



Chicago Transit Authority 2026 Chicago Youth Works High School Internship Program



High School
Internship
Program

CHICAGO
YOUTH WORKS
MAYOR BRANDON JOHNSON



On March 10, 2026, the Mayor's office rebranded the summer youth employment initiative from One Summer Chicago to Chicago Youth Works with a focus on career exploration for youth between the ages of 14-24 years old.





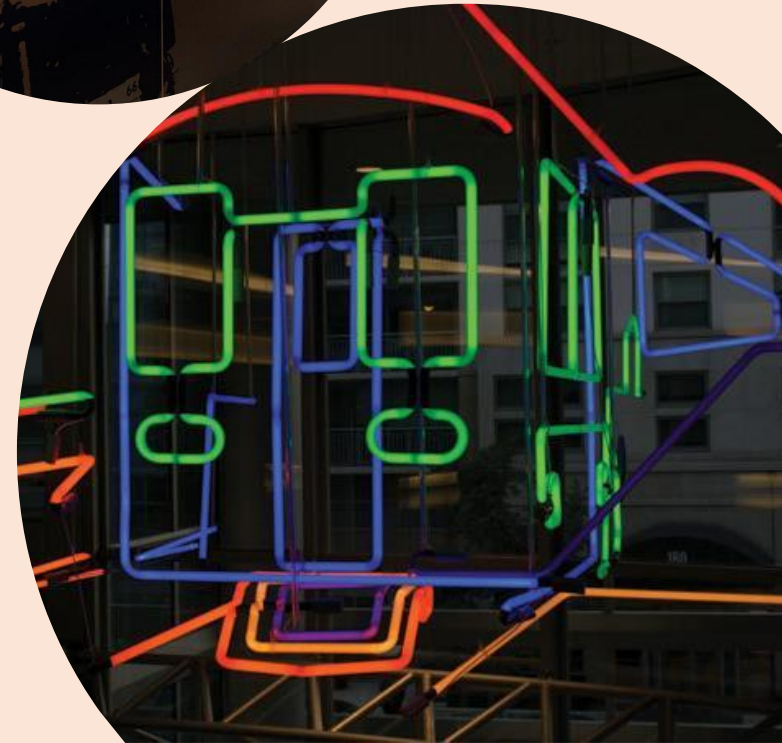
To provide professional development opportunities and illuminate career and educational pathways for high school students as they grow into young professionals.

– CYW Mission

During this CTA experience, interns will engage in meaningful professional development, mentorship, career exploration, and opportunities to connect and collaborate with like-minded peers.

Program Overview

- Onboarded 334 2026 CTA Chicago Youth Works High School Interns
- Current enrollment of 310 including 275 interns and 35 externs from Chicago Public School Partner
- 7-Week Hybrid Internship Program
- 5 Days Week/25 Hours Week
- \$16.60/hr. and Free Transportation
- Raise on July 1 to \$17.05/hr.
- CTA-Issued iPads, Internet, and Telework Supplies
- College Visits
- Community Service Projects
- Field Trips
- Mentorship



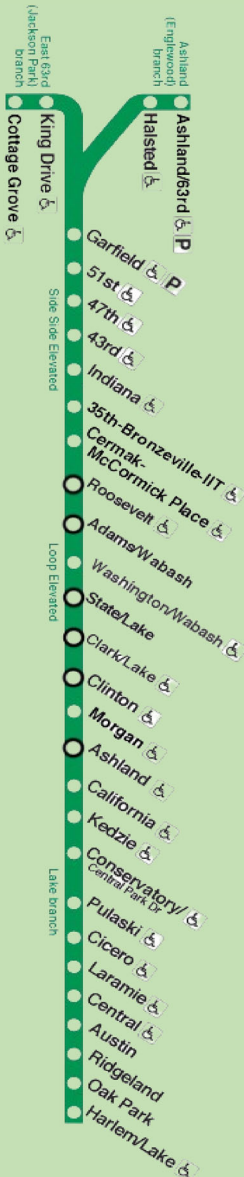
CTA Chicago Youth Works 2026 Orientation Day



