



MARCH BREAK *Report*



Success Beyond Limits (SBL) is proud to present another amazing March Break Career Exploration Program! Having an opportunity to spend a week expanding youths' professional networks and career possibilities has been truly empowering. Youth being able to envision their future employment endeavours and then actually being connected to people who are walking that path, is what this year's program accomplished. Exposure to various career options, including those that would be characterized as 'out of the box' provided the participants with new possibilities helping to carve out a purposeful path for themselves. This sense of purpose helps to provide youth with feelings of continued motivation and drive for their future that assists in providing more meaning to their academic and post-secondary accomplishments. Participating in a week to expand on current interests or to figure out what you truly enjoy, and are passionate about, is what the SBL mentors and mentees engaged in.

We invite you to delve deeper into the 2017 March Break Career Exploration Program experience. As you peruse the following pages enjoy viewing the range of business locations visited by the youth, the different spectrum of careers represented by the multiple career panels, and of course, the valuable youths' perspectives on their March Break!

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SBL is grateful for all those that made the 2017 March Break Career Exploration special! This program represents the true essence of collaboration as it involved many organizations, businesses and people coming together to deliver an unforgettable experience for our youth. Our gracious partner and host for the bulk of our March Break week, Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment (MLSE) Launchpad, who housed us at their spectacular space which facilitated space for workshops, lunchtime fun on the basketball courts and friendly staff to accommodate our needs.



Thank you to the Air Canada Centre, the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), and KPMG for access not only to their spaces, but also to their employees who shared their employment journeys. Special thanks goes to A Different Booklist and Kids Up Front who provided SBL with great exposure opportunities to fun and new ways of learning. A warm acknowledgement for the youth with the support of their parents, who came and spent their week with us, especially our first time March Break participants, the grade 8 students from Brookview and Oakdale Middle Schools! To our long time partners Toronto District School Boards and Focus on Youth, we greatly appreciate your continued support for the youth and our program.

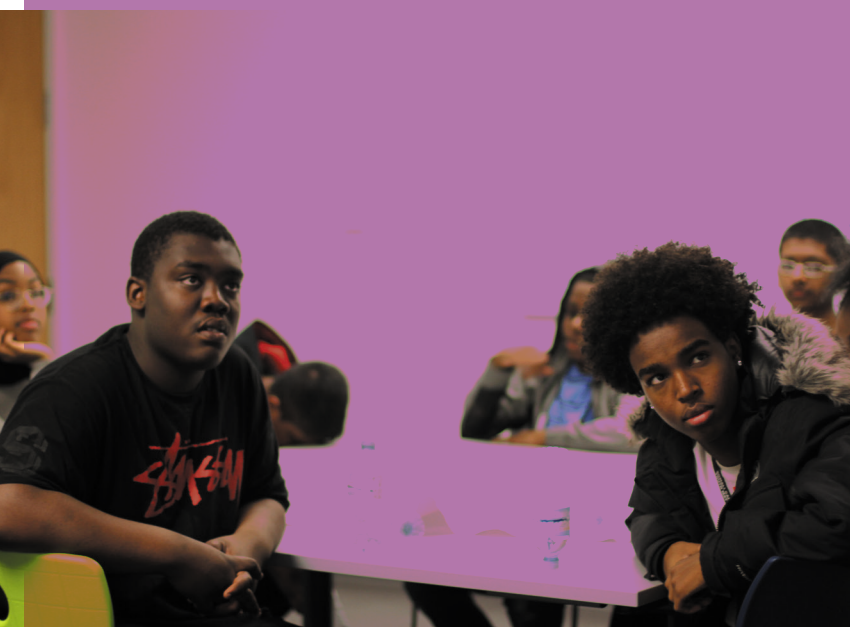




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MONDAY PROGRAMMING



BEHIND THE SCENES OF MLSE

An annual tradition of the SBL March Break program is heading down to the Air Canada Centre where SBL youth were able to get a behind the scenes look at the people who work for Maple Leafs Sports Entertainment (MLSE). The MLSE career panelists had various roles ranging from communications to marketing and were able to speak about their own unique journey to their careers. One major theme coming out of the career panel is the acknowledgement that the road to success is never linear, but comes with a few detours!

We would like to thank the following individuals for being part of our career panel: Chelsea Cardoso, Coordinator, Live Entertainment & Event Marketing, Kendra Kerr, Community Development Officer, MLSE Foundation, Letecia Rose, Coordinator, Programs & Partnerships, MLSE LaunchPad Abby Albino, Manager, Corporate Communications, MLSE Kevin Chubey, Account Manager, Global Partnerships, MLSE.

