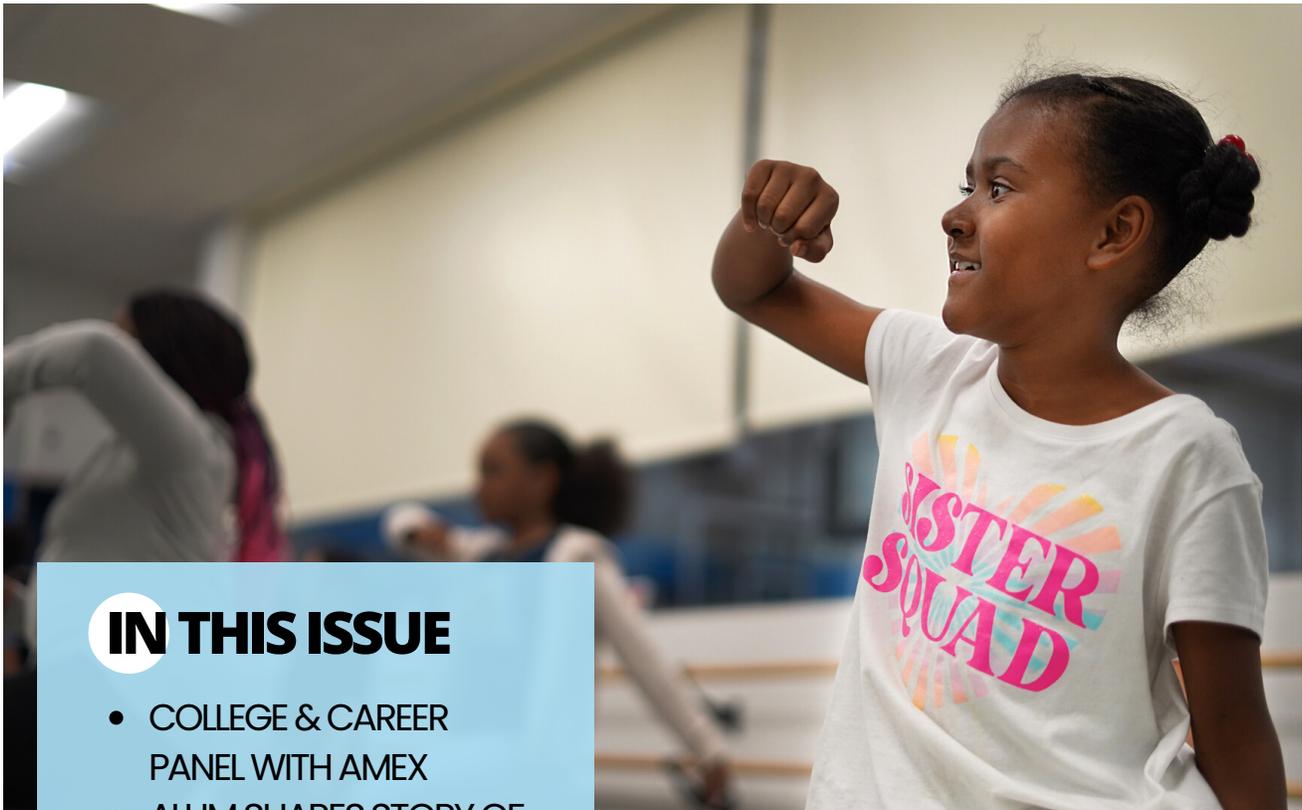




# MADISON MATTERS



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## EXPLORING THE CLUBHOUSE

If you've ever visited a Madison Clubhouse, you know that the buildings are hubs for learning, creativity, sports, mentorship and spaces where kids can just be kids.

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MADISON SQUARE  
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

# COLLEGE & CAREER PANEL



At Madison, we view it as core to our mission to help our Club members get on the path to a college degree and graduate with a plan for their futures. On February 22, American Express – whose tremendous partnership helps make our academic success programs possible – welcomed teens from Clubs across the city to its offices for an inspiring college-themed event.



Kristina Hunt, Member of the Corporation, who attended her local Boys & Girls Club in Massachusetts as a child, kicked off the evening by sharing her personal story and advice for how to succeed, even when faced with challenging circumstances. “It’s a journey, not a sprint,” said Hunt. “It’s important to keep your eye on the end goal and not every blip in the road.”

Hunt, who has been at Amex for 16 years, also encouraged teens to take advantage of every resource available to them at the Club and at college, from free tutoring to the career center, and not to be shy about asking for help.