Green Line: Route to the Workforce

On the Green Line, interns set the foundation for the CTA CYW internship experience through various Guest Speakers:

- Friday, July 10, 2026
 - **Empower** – *CTA Retirement Plans Overview*
- Friday, July 17, 2026
 - **Human Resources** – *CTA Compensation & Benefits Overview*





Purple Line: Route to Wellness

On the Purple Line, interns will actively participate in virtual sessions to improve their mental health, with CTA Wellness as a partner.

NEW THIS SUMMER!

Leadership Cohort with Nikki Hale- A group of 22 graduated seniors are participating in a pilot leadership cohort that meets weekly with High-Performance Coach Nikki Hale to learn strategies that include elevating youth voice through shared decision-making, modeling healthy behaviors, and prioritizing social-emotional learning.

These sessions include:

Cigna – Stealth Stressors in the Digital Age

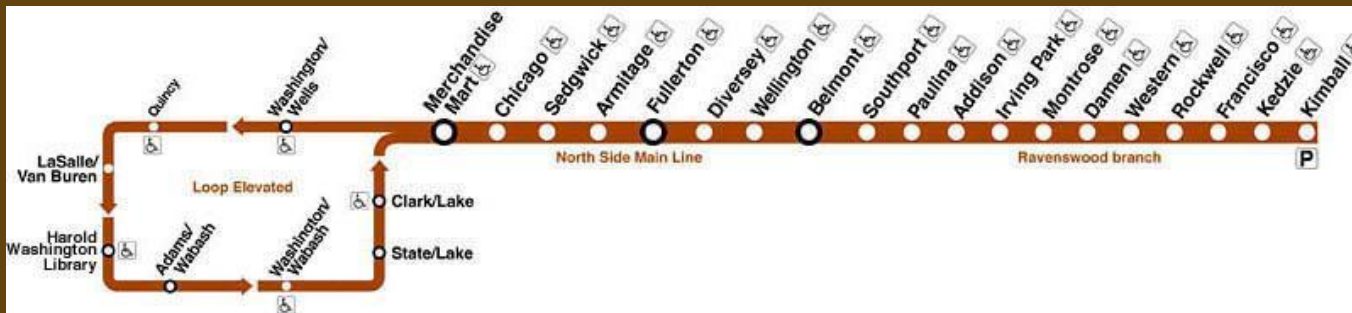
Cigna – Endings and Opportunities: The Power of Acceptance

Leadership 101

Brown Line: Route to Financial Freedom

On the Brown Line, interns will broaden their financial understanding through seminars facilitated by the Economic Awareness Council's interns including the topics:

- Friday, June 26, 2026
 - Economic Awareness Council – *What is Credit?*
- Friday, July 24, 2026
 - Economic Awareness Council – *Types of Loans*





Pink Line: Route to Professional Development



- On the Pink Line, interns participate in professional development experiences that build a foundational understanding of career readiness. These include sessions such as:
- CYW Professional Development Workshops with CTA Cohort Conductors
- CYW Field Trip to Hire360: 7/16/26
 - Chicago-based nonprofit organization to help gain knowledge and exposure about careers in the construction, hospitality, and manufacturing industries



Red Line: Route to Service

Chicago Youth Service Corps



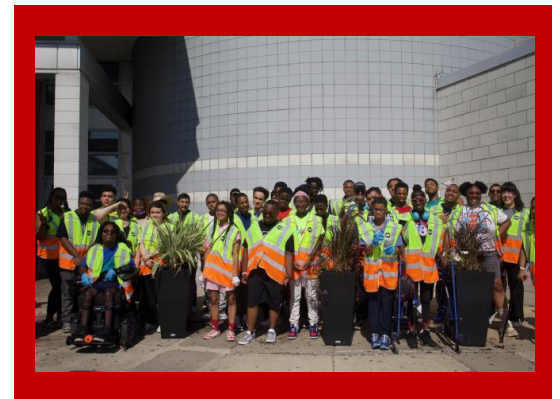
On the Red Line, interns will participate in Chicago Youth Service Corps guiding principles reflection sessions to learn about and discuss how they can contribute to improving Chicago by utilizing their skills and voice.

