

Program Elements

Our College Bound program offers an array of college-going programming that enhances Members' critical thinking, analytical skills, problem-solving abilities, leadership traits and overall readiness for college. The Club promotes a college-going culture for everyone, regardless of age, from the moment they join us. Believing it is never too soon to present higher education as an option, staff introduces coursework required for students pursuing a college track, and provides counseling and guidance on college campus life to encourage and showcase the infinite opportunities that higher education offers to students. Because of the Club's emphasis on academic achievement, the number of youth eligible to apply for the organization's scholarship program has grown from a handful of eight to more than 60 students over the last six years.

In Boyle Heights, where 55% of adults do not have a high school diploma and a meager 5% of residents have a 4-year degree, accessible enrichment activities are critical. The median household income is \$34,136 but 83% of children are from families making less than \$23,000 which is below the federal poverty level. 100% of our Members are part of the TSP. There is a void of information for youth seeking a post-secondary education, because an overwhelming majority of residents in Boyle Heights are undereducated and unfamiliar with the college application process. Youth cannot count on the advice of their parents, family members or their neighbors when navigating the college application and financial aid processes. In addition, the underfunded public schools situated in Boyle Heights not only fail to assist youth who are seeking a college education, but with low achievement rates, leave them unprepared to continue their schooling, and in many cases young people do not believe that college is even an option. With the high student to counselor ratio, students are unable to obtain the individualized attention and academic support required to obtain admission to institutions of higher education.

Approximately 150,500 people including just over 40,000 children between the ages of 5-19 years, live in Boyle Heights' three zip code areas. The community is one of the most densely populated areas in Los Angeles. Club membership is 97% Latino in a community that is almost 95% Latino. Less than 50% of students in Boyle Heights are on track to pass A-G courses with a C or better. These are needed in order to meet UC or CSU admission requirements. 52% of residents in Boyle Heights are foreign born and 38% of households have low english language proficiency. As for health, there is a 50% obesity rate for teenagers and 35% for adults.

The majority of the young people come from the immediate neighborhood of Boyle Heights, though Members also live in Lincoln Heights, East Los Angeles and downtown Los Angeles. Annually, over 2,500 registered Club Members will participate in a program or service the Club offers. During the school year, between our two sites, average daily

attendance of youth ages 5-17 is approximately 350 kids, during the summer it's closer to 600.

Through our work preparing students for college, we came to realize that they still need support while in school and beyond graduation. Similar to the obstacles that arise when pursuing higher education, when it comes to various career paths, there is a void of information for college graduates seeking competitive and career-enhancing opportunities. Our college graduates often do not have people to provide them with critical support in career exploration, resume writing and networking that will lead to employment. These students enter school with limited knowledge about how to successfully navigate a university, and they are plagued with self-doubt about their capability to excel in and complete college. These same feelings can resurface when they transition into the workforce. The VBGC College & Career Center offers an array of college-going programming that enhances Members' critical thinking, analytical skills, problem-solving abilities, leadership traits and overall readiness for college.

VBGC's College Bound programming provides academic support to close to 800 students (Grades K-12) with tutoring, test-prep support, college trips, and multiple additional resources to help them succeed. Specifically, the College Bound program exposes Members enrolled in elementary school to an array of universities and careers during weekly College Club meetings, which utilizes hands-on activities such as College Bingo and College Monopoly to begin planting the seed of the importance of a college education. Older students in grades 6-12 receive academic case management, tutoring, test-prep support, college trips, and assistance with the completion of college applications (including Personal Statement and Financial Aid workshops for both students and their parents). This past March, 32 of our members traveled to Northern California to visit six college campuses, including UC Berkeley. For most of the participants, it was the first time that they had ever traveled outside Los Angeles County.

VBGC staff will continue to track the number of students who graduate from high school and obtain a higher education. Moreover, staff will review Members' report cards to ensure that they are progressing and on track to graduate from high school. Finally, staff will monitor the number of students who are participating in the VBGC College and Career Center activities on a daily basis.

As a result of the implementation of the VBGC's College Bound program and evaluative activities, the following outcomes will be realized:

- A formal program evaluation will guide our strategic planning and programming.
- 1000 Members between the ages of 5 and 17 will be exposed to and familiar with various universities, careers and the specific educational requirements for a given occupation and other college going activities.
- During a 12-month period, 175 middle and high school students will receive academic counseling, leading to the development of an educational plan that includes potential colleges and careers.
- Assist 50-60 high school seniors with the completion of college and financial aid

applications, including assistance with personal statements and negotiation of financial aid award letters.

- Parents and guardians will become an active part of the college learning and application process.

Price Schedule

- \$173,860 per session for programming for entire organization including personnel and non-personnel expenses
- 4 sessions/year
- Total = \$695,440