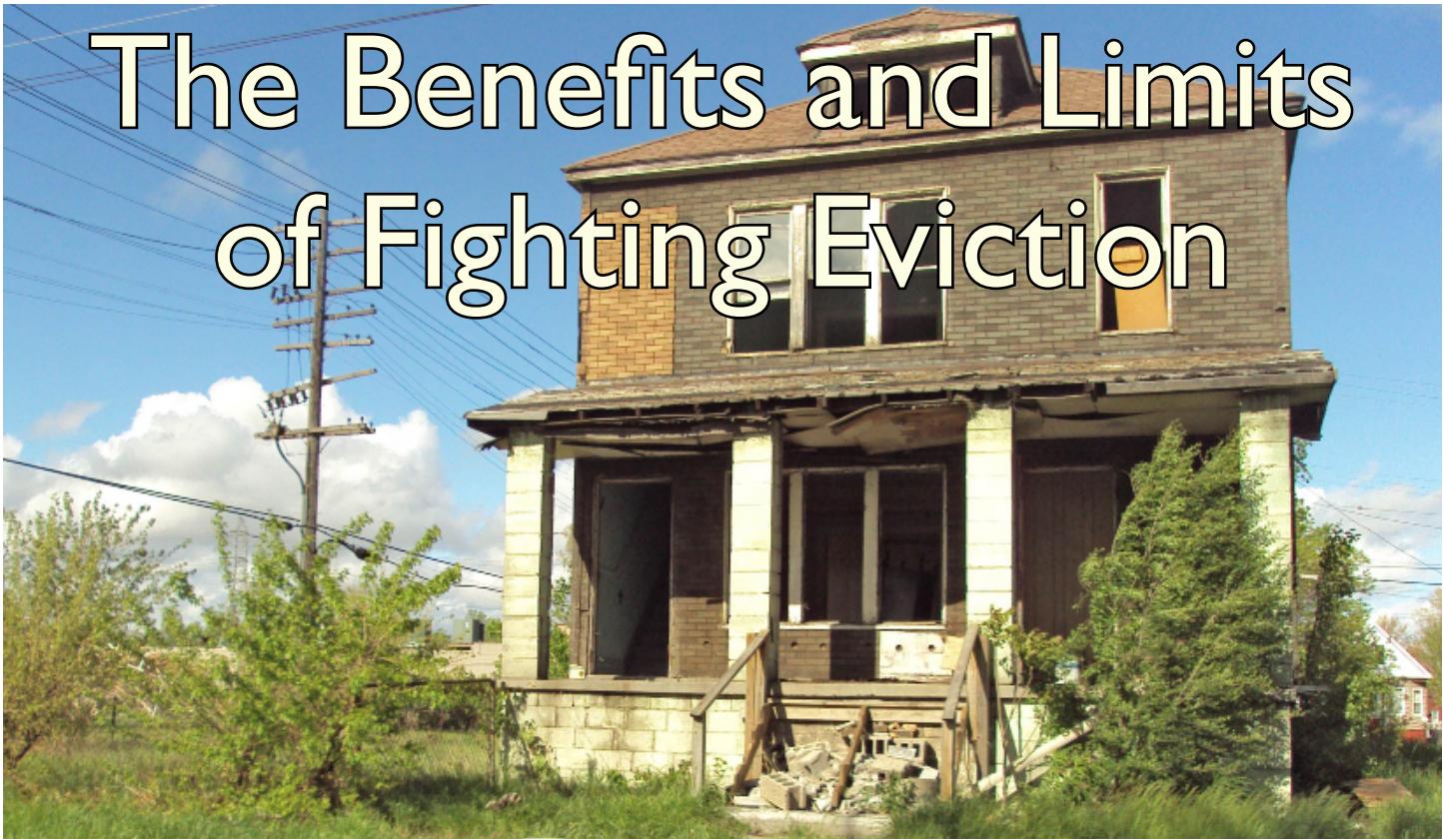
When asked how the school handles gang violence, Miss Robinson stated that parents are called, meetings are scheduled to see how to dissolve the problem, and if there is still no change, suspensions happen. Dr. Moore said that school is not a "gang-land," nor is it a place where gang signs are to be thrown up. If so, you could get expelled. She has expelled multiple people in the past because of gang violence.