Each week, interns will also work together to prepare for a service project implemented during the program.

This year our interns will **"Build Their Community"** by participating in the **CTA Beautification Project** on 7/7/26 and **"Elevate Their Voices"** about food insecurity by volunteering at the **Greater Chicago Food Depository** on 7/9/26 and 7/10/26.

CYSC Guiding Principles

- Sell Me This
- Dream Job Search
- Chicago Housing History
- Cities of the Future
- Build Your Community and Your City



CTA Trip to Greater Chicago Food Depository



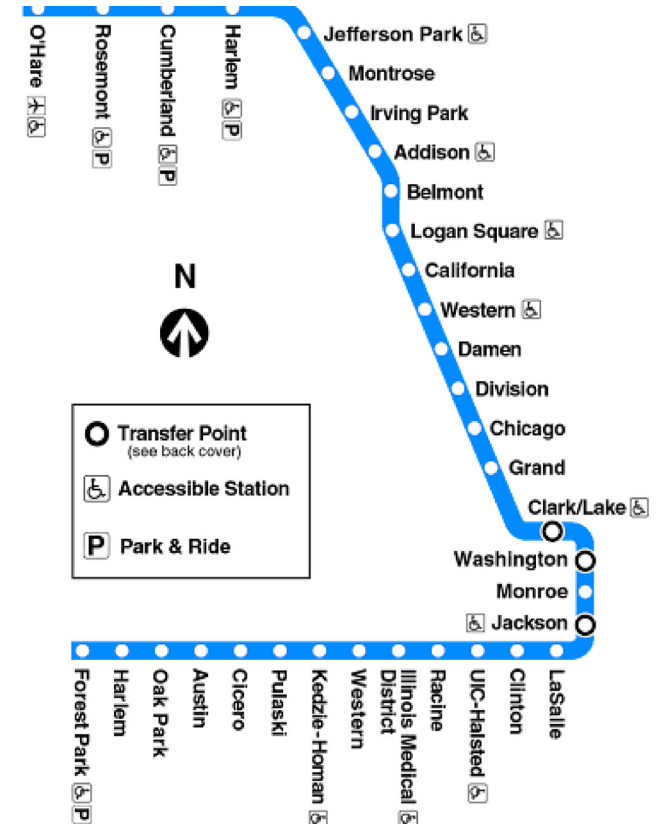
CTA CYW Interns will once again pack food for families in need!

Blue Line: Route to Higher Education

On the Blue Line, eligible Junior and Senior interns have the opportunity to earn college credit by enrolling in one of the following courses at Harold Washington College. This year, our new course offerings include:

- **Criminal Justice-Juvenile Justice**
- **Biology-Human Genetics**
- **Business-Personal Finance**

**College Tour to University of Chicago
on 6/25/26 and 7/16/26**





University of Chicago College Tour - 2026



THE UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO

Yellow Line: Route to Career Pathways

On the Yellow Line, interns learn about various CTA career pathways through virtual CTA Career Rides introducing them to CTA staff who share their organizational contributions and tangible steps to becoming future transit professionals. The following CTA departments are featured:

- ❖ **Infrastructure (Construction)**
- ❖ **CTA Board Office**
- ❖ **Transit Operations (Bus and Rail Operators)**
- ❖ **Finance**