MONDAY PROGRAMMING



RAPTORS 905

The first day of the March Break program included going to a Raptors 905 game at the Air Canada Centre where the Toronto Raptors undisputedly defeated the Austin Spurs! Our youth had a great time kicking back and enjoying the game, which was definitely a great way to start off the first day of our program! For many of our youth this was their first time experiencing a Raptors 905 game at the Air Canada Centre. A huge thank you goes out to MLSE Launchpad for providing tickets to a memorable experience!

BUBBLE SOCCER

SBL mentors and grade eight students from Oakdale and Brookview faced off in a friendly game of soccer, but with a twist! All players had to wear a large bubble, while playing soccer hence the name bubble soccer! Our youth filled the Scarborough Soccer Association Centre with laughs and cheers (and a lot of falls) as they played. For many of your youth this was their first time trying bubble soccer. Everyone had a great time and it was a perfect way to wrap up the first day!



TUESDAY PROGRAMMING

TRANSITION TO POST-SECONDARY

Many of our mentors are in the last year of their high school journeys, and have accepted admissions to a myriad of post-secondary institutions. Others are a year away, what brings them together is that they have been waiting for this moment since that first day of high school. As our mentors finish the academic year strong, previous mentor and 4th year Ryerson student Whitney Smith facilitated a workshop on the Transition to Post-Secondary.

Whitney shared her journey, keys to success, and challenges in areas of money management, time management, and academic preparedness. Beyond academics, she highlighted the social aspects of post-secondary that make for a well-rounded experience. The workshop left mentors even more excited, more informed and eager to take the next step in their education journey!



JAMES BALDWIN PRIMER

The aim of the James Baldwin Primer was to introduce young people to the life and work of the prolific social critic, writer and public intellectual James Baldwin. The workshop was more than just a narrow introduction into Baldwin's life but also into the social context of the times in which he lived. Coming up in the midst of the Civil Rights Movement and holding a position against both Martin Luther King's nonviolent approach as well as Malcolm X's more militant approach, Baldwin was a complicated figure who lived in complex and turbulent times.

Students made connections and inferences between Baldwin's time and our present situation with the rise of Black Lives Matter. Topics of the workshop included segregation, slavery and the diverse and complex history of the African Diaspora.

WEDNESDAY PROGRAMMING



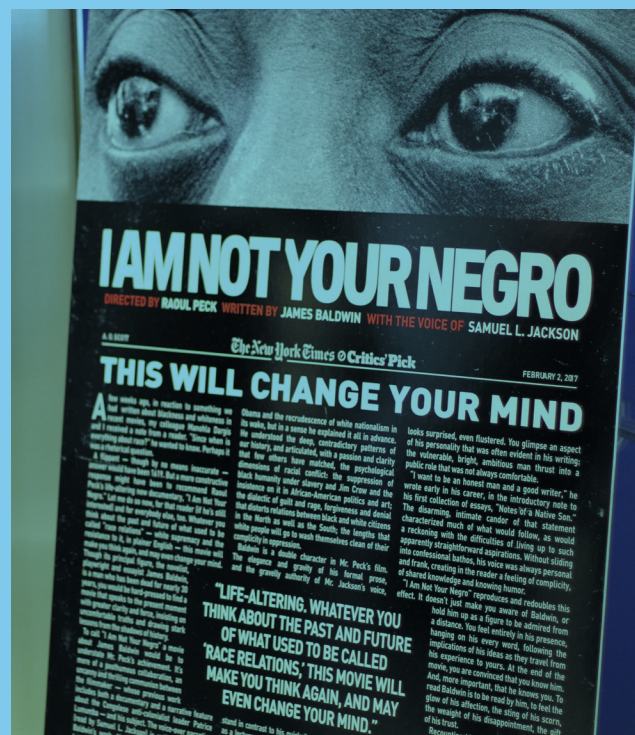
I AM NOT YOUR NEGRO: THE FILM

Following the James Baldwin Primer, we enjoyed a screening of *I Am Not Your Negro*. The documentary film was an insightful look into a specific moment of James Baldwin's life. Based on an unpublished manuscript written in the wake of the deaths of three prominent Black Civil Rights activists, the film captures Baldwin's return from Paris, France where he was living for some time. The film was a visual interweaving of the past and present, as the documentary stitched together scenes from the 60s along with and beside the most prominent and visual movement of our current moment: Black Lives Matter.