Some schools use the zero tolerance policy for discipline for gang violence and other conflicts. The zero tolerance policy is a policy that punishes students regardless of accidental mistakes, ignorance, or any circumstances. Chicago Public Schools has been moving away from the zero tolerance policy because schools felt as though it was too harsh, and more and more students were getting suspended because of it. Dr. Virginia Moore stated that this was a good policy, and she would like to see it in DuSable. But, she believed that if it was a policy in DuSable, teachers would not approve. Miss Robinson believed that if the policy was enforced, it would make things worse. She believes this because of the lack of response from teachers to rules already in place. She believes teachers as well as administrators would not enforce the policy.

Voices of Youth in Chicago Education is an organization of students of color across the City of Chicago collaborating for education and racial justice. The Campaign for Common Sense Discipline, a project by VOYCE, found that Illinois schools continue to use this harsh policy as a consequence. There were over 272,000 out of school suspensions of Illinois students, more than 2,400 expulsions and more than 10,000 arrests in just one school year. In the Research, Findings, Solutions section of their website, VOYCE found that 50 percent of students who have been arrested are more than likely to drop out. If you were to cut the number of arrests in half, \$120 millions dollars would be saved. In the future, VOYCE is hoping to get the zero tolerance policy out of all schools and establish high expectations and academic engagement in the future.

When asked if she believes her consequences are working, Dr. Moore says, "It might not be working outside of school, but inside of school it works. I cannot control what they do after school." However, she believes that students can achieve opportunities by focusing on education instead of gang violence. She tells her students, "The sky is the limit. Stay focused on your education and all will go well."

The Benefits and Limits of Fighting Eviction



Written by Karron Davis in collaboration with Abby Brockman

The number of evictions in Chicago is very high, and not enough is done to come to the aid of those who are becoming homeless. The government often allows uninhabited property to rot in neighborhoods. An organization called the Chicago Anti-Eviction Campaign dedicates its time, resources, and manpower to give people who have lost their homes a new roof over their heads. The Chicago Anti-Eviction Campaign sees potential in uninhabited properties, so they take it upon themselves to clean up these homes and fill them with families that have no other place to live.

However, the actions of the Chicago Anti-Eviction Campaign are not completely legal. Ben Austen, a journalist who writes about housing issues in Chicago, gave knowledge pertaining to the legal gray area behind how the Chicago Anti-Eviction Campaign works: "Breaking into a home...not only going in, but then staying, getting the heat and electricity turned on without paying the bank, without paying rent...That's not even gray, that's just, like, illegal, right? But then it becomes gray because nobody is really checking up on this home. The bank doesn't care anymore. In fact, they've given up on this place because they know they can't make any money off of it...so the neighbors at this point are like, 'Would you rather have this empty home?'"

Politicians who hold high positions when it comes to decisions of industrialization and housing management still don't do as much as they can to develop a solution for evictions in their neighborhoods. Many politicians are not paying enough attention to the surge of evictions taking place all around them. On the other hand, some politicians may hold rallies to claim that they are taking action towards the problem, but in reality don't put in enough effort to make a real change. Mr. Austen gave insight about the situation and even referred back to the 1950s, when the government's urban renewal efforts often failed to help the poor. He described the situation, "...they used to call it 'slum clearing' because you clear a slum and you sort of rebuild it and try to, you know...add to the city. And there's always been kind of this tension of improving the city – And who actually benefits from that? Like, do the poor people who live there benefit?"

Many people I have interviewed know someone who has faced eviction. Anastasia Minter had a best friend who was evicted, and Anastasia took action. When I asked Anastasia what she did, she replied by saying, "...I tried to see if she could stay at my house, but her caseworker wouldn't let her." Monique Roundtree had a different case. Monique had a friend whose aunt got evicted from her house. Although Monique didn't offer a more hands-on way of helping like Anastasia did, she still offered initial support to her friend. Monique said, "I talked to my friend and gave her advice because the eviction made her feel sad for her aunt."

