

An Overview of MEF's Apprenticeships for Chicago's Urban High School Youth

Visual Media (Midtown)



- Students learn technical skills in photography, videography, and graphic design.
- They complete polished products such as a video documentary of the Midtown summer programs.

"Students will have a unique opportunity to be broadly creative while learning about the cultural importance of visual media and the hard work it takes to complete a polished piece of work."

—Peter Ladwein, Center Director

Architecture (Midtown)



- Offers students an in-depth understanding of what being an architect entails.
- Students go on weekly field trips to iconic buildings, architects' offices and museums.

"We want our students to be proud of themselves and the work they've accomplished. We want them to learn great skills."

—Mike Walsh, Program Manager

Sponsored in part by the Chaddick Foundation

Law (Midtown)



- A series of projects and debates provide students with sufficient legal acumen to take part in two full mock trials at the end of the program.
- Field trips to sites such as the John Marshall Law School offer first-hand learning experiences.

"I was very impressed with this forum. These students were better than a lot of attorneys I have seen in court." —David Elliot, attorney at law at Burr & Forman

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Hospitality (Metro)



- Students create a restaurant business model, complete with sample menu items cooked in Metro's industrial kitchen.
- They master basic business skills, event planning and culinary arts.

"The students are learning what it's like to work side by side with the same people every day; a skill they can use wherever their future takes them."

—Larry Yellen, Fox 32 News

Sponsored by Tyson Foods

Business (Midtown & Metro)



- Students create and execute a business plan.
 - Field trips to corporations offer real-world learning opportunities, as do guest speakers such as Dan Jorndt, former chairman and CEO of Walgreens.

"The apprenticeship taught me the true meaning of hard work. Hard work means not blaming anyone or making excuses. It's taking responsibility, making corrections, and moving on. I will forever be grateful for this program. It has been the best experience ever."

—Business Apprentice

Engineering (Midtown & Metro)



- Students engage in hands-on projects and field trips in the branches of engineering.
- They tackle tasks such as designing and building small bridges, solving electrical problems, or developing software codes.

"Engineering always seemed so complicated. Through this apprenticeship, it doesn't seem as difficult as I originally imagined. Now I consider engineering as a possible career choice I never would have thought of." —Metro Apprentice