Other Amex volunteers were on hand to participate, including first-generation college students and students of color who graduated from predominantly white institutions. They led a tour of the amazing offices, networked with our members and answered their questions about college in small groups. Madison teens were eager to hear from the volunteers and asked questions about everything from navigating financial barriers, to dorm life and time management, to facing self-doubt.

“Sometimes youth in our communities have the impression that college is meant for ‘other’ kids and not for them,” said Antonio Fort, Director of Clubhouse Operations. “The college readiness programs that we provide at Madison and events like this serve to show our members that college education is within reach and is absolutely an attainable goal.”

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It was clear the event was a win when some of the youth declared that it made them want to attend college and work at Amex! But it was also wonderful to see our young people enjoying the interaction with peers and role models, terrific food and views, and even an impromptu dance party at the end.

We send our many thanks to Amex — including Latif Elam, Senior Manager, Community Partnerships & Engagement — who organized this event. We are so grateful for Amex’s ongoing support of our mission and shared commitment to improving the lives of New York City youth.



## MADISON COUNCIL MARDI GRAS



On March 3, the young professionals Board Madison Council welcomed members, friends and community members to the **4th Annual Mardi Gras MAD-squerade**. The event celebrated Madison’s work and emphasized the importance of supporting youth no matter what. Honorees Sylvia Black and Kharay Kenyatta spoke about what drives them to support youth and how their personal and career journeys have allowed them to reach their goals.



Council members danced, laughed and chatted, all while raising necessary funds for Madison.



# "IF IT WASN'T FOR MADISON"



***Alum Josh Lebrun talks college and career***



"It's always a pleasure to give back to Madison in any way because Madison has played a large role in my life, getting me to where I am now, and there's been a lot of support from different places within the organization," said Madison alum Josh Lebrun.

Josh first joined Madison's Thomas S. Murphy Clubhouse in Brooklyn as an Explorer when he was in 3rd grade to have a safe and entertaining place to be after school. Referring to the good times in the Clubhouse, he called himself an "all-over kid," saying that as a member, you could find him all over the Clubhouse, from the art room to the dance studio to the computer lab to the gym.

"I was really competitive, so you'd see me a lot of times at the ping pong table — dominating the ping pong table I should say — or the pool table."

For young Josh, Madison was more than a safe place to be after school, it was a hub of learning, exploring, mentorship and community. Today, he credits much of his professional network to the people he met and the skills he gained in the Club. "Madison always emphasized the importance of meeting new people and building my network, which is amazing because relationships are the currency of life, and Madison definitely established that for me," he said.

Keen on taking every opportunity, Josh participated in Project Graduate, Madison's College Bound Program, and College Success Initiative (CSI), which support teen members and alumni in their journey before, during and after college. More specifically, the CBP welcomes all members from 7th to 12th grade who are interested in attending college or university and provides them with regular academic and social mentoring, and hosts bimonthly, grade-specific small group discussions on college-related topics. College Success Initiative also supports members who are accepted into college with financial, academic and socio-emotional resources. Many of our members and alumni are first-generation college students, so having this support from Grade 7 through college and beyond gives them the resources and encouragement to create and meet their educational, career and life goals.

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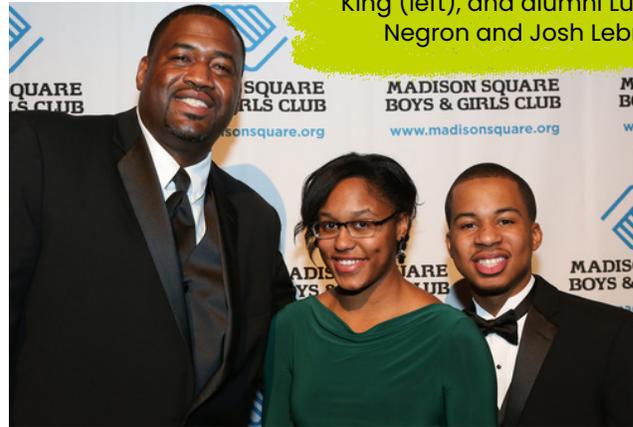
In addition to the support and mentorship of these programs, Josh also credits Madison with helping him learn to advocate for himself.

“There were a lot of programs that Madison offered, such as CSI, which gave me confidence,” he explained. “I think what I was missing at home and in school – in terms of teachings and instilling confidence in somebody – that’s where Madison kind of picked up. I’d probably be a lot less social if it wasn’t for Madison putting me out there, exposing me to things, making me meet new people, putting me outside of my comfort zone – it helped advance my growth and my character.”