The fact of the matter is that eviction will continue to be a problem if small organizations such as the Chicago Anti-Eviction Campaign are the only ones making eviction a top priority. More attention should be brought to the situation so people can receive more support. In the end there is only so much the Chicago Anti-Eviction Campaign can accomplish with their efforts. The government has to become more involved to really make a difference and get results. I feel that the combined efforts of the Chicago Anti-Eviction Campaign and Chicago's city government can form a strong force to stand out against eviction.

Plus-Size Models: Do You See Any?

Written by Anastasia Minter in collaboration with Carrie Chui and Elizabeth Uddyback

I decided to write about issues facing plus-size women in the modeling world because although I am passionate about modeling and love shopping, few plus-size models are represented in magazines and there are not many options for cute plus-size clothes. It is difficult for me to accept the current portrayal of larger women in the modelling industry, knowing that I want to pursue a modeling career as someone plus-size. People like to say that everyone is equal in America, but this is not true in the modeling world. Looking at female models, very thin women vastly outnumber bigger women; most models are not above a size two. As an aspiring plus-size model, this is discouraging, particularly when added to the fact that most stores, magazines, and media outlets also cater to only thin bodies.

I interviewed two beautiful young women, Lauren Riensche and Natalie Craig, who both had interesting perspectives on modeling. During the interviews with these women, I learned about what inspired them to become vocal about the media's portrayal of plus-size women.

Lauren is a 22-year old undergraduate student at the University of Chicago who grew up on a farm in Iowa. Although not an actual model, she became vocal within the community during a big debate she had with MODA, a fashion modeling organization on campus. She criticized MODA for having neither plus-size models or enough diversity in the organization. She was particularly inspired by the "What I Be Project", a project that encourages college students to write their fears on their foreheads to be photographed and displayed on Facebook. On her own forehead, Lauren wrote "beautiful mind, not a beautiful body." When she posted her photograph on her friends' Facebook pages, they had a lot of positive things to say about it. She was inspired by her friends' support to continue critiquing MODA's lack of body diversity.

I like that Lauren talked to MODA about the lack of body variety represented in their organization because she not only spoke out for herself, but also for other plus-size women who likely feel the same way. I like that Lauren fought for what she believed in, was honest in her critique, and was persistent about getting her point across. Additionally, I think the "What I Be" project is productive in advocating for plus-size women because it provides them a platform to show, online, what they are afraid of. People display their fears on the internet, which allow their friends to get to know them better, and inspire them to vocalize these fears.

Natalie, 23, loves to shop, and is from a small town in Boise, Idaho. She has her own blog, "Natalie in the City," which started with her just being bored at home and wanting to show people that plus-size girls could be fashionable. When asked where she shops, she says usually Forever 21 and H&M, but generally where there are plus-size clothes, and where she can find clothes that are cute to her and that she can fit. When on a shopping outing with her friends, they would notice she wasn't getting as many clothes as she liked, and she would explain to them that this lack of options was the reality of being a plus-size girl. That's the problem today, people don't know the struggle plus-size girls have to go through--they don't have a lot of clothes to wear, or places to shop, and if they find something, it's usually expensive. This could hurt the self esteem of plus-size women.

Natalie's plus-size blog is important because it gives other plus-size girls encouragement. The internet and media are for everyone, and not just for a select group to express themselves. If people do not like a plus-size girl having a fashion blog, they can simply click off her page, and if they continuously go to the site, then they must secretly like it. Regardless of what judgmental people think, seeing a plus-size girl represented publicly could make other plus-size girls happy.

From these women, I have learned that it is important for people to know that plus-size women are not represented in the media. Whether it is a fashion blog or a photography project, plus-size women need to be vocalized and heard. Ladies like Lauren and Natalie show us that progress is being made, but also a lot more has to be done in order to see the change that we need.



Stop... Think... Your Life is In Labor

Written by Monique Roundtree in collaboration with Zytha Kock

Back in freshman year, two of my friends were already expecting, and two years later, by junior year, three of them were mothers. While it doesn't affect me personally, it gets me thinking about what they go through, or what their experience might be like. I was particularly curious about the obstacles they face and the changes that happen in the relationship with their family – did it improve, did it change, did it worsen?