○ **Dempster-Skokie**  

○ **Oakton-Skokie** 

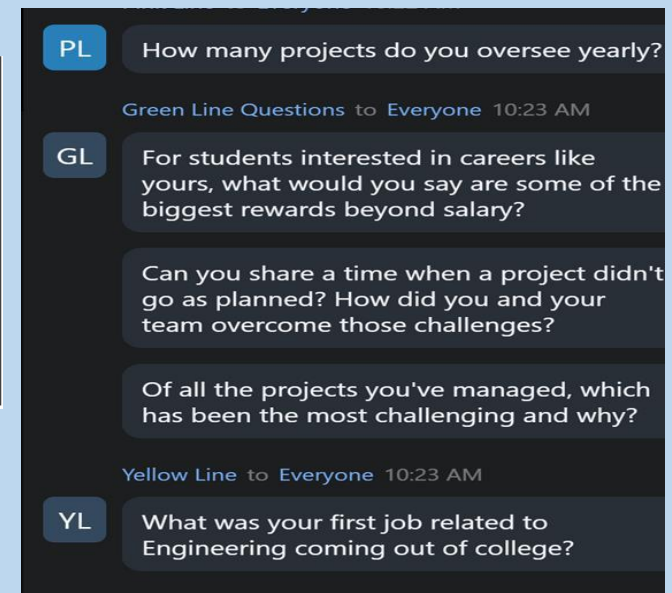
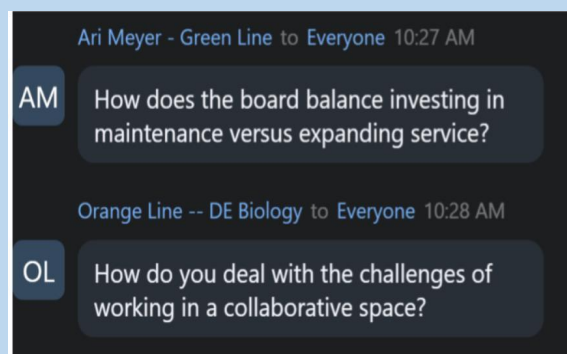
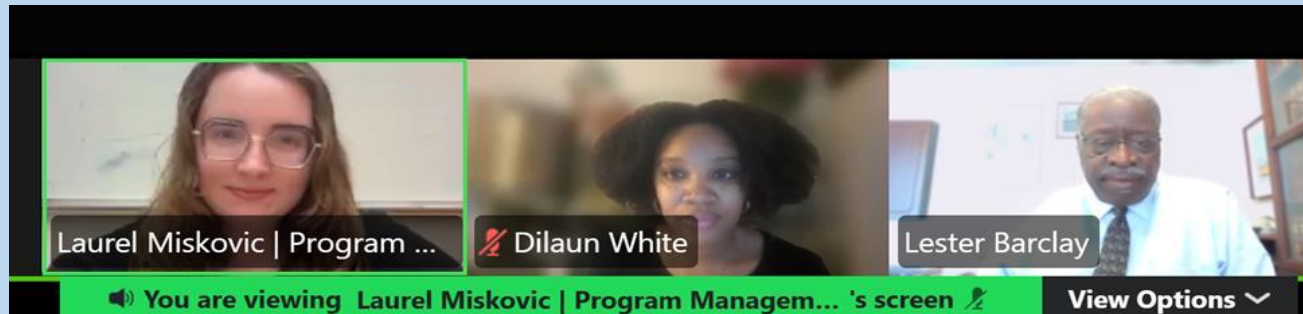
 Accessible station
 Park & Ride

○ **Howard**  





2026 Career Rides



Our CYW Partners





NEW...Digital Scholars



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

Digital Scholars Program is a six-week summer intensive for rising 11th/12th graders and first-year college students, to build computing skills, increase college and career-readiness, and make connections to Chicago's dynamic tech industry.