This confidence stayed with him as he received his Bachelor of Science in Biology in 2019 and later his M.B.A. in Finance in 2022 from the University of Albany. Josh specifically shared that he continues to feel supported and connected, even after all the years.

“Madison has gone above and beyond, even after I graduated college, to help me out and to support me in a lot of different ways.”

Madison’s Project Graduate and CSI programs are made possible, in part, thanks to our longstanding partnership with The Heineman Foundation for Research, Education, Charitable and Scientific Purposes, which has supported Madison for over twenty years. We celebrate the achievements of the hundreds of Club members and alumni, like Josh, who credit this strong support and the generosity of the Agnes and Emilio Gautier Scholarship Fund in helping them excel and build successful life paths.



Brooklyn Borough Director Stan King (left), and alumni Luz Maria Negron and Josh Lebrun.



Josh and other Madison members and staff in 2014.





*Continued from p. 1*

### **Explorers Academy**

For our youngest members in the Explorers Academy, Madison brings new activities and fun to after school, always teaching important lessons along the way.

At the Club, Explorers are welcomed into the classroom for weekly interactive, small-group sessions focused on curiosity and empowerment through kindness. Called "Positive Action," every lesson starts with the statement, "we feel good about ourselves when we think and do positive actions, and there is always a positive way to do everything."

"The idea is that their thoughts lead to actions and those actions lead to feelings about themselves which in turn lead to more thoughts," said Simba McCray, Director of Youth Empowerment of the John E. Grimm III Clubhouse in the Bronx. "When this cycle is positive, members want to learn. Members are taught to identify and work toward a positive self-concept. Members learn that self-concept means the way they think and feel about themselves and that family and friends influence their self-concept."

Members gather around the table to listen to a reading and then discuss different approaches to the situation they are given. These sessions teach members how can advocate for themselves and for others, while imagining how decisions can impact other people. In these conversations, Explorers are always encouraged to share their opinions and to ask questions. In addition to supporting social-emotional learning, these sessions mirror Madison's pillar of Good Character and Citizenship. By learning to confidently and



Explorers learn to measure by baking cakes and cupcakes!



Explorers learn about viscosity by making Oobleck!



# I believe in me

calmly react to various common situations, even our youngest members are able to respond with thoughtful kindness and can encourage their friends and peers to do the same.

In Positive Action, members learn ways to manage their feelings and are given resources to improve their self-image. These lessons are important for physical health, including nutrition health, hygiene, exercise, sleep and avoiding harmful substances. Intellectual positive actions promote health through learning, problem-solving, creative thinking, memory and curiosity.

In addition to empowerment, Explorers spend their time getting homework help during Power Hour, playing games and sports in the gym and participating in special events throughout the week. From learning to bake cakes in Harlem to making Oobleck in the Bronx, our youngest members truly embrace their "Explorers" title and are always ready to try new things.

A special thank you to the National Grid Foundation for supporting our Explorers Academy and helping our youngest members build the brightest of futures.



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MADISON SQUARE  
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2023 | 6 P.M.  
PIER SIXTY | CHELSEA PIERS



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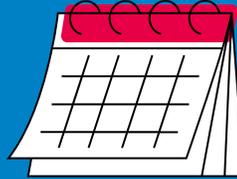
# YOUTH OF THE YEAR

CHAMPION OF YOUTH HONOREES:  
KERRY CHANDLER  
CHIEF PEOPLE OFFICER OF BOMBAS  
MANDELL CRAWLEY  
CHIEF HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICER OF  
MORGAN STANLEY  
WAYNE HEWETT  
MEMBER, BOARD OF DIRECTORS: HOME DEPOT,  
WELLS FARGO AND UPS

#MADISONBGCLUB  
#MADISONYOY

CORPORATE CHAMPION OF YOUTH HONOREE:  
**Deloitte.**

## UPCOMING EVENTS



*Click invites  
to register!*

**Youth of the Year**  
May 17, 2023

**Bronx Great Futures Gala**  
June 14, 2023



MADISON SQUARE  
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB  
FOUNDATION

# GREAT FUTURES Gala

BRONX ADVISORY BOARD

JUNE 14, 2023 | 6 P.M.  
VILLA BARONE MANOR  
737 THROGGS NECK EXPRESSWAY  
BRONX, NY 10465

## LEAVE A LEGACY



**Click here to  
learn more!**



Interested in learning more about how to make a lasting impact in the lives of children?

Contact Anna Phewa, senior director of individual donor partnerships of Madison Square Boys & Girls Club Foundation, at [aphewa@madisonsquarefoundation.org](mailto:aphewa@madisonsquarefoundation.org).