For this project, I interviewed two young ladies: Dominique, age 21, and Tyronnai, age 16. In their interviews they shared different experiences involving their pregnancies. Their experiences were different because their families did not react the same way. For Tyronnai's family, the relationship became better and her parents began to get more involved in her life. Tyronnai still got to go to school while her mom took care of her little boy while she was gone. Now in Dominique's family, the relationship wasn't as good. Dominique got put out when they found out that she was pregnant. She was homeless and had to drop out of school so she could find a job to support her daughter. Now, Dominique works as a phone interview in an office downtown, lives with me, and is able to support her new family. While their experiences were very different, they both described their lives while pregnant as being hard, stressful and disappointing.

Now on the other hand I also interviewed two young men. Unlike most teenage fathers, both of them were involved in the process of raising their child. One of the gentlemen, Keyjuan, age 18, is a single parent that is receiving help from his family while the other one, Keyshawn, age 17, is still in a relationship with his child's mother, and they are receiving help from both his and her family. Both of the young men's education wasn't affected because they got to stay in school. They described their lives as the total opposite: the two young men felt as if their life was great, awesome and well put together. Later in the interview Keyshawn mentioned that he lost out on a chance of a lifetime which was to travel, because of the pregnancy. But after that he said he got over it and it wasn't really a big deal so it really didn't affect him as he thought it would.

Another interviewee was my counselor at my school, Ms. Wadiya Arkoful, from the DuSable Leadership Academy. I interviewed her because I wanted to see how she felt about teen pregnancy and how it affected her. During her interview I asked her how the school assisted pregnant teens. She responded by saying that by law they cannot force girls not to come to school, they can not be put out or terminated because of pregnancy. However, they have options, because Chicago is one of the few cities where there are schools for pregnant girls where they can go and receive parenting classes and medical advice and kind of get ready for motherhood. They can stay there up until their babies are a year old or they can transfer back to their own school. However, if they decide they're going to return to their old school, DuSable don't necessarily provide services like parenting classes, but they do offer a small group for girls who have their babies. With a medical certificate, pregnant girls can stay out for six weeks, letting the school know when they're going to return to school. And while they're out, my counselor told me she tries her best to offer these girls what we call homebound services, where the teachers prepare lessons for them so they can keep up with what's happening in school. Then I asked her what she thought was the best way to prevent pregnancy for young teens and she responded by saying: "The best way is education; to talk with males and females about what is happening in society these days and to be honest about the fact that if they're having sex it doesn't necessarily have to result in pregnancy." She added that sex does not need to lead to pregnancy because there are all kinds of technology out here that keep you from becoming pregnant. But of course the best way not to become pregnant is abstinence. So that's probably number one in the best way to prevent pregnancy.

However... being educated about the proper birth control and properly caring and using condoms to protect ourselves from HIV and all kinds of STDs. I'll go back to the first one – "education is everything." I then began

to get a little deeper with the questions so I asked how Ms. Arkoful reacts when girls come to her to talk. She answered that if they come pregnant, the first thing she has to do is not make them feel bad. As a social worker, she has to continue working to have the young parents be wanting and able to come to her and tell her what is happening to them. She tells me that sometimes, they don't come themselves, sometimes their friends bring them; "so when that happens, I take an approach where I'm not judging them: I'm asking them how they feel about it". She also asks them who else knows, if they've talked to their family, and what their plans are. My counselor tries to talk to them about their options: either keeping their baby, terminating the pregnancy, or giving up the child for adoption. She does not subscribe to any particular one for them, but does get the parents involved, to be able to get some support from them. When she told me that, I felt surprised because you usually don't find that kind of support when you're pregnant at a young age. I think you shouldn't have sex until you're ready and are able to have a child, until you are mother and father materials. With a child comes a lot of responsibility, and it's very common for a child to take care of a child. Staying safe and being smart about it is what matters most.