This workshop-based program features college-level UIUC curricula in Data Science and Electrical and Computer Engineering, Coding, IOS App Design, and Programming in SWIFT. Interns work collaboratively to complete projects and compete for an opportunity to pitch their project design to **Apple on July 30, 2026.**



NEW...Pre-Engineering Summer Bridge Program



The Summer Bridge program, offered through the **City Colleges of Chicago**, is designed to support students during critical transitions in their educational pathways—from high school to community college and ultimately to a four-year institution. This program provides rigorous academic preparation for college-level coursework through an intensive curriculum with a strong emphasis on mathematics and chemistry.



In 2023, the Internship & Educational Programs team forged a partnership with Southside Occupational Academy. Each year the number of participants have grown.

For Summer 2026, 35 of their students with diverse needs are assigned as externs to our CTA/CYW program and will complete curated projects in various disciplines such as horticulture, art, and computer science.

Summer 2026... Year 3 with Southside Occupational Academy





Southside Occupational Academy 2026 Kickoff





CYW 2026 Partners



CTA Wellness Team

Live Well



CITY COLLEGES of CHICAGO
Harold Washington



Meet the Team





Internship & Educational Programs Team



Kim Robinson

Vice President,
Training & Workforce Development



Dilaun White

Director,
Workforce Partnerships



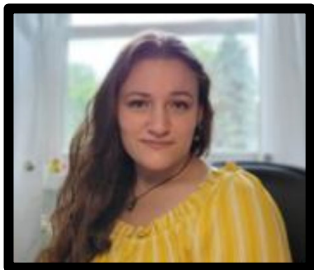
Melanie Ware

Manager, Internship and
Educational Programs



Kendra Pugh

Coordinator, Internship and
Educational Programs



Delaney Hayes

Coordinator, Internship and
Educational Programs



Annie Kelly

Training Specialist, Internship and
Educational Programs



April Jouett

Staffing Specialist,
Internship and
Educational Programs



Stephanie Rayborn

Business Administration
Coordinator



Internship & Educational Programs Team - Cohort Conductors



Billy Wade

Blue Line



Saniyah As-Salaam

Yellow Line



Anonda Jones

Green Line



Katherine Anderson

Red Line – 95th/Dan Ryan



Indya Jolicoeur

Purple Line



Angelica Bluit

Pink Line



Summer Rodriguez

Brown Line



Symone Moore

Red Line - Howard



Internship & Educational Programs Team - Cohort Conductors



Daniel Rios

Orange Line - Digital Scholars



Natalie Cruz

Orange Line - Business



Eva Cregler

Orange Line - Biology



Gabi Wilson

Orange Line - Pre-Engineering



Maun Muhammed

Orange Line - Criminal Justice



Internship & Educational Programs Team



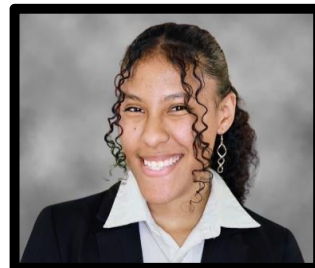
Laurel Miskovic

Program Management Intern



Citlalli Reyes

Program Management Intern



Mia Paulus

Digital Media Intern



Delmaya Brown

Digital Media Intern



The following departments provide support to the CYW summer program:



Supports onboarding, payroll, and programming:

Human Resources
Information Technology
Payroll and Treasury
CTA Wellness
Bus Instruction
Communications



Serve as mentors to returning interns and provide special projects for interns to complete during on-site days:

Bus Maintenance
Chief Engineer
Communications
Diversity
Human Resources
Infrastructure Maintenance
Office of the President
Purchasing
Rail Station Management
RLE
Strategy & Innovation
Technology
Training & Workforce
Development

CTA Chicago Youth Works

Special Projects Interns and Mentors





**2026 CTA
CYW EXTERN**

Micha Massie

SOA - Extern



**2026 CTA
CYW INTERN**

Naima Turner

**Red 95th -
Special Projects**