



NEWS FROM CITY NEIGHBORS FOUNDATION

NOVEMBER 2019

*An update on the work of City Neighbors Foundation, our City Neighbors schools,
and our work to impact public education everywhere*

City Neighbors High School Recommended for a 5-year Renewal



We are excited to announce that Baltimore City Public Schools has recommended a 5-year charter renewal for City Neighbors High School, the maximum term possible for our school. We are excited by the recommendation and deeply grateful for the work and dedication of our educators, students, and parents. It is no small feat to try to bring to life a school where students are “Known, Loved, and Inspired Academically.” While our work is never done, we are heartened by the recognition and the opportunity to keep going. We look forward to the official School Board vote in January!

Congratulations to Shantell Roberts!

Congratulations to Shantell Roberts, Founder of *Touching Young Lives* and City Neighbors Hamilton parent, on her new appointment to the Baltimore City Public Schools Board of Commissioners. Shantell will be a dynamic and powerful advocate for children, parents, educators, and great schools across our city.



Check Out the City Neighbors Foundation Blog

Check out our [City Neighbors Foundation Blog](#)! Rooted in our commitment to the grass-roots, cooperative nature of our schools, our blog highlights voices from throughout our community. Check out the latest blog from City Neighbors Charter School teacher, Tracy Pendred, “*We’re All A Little Different.*”

The 9th Annual Progressive Education Summit: Announcing our Master Classes!



Registration is open for the 9th Annual Progressive Education Summit, scheduled for January 25, 2020. In addition to our Keynote Speaker, we will host 25 workshops, our 2nd Annual Storyteller series, networking opportunities, and provide breakfast, lunch and wine and cheese at the end of the day. And today, we are excited to announce our three Master Class leaders:

- **Dr. Bettina Love**, our Keynote Speaker is an award-winning author and Associate Professor of Educational Theory & Practice at the University of Georgia. She is the author of the book *We Want to do More Than Survive: Abolitionist Teaching and the Pursuit of Educational Freedom* (Beacon Press) and *Hip Hop's Li'l Sistas Speak: Negotiating Hip Hop Identities and Politics in the New South*.
- We are excited to welcome back **Ron Ritchhart**, Senior Research Associate at Harvard Project Zero and author of *Making Thinking Visible* and *Creating Cultures of Thinking*, as a Master Class facilitator. Ron served as our Keynote Speaker at the 7th Annual Progressive Education Summit.
- And we welcome **Lisa Carey**, Assistant Director of the Center for Innovation and Leadership in Special Education at Kennedy Krieger and Senior Editor of [Linking Research to Classrooms Blog](#). Her professional work has focused on Universal Design for Learning, combatting ableism, and removing barriers to the classroom and learning.

Participation and registration is free! Register [here](#).

Would you like to become a valued Sponsor of the Progressive Education Summit? Please click [here](#).

The City Neighbors Symposium, 2019



City Neighbors Educators, 2019-2020

Each fall, on the second Friday of October, the staffs of City Neighbors Charter School, City Neighbors Hamilton, and City Neighbors High School come together for a day of learning, connecting, and celebrating.

This fall was no exception. In the morning, educators participated in self-selected learning and workgroups that included subjects like arts integration, math assessment, building student motivation, planning and documenting project studies, and more. In the afternoon, we hosted five different educator self-care sessions that included outside experts on everything from general self-care to second-hand trauma to yoga.

At the close of every Symposium-- after learning, connecting, building community, eating well, and participating in a few traditional celebrations--we all gather for an all-City Neighbors educators photo, this year on the Malone Children Memorial Playground.

City Neighbors schools are driven by the passion, insight, craft, and decisions made by our creative and dedicated educators. We are humbled to work with them.

Check Us Out!



Join us for DIY PD Sessions at City Neighbors!



Some of our participants from the October DIY PD Session.

Join us for **DIY PD Sessions** at City Neighbors. DIY PD sessions gathers up to 30 participants who, over the course of an hour, choose two of four short peer-to-peer learning sessions – each led by one of our attendees and focused on a strategy, approach, or problem of practice. Afterward, participants gather to make a simple, delicious dinner together--for taking or dining with their colleagues. And it's free!

DIY PD sessions take place at City Neighbors Charter School, 4301 Raspe Avenue, and run from 5-6:30 PM--after work, but early enough to get home and have an evening. The second DIY PD session of this school year will take place on Monday, December 9, at 5 PM. Register [here](#).

Partnering with Morgan State University



We are grateful for our growing and thriving partnership with our colleagues at Morgan State University.

We were excited to host Kea Smith's Foundations of Education Graduate cohort for an evening in October, working together to consider how an educator's vision of the child is inextricably connected to their practice and to our schools. We are also excited to host three MSU education interns at our two lower schools--City Neighbors Charter School and City Neighbors Hamilton in the fall semester.