When asked if having these conversations affects her, she says that she does get emotional because she's always thinking about what the resources are that a particular young mother or father have in order to raise an all-around healthy baby. It's usually about how mature they are and what kind of support they have and then knowing the society we live in and what's it going to take. Sometimes Ms. Arkoful is very concerned about what the future may be hold in that particular instance, for that particular teenager or baby, but tries the best she can to support. The last and final question I asked to wrap up my interview was what advice she would give teens. He answered that for those who have gotten pregnant, they talk about how they can work together, or about she and her partner or anyone else's partner can do to prevent pregnancy again until they feel they are truly ready for a baby. Other than that, for those who may be pregnant at the time, she stresses proper medical care, and to do everything possible to make sure that they give birth to a healthy baby. At that point, there's no turning back, so the best thing to do is make sure the baby is safe and healthy." When she told me this, I felt relieved that anyone could come to her for important advice. I found her reaction to be more experienced than mine when my friends first told me I was shocked and asked how their families had reacted.

Seeing that all my friends who have gotten pregnant have decided to keep their child and have therefore had their lives changed, I think that people should take into consideration to wait, play it safe, and be smart because having a child basically means your life is cut in half, and that you should instead focus on enjoying your young days. If one does get pregnant, be sure to find reliable resources, because not everyone can get a helping hand. Even though I would encourage my friends to avoid young pregnancy at all costs, I am also relieved about the resources offered at my school.



Exploring Music with Visual Artists

Written by Chante Platt in collaboration with Jeanne Lieberman

Art enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time. Some people's art is communication while others enjoy pleasing people visually. I talked to a series of artists who have experience in a variety of mediums about how music influences their thinking and their art.



Those discussions got me thinking about my own relationship with music and art. Which allowed me to ask my readers, does one allow music to influence their mood or experience?

We must began this journey in the past with the artists' initial start from music. Each artist has their own first memories with music, for Sara it's a mental image of herself as that "little girl dancing on the coffee table everyday to 'Thriller'." For Lauren it's sitting in the back seat of her mother's car while listening to Carly Simon and remembering that car smell. We all have memories related to music, good or bad, and sometimes songs can evoke those emotions without us realizing.

Is it okay that music affects your art? Some say music allows them to be focused on their work and what they visually want to present. Meanwhile others feel it's a hinderance that can cause them to not do what "feels natural to [them] or [their] work." So, it depends on what you want. I asked each artist I interviewed the same question and they had a lot to say.

When I asked Miguel Aguilar, a Chicago graffiti artist and director at the Design Apprenticeship Program that I participate in, he said, "I do listen to music while I paint, and the mood of the music influences the mood of the artwork. So it'll affect my hand gestures, and it'll also have an influence on the colors I'm using, and ... also the aesthetics that I'm working with." Miguel listens to a variety of music for pleasure, but he will only allow one style to affect his art. Just like when he runs "real marathons", he only listens to drill music. He listens to the same style, melodramatic female vocalist music, during his entire

process of making a painting. People like Lykke Li and XOYO have had an effect on some of his works. Miguel describes his painting style as Classic New York and deconstructivism. He mostly focuses on a specific visual element of his subject within the graffitied work, and I think this is because of him DJing around the same time he started graffitiing. He describes the way that skill influences his work saying, "The way that I learned to dj and learned to mix songs, and to listen to two things at the same time, affects the way that I can make connections in the world that aren't normal apparent connections, and I can align things that might seem disparate upon first glance. But also to be able to listen to conversations at the same time" But what's different about him is these connections he finds in music allow him to draw inspirations for his creative process while some artist don't want it affecting their process at all.

Sara says, "If I'm working on a painting or a work of art or a series, especially if it's really labor intensive, or I need the piece of music to not be timid or not be lazy, or continue to take risks and to continue to work on the painting even when the lazy part of myself could say, 'oh but look at that, isn't that so great?' 'No, no it's not. I need to get back to work; you need to keep doing this.' But I'm also aware too of how I don't want music to influence my mark-making, because I want to be really intentional in my ... even the way I make shapes, and the composition, and through the awareness to not allow that to happen. I wanted the painting to be realizing the vision and the visual experience; the goals I had for that painting were specific... And you can be down the road in a song and you chop the head off something, and then later think, oh that was really the music carrying me to do that." Sara has the same mentality as Miguel, she will allow music to affect her process, but she doesn't want the music affecting her art. She matches music to a specific task and her music selection can depend on her mood to. Like when she's working at Marwen, she'll listen to Pandora, but not just any station; she listens to "people that everyone can get behind," like Micheal Jackson, " trying to be aware of that influence (music) so that painting could stay true to the visual vision and not the music." That's the real reason she won't listen to music because she wants her art to be authentic to what she envisions.

Ryan's way of thinking is different from Sara and Miguel's, he listens to every genre of music while working. Ryan's start in arts was with graffiti at the age of 15, during his college years he found himself and begun his career in Mixed Medias. He was influenced by Philip Guston. Ryan would describe his style as not having one, he say "The 20th century is very contingent on labels and labeling thing. So my work does a lot of different things. sometimes it looks like an abstract expressionism thing and sometimes it looks like a wall." This difference in what his work looks like can be linked to him listening to different types of music during the creation of his work. It could be that Ryan is hearing different messages within the songs that make his work turn out so unique. He then goes on to say "I rely on my training...I like to create problems for myself and then figure out how to solve them later." He likes making artwork that could possibly fall apart. His greatest desire is for someone wealthy to buy his work and their kid destroy it, just so he can say no when they call asking for him to fix it. Clearly one of Ryan's main goals is to defy the expectations of the art world, he does this by focusing problems for myself and then figure out how to solve them later." He likes making artwork that could possibly fall apart. His greatest desire is for someone wealthy to buy his work and their kid destroy it, just so he can say no when they call asking for him to fix it. Clearly one of Ryan's main goals is to define the expectation of the art world, he does this by focusing less on the art object itself, and more on the process, in which he exposes himself to many different kinds of influences, including those different kinds of music during his process.

Jonathon Ive has said, "It's very easy to be different, but very difficult to be better." In art we are looking for this individuality and uniqueness, but our art will always relate to someone before us and before our time. We work towards growth within our art so that we can be different but it is difficult. So, if music affects our art it is probably us looking to be "different" when we are really being the same. Everyone has their own thing they like doing, it's up to them to decide if they want an outside source affecting them. Although I love music, as a visual artist, I personally am going to acknowledge its presence within some of my work and look for me not to get emotionally involved with it while creating.



Ryan Coffey

A Plethora of Reasons to Participate in Parks

Written by Allena Morris in collaboration with Andreamne Breton

Have you ever participated at a recreational park? 95% of people will answer no. Why? People don't see the full potential in parks, whether they're inside or outside. Parks bring out the many beautiful festivities that people don't know about. The more broadcasting and positivity, the more people will attend the parks. Question is, are people willing to attend these parks and what activities do they offer?



A lot of people don't go out to parks for a plethora of reasons. The main reasons are they don't have the time or the neighborhood the park is in is dangerous. I've interviewed people about their opinions on parks. Most of my peers say that they utilize the parks for sports. They generally go after school and go play basketball. They leave at an early time, due to the surroundings. It gets very dangerous during the day and night, so they have to take safety precautions when leaving. The fact that it is dangerous in the neighborhoods of the park makes it more difficult for them to attend the performances and festivities.

Recreational parks can be used for a plethora of things. As was mentioned earlier, the main reason is sports. Basketball is a very well played sport amongst the youth. Most parks offer basketball camps or training to those who are passionate about it. I talked to some of my peers who play basketball at Jackson Park. They talked about how the floors were worn out, but the staff was friendly. If a problem needed to be resolved, Jackson Park faculty and staff would be there.

I've also interviewed a music instructor at Hamilton Park and Cultural Center. His name was Mr. Will Faber. He teaches jazz music. There are a plethora of music programs at Hamilton Park and Cultural Center that pertain to jazz. A lot of elder people participate in the music programs. The youth also attend these programs. The elder people teach the youth, so they can become better and perform in the shows the park hosts. Festivities and performances are held at the park. The elders mostly perform, but the youth can perform and be proud of themselves.