We are grateful to Dr. Simone Gibson, who led a seminar for our City Neighbors Teaching Fellows on how children learn to read. And we look forward to Dr. Martha James-Hassan's Fellows Seminar in early December on interdisciplinary teaching and learning.

We look forward to finding continued ways to partner as we look to push our collective thinking on teaching, learning, schools, and our educational practices in our institutions and throughout Baltimore.

The City Neighbors High School Internship Experience



At City Neighbors High School, as part of the 11th grade experience, all students participate in an Internship, allowing them to experience the professional world outside of their classroom. Students are mentored by influential professionals and in authentic work environments. This allows our students to experience and explore areas of interest as a professional that leads them toward their career and college path.

The launch of this year's internship process began with five weeks of internship professional development, with guest speakers that included Mr. Staphon Shorter of the Child First Authority, Inc., Tsanonda J. Edwards, author and co-Founder of Above It All Baltimore, Ms. Keiona Gorham of Lifebridge Health, and Senator Cory V. McCray of the Maryland 45th District. Each shared lessons around time management, professional best practices, self-care, being fearless, "believing you can and that it is possible," strong work ethic, professional communication, and showing up as your best self.

Our internship program is thoughtfully designed to enhance the high school experience, support students, and prepare them to have a plan beyond graduation. Our goal is that the experience increases confidence, increases the exploration of professional opportunities, provides some hands-on experience, develops communication skills, and inspires students to follow their dreams and hopes.

The CNHS Internship Program would not be possible without the support of the CNHS leadership, our sister schools--City Neighbors Charter School and City Neighbors Hamilton--and our valued partners providing internship opportunities and dedicated mentors to more than 100 high school students. These partners include: *The National Aquarium; The Maryland Science Center; the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC); Cohen & Harris Law Firm; Taste This; Race Pace - Charles Village; Monica's Dollhouse; Morgan State University School of Engineering; The Mutt Mart; Enoch Pratt Free Library; Touching Young Lives; The Child First Authority (Dorothy I Height and Barclay Elementary Schools); Haris Automotive Center; Rosedale Animal Hospital; Goodyear Tires – Hamilton; AAMCO Transmissions; Evergreen Auto; The University of Maryland Medical Center; Johns Hopkins—Bayview; Execuhomes Real Estate; The Real News Network; DC Shears Barbershop; Emma's Tea Spot; Art With A Heart; Triple Threat Elite Baltimore; Lauraville-Hamilton Main Street; Future Care; Baltimore Center Stage; BCPS Media - Channel 77; and Baltimore City Hall (Council President Brandon Scott and Councilwoman Danielle McCray), and more.*

Together, we are making a difference by aiming young people toward successful careers, colleges, dreams, and hopes for their future. Thank you, partners. We could not do it without you.

Be a part of this great initiative by reaching out to City Neighbors High School Internship Coordinator, Gwendolyn Unoko, gunoko@cityneighbors.org.



City Neighbors Presenting in the World

- In November, City Neighbors participated in a panel on "Improving District-Charter Collaboration to Support Student Achievement" - considering how public charter schools and District-run schools can do this work better together - at the ***Future of Finance Summit*** in Baltimore.
- Also in November, educators and students from City Neighbors High School, presented at the ***NAREN (National At-Risk Education Network) Conference*** here in Baltimore on our City Neighbors High School Pod structure.
- And this past weekend, City Neighbors Charter School presented at the ***National Conference for Teachers of English***. Principal Kate Seidl, and teachers Brittany Brown and Megan Doyle, presented "Art(s)+Literacy: Inquiry, Skills-Building, Meaning Making, Social Justice, and Celebration of ALL Learners." Special educator, Kayisha Edwards, presented, "The Case for Curious Feedback."

Interested in Being a City Neighbors Educator, 2020-2021?

Teachers! Imagine the best school you can, right here in Baltimore, where:

- deep in-depth project studies allow students to explore interests and demonstrate learning.
- the Arts are integral all learning.
- the vision of children is creative, capable, powerful, and worthy of the deepest respect.
- students actively learn using a workshop model, while teachers facilitate.
- teachers co-create practice, policy, and direction of the school.
- parents are valuable and active partners in the work.
- standardized testing does not drive instruction.

Interested in starting a conversation for the 2020-2021 school year? Check out our [website](#) and tell us about your ideal.

Enrollment Season is Open!

All City Neighbors schools are accepting 2020-21 student applications for inclusion in the enrollment lottery, now through February 5, 2020. Check out Open House schedules, application instructions and timelines, and other enrollment information [here](#).