Kids have to juggle school and fun, so parks, such as Hamilton Park and Cultural Center, offer tutoring programs. The parks have people to help kids with their schoolwork. It is important for a child to keep up in school, so they can do whatever they like afterwards.

If parks were to broadcast more about festivities, more people would know about them and actually come. For example, the carnival comes to Washington Park every once in awhile, during the summer. Word of mouth spreads and people attend it. As for other festivities, people don't usually hear about them. If there were flyers, maybe build boards (on buses, trains, ...), and brochures, it would be easier to know about these events. Also, people don't like to be around danger, or have their life on the line. Maybe having more security guards around the park or having the CPD monitor the perimeter would help people feel safe and attend the parks more.

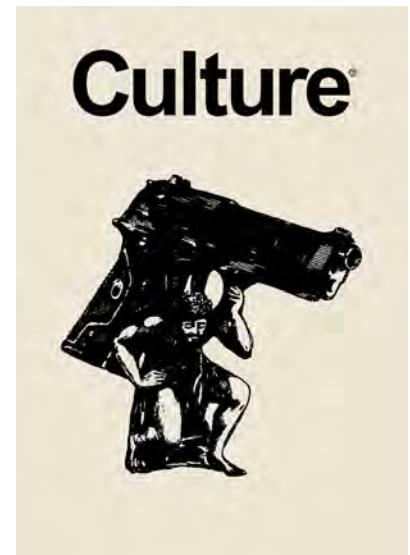
People tend to forget about the importance of certain things in life. One of them is having fun and maintaining your priorities. If people would take the time of day to recognize parks for what they are, they'd know the spectacular things that go on there. Many people have lost weight, gained knowledge, and met new friends at recreational parks. So much time and use have been incorporated into parks. Recreational parks can bring a lot to the table, once attended. Not only do they offer learning services for school, but extracurricular services as well. The most important thing is that people have fun and enjoy their time at the park.

The Plague of Violence

Written by LaVelle Moore in collaboration with Lisa Fan and Raymond Han

I believe that bullying, crime, people getting killed on the news, rape, fights, and even hurting someone just a little can be known as violence. That's what people usually think. People tend to think that violence starts when you are younger. Being exposed to violence when you are young can be very dangerous in the future. When you're young, you don't know any better, and you think that what you're being exposed to is the right thing. Young kids often don't have a mentor or a role model to look up to or tell them right from wrong. That's what's wrong today. Youth don't have fathers, and their mothers are either doing all they can, or don't care, so the youth are confused. They get addicted to the "street life," and as everybody starts to get addicted, it resembles a disease spreading. The people from the Cure Violence program seem to think the same thing. Cure Violence is an organization that teaches science based strategies to train community members to address specific behaviors that lead to violence.

Cure Violence thinks violence has characteristics of an infectious disease. This idea was expressed by a doctor named Gary Slutkin: "I returned to the U.S. after 10 years of fighting health epidemics in Africa and Asia and began to notice parallels between the trajectory of violence plaguing U.S. cities and the trajectory of diseases plaguing the communities in which I previously worked abroad." Just like we can fight to stop the spread of disease, we can work to change the environments in which violence spreads.



It all starts from when you're younger. Being exposed to violence when you're younger makes you 30 times more likely to commit violent acts. When you're young you think that just because somebody does something, it's ok for you to do too. When they grow up, the problem becomes worse. According to Kathy Buettner, Director of

Communications at Cure Violence, "when violence is concentrated for a long period of time in an individual community, it becomes normalized and therefore even "expected" by peers – and in fact by the whole community."

Many people who are violent don't have a positive male in their life to teach them right from wrong. Well I'm here to tell you that there are people who care to help. There is a male mentoring program at Chicago Youth Programs (CYP) that teaches young black males right from wrong, and helps young teens like me become better people. Violence isn't about individuals, it's about a larger problem that is part of our past and present.



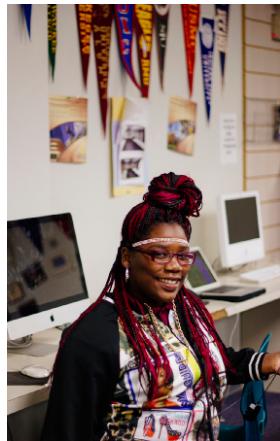
In the words of Ms. Buettner, treating violence as a disease can "shift the worldview of violence away from prosecution and focus more on prevention." If you are not part of the solution, you are a part of the problem, so it all starts with yourself.

WHO WE ARE



ABBY BROCKMAN

Abby is a first year Public Policy major from South Bend, IN. She has been in WYPP for 1 year, and enjoys Honey Nut Cheerios. Her spirit animal is a penguin.



MONIQUE ROUNDREE

Monique is a junior in high school, and has been in WYPP for the past 2 years. She hopes to major in psychology and nursing in college and become a counselor.



CARRIE CHUI

Carrie is a fourth year visual arts and biology major. She plans to take a gap year after graduation and before medical school, and loves eating fried chicken. Her spirit animal is a hummingbird.



JEANNE LIEBERMAN

Jeanne is a third-year Law Letters and Society Major. She co-founded WYPP with Jeanne C. in 2013. Her spirit animal is the jaguar and she likes to try adventurous new ice cream flavors.



CHANTE PLATT

Chante is a senior at Chicago Military Academy, and plans to major in biology and visual art. Her spirit animal is an eagle, and her philosophy on food is to “try everything at least once.”



ANASTASIA MINTER

Anastasia is a sophomore at Johnson College Prep. Her favorite aspects of WYPP are her mentors Carrie and Elizabeth. She likes listening to music and eating Puerto Rican food.



LAVELLE MOORE

Lavelle is a sophomore at Simeon High School. He joined WYPP because he was “just there” during the first session. His spirit animal is a tiger, and he loves New York-style cheesecake.



MARI COHEN

Mari is a second-year History major from Ann Arbor, MI. She joined WYPP to share her love of journalism with others. She identifies most with polar bears, and enjoys eating pasta.



SKYE MINTER

Skye is a sophomore in high school, and has been a part of WYPP for 2 years. Her most memorable moment was when she first laid eyes on Monique. She hopes to eventually join the WNBA.



ELIZABETH UDDYBACK

Elizabeth is a third-year English major. She likes that people in WYPP chill and laugh a lot. In the future she plans to go into digital design. Her spirit animal is an orangutan.



JEREMIAH MCKINLEY

Jeremiah is a junior at DuSable High School. He has been a part of WYPP for 2 years. He enjoys being able to write about different things in his community.

MIRA KRIVOSHEY

Mira is currently Health Program Manager at Chicago Youth Programs. At CYP, she has enjoyed working with the passionate people, especially the kids.

STEPHANY PRICE

Stephany was Director of Health at CYP, where she worked since 2007. Currently she serves as director of the Cabrini Green Program, and previously worked for North Lawndale College High School.

KARRON DAVIS

Karron currently attends Urban Prep College. Next year, he hopes to major in finance and marketing.

ALLENA MORRIS

Allen is a senior at Hyde Park Academy High School.

ZYTHA KOCK

Zytha is a fourth-year history and Slavic languages major. She plans to attend graduate school at Yale next year.

ANDREANNE BRETON

Andreanne is a fourth-year English major. She is originally from St. Bernard, Quebec, and plans to attend law school next year. She loves her mom's roast.

DARIEN AHN

Darien is a second-year Law, Letters, and Society major. She joined WYPP this past year and has enjoyed meeting everyone in the program. She



JEANNE CHAUFFOUR

Jeanne is a fourth-year HIPSS (History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Science and Medicine) major. She co-founded WYPP with Jeanne L. in 2013. She enjoys Italian food.



LISA FAN

Lisa is a fourth-year Math major. She has been a part of WYPP since her second year. She'll never get tired of eating mushrooms, and if she were an animal, she'd be a mouse.



RAYMOND HAN

Raymond is a first-year Physics major, hailing from South Bend, Indiana. His spirit animal is the turtle and his favorite food is pizza.