I AM NOT YOUR NEGRO: THE FILM DEBRIEF + TIFF TALK

After the screening of *I Am Not Your Negro*, students were eager to discuss the film. The discussion began with the visually stunning and emotionally gripping parts of the film, such as the lynchings. The conversation moved on to appreciating being able to see James Baldwin's incisive debating talents at Oxford as well as following Baldwin's travels across the American South. Many pointed to James Baldwin's courage in speaking truth to power and vowed to both continue these types of difficult conversations but also to maintain and carry with them a courage influenced by Baldwin.

As the conversations wrapped up, we were introduced to the many people that make TIFF possible behind the scenes. They shared their key learnings, journeys to their current career and reflected on their time at TIFF. One key message that rang clear amongst the panels was the importance of internships and co-op placements as a means to get your foot in the door.



WEDNESDAY PROGRAMMING



ARCHERY DODGEBALL

Our March Break Program is themed around expanding horizons and new experiences. As such, this was our first year participating in Archery Dodgeball. The name says it all - a fusion of dodgeball and archery. The session started with an instructional period which went over the intricacies of archery. As we got into the games, teams huddled together, assigning roles and went over tactical elements highlighting the co-operative nature of the sport. We cycled through half a dozen versions, with the final showdown a free for all leaving one person standing with bragging rights.



THURSDAY PROGRAMMING



EXPLORING CAREERS

One of the main reasons why we have our March Break program is to expose our youth to a wide range of career opportunities and this year was no different! We brought in professionals from a wide range of career fields. The panelists were able to speak about their own experience and journey to success and emphasizing to our youth that it is important to love what they do and to follow their passion. In addition, during our smaller break-out sessions the youth were able to ask many questions and have a more in-depth conversation with the panelists.

Our youth left the Exploring Careers workshop feeling empowered and excited about the career possibilities that exist! We would like to thank the following career panelists for their time and wisdom: Arbab Khan - Senior iOS Developer at Ecobee, Patrick Sefa - Teacher, Toronto District School Board, Fred Kulach - Chief Talent Officer, Mind Span Recruiting and Kayla Williams - CP24 Breakfast Weekend Host/Reporter.



UNCONVENTIONAL AND FUTURE JOBS

The Unconventional and Future Jobs workshop was really eye-opening for all our youth and gave them the opportunity to think critically about their own career. The workshop began by viewing a popular Beyoncé music video and asking young people to think of all the individuals behind Beyoncé's career that make her massive success possible. Youth pointed to her choreographers, set designers, and manager to name a few.

As our young people thought through these careers, the workshop also explored how to imagine future careers that currently don't exist. Pulling from their interests and examples of current careers which have been in existence for a short time, our young people came up with amazing and ingenious responses delving into the future.



KPMG

Exploring careers during the March break includes being in spaces that bring career conversation to life. KPMG is one of the largest professional service companies in the city and we were more than happy to be hosted by them, on the 46th floor no less! Overlooking an amazing view of the city, representatives from the 3 main lines of service KPMG offers shared their diverse career paths and provided advice to our young group. Up next was a tour of multiple workspaces that covers 3 floors.

Youth were excited to see these spaces occupied by various people and excited to get a sneak peek into the everyday workings of their roles. We appreciate the continued partnership with KPMG in providing exposure to youth during our March Break Program.

VOLLEYBALL

Mid-week, we headed over to Beach Blast for a few rounds of Volleyball which gave us a head start to that familiar summer feeling! The purpose of each trip during March Break is twofold: we explore different spaces across the city to be active and each trip is a means to having fun after a day of engaging workshops. Indoor beach volleyball was a great chance for a face-off between our mentors and mentees. All bets were on the Mentors winning a best of 5. The mentees clearly proved everyone wrong! They won almost every round and gave us the best show we've seen in years! Be sure to check out a recap video that highlights our time at Beach Blast.



FRIDAY PROGRAMMING



A DIFFERENT BOOKLIST

Engaging in literature for young people is vital to exploring careers. Reading can bring out the best in youth and more importantly expand their horizons. We partnered up with A Different Booklist to offer everyone an opportunity to choose a book of his or her liking. A Different Booklist offers a variety of books that feature local authors and authors of colour whose books may not be seen in mainstream bookstores. This has sparked an interest in some of our youth to read more! This interest stems from seeing an author from their country on display in the bookstore and having a sense of ownership of the stories in its pages.

Our traditional trip to this bookstore has been a great way to end off the March Break Program. We continue to deeply appreciate our ongoing partnership with A Different Booklist, who is looking snazzy in their new digs!



EVAN TOWN

QUOTES ABOUT PURCHASING A BOOK:

What did being able to select and purchase your own book mean to you?

"IT SHOWS THAT SBL REALLY CARES ABOUT STUDENTS AND IS ENCOURAGING THEM TO READ."

—SBL MENTOR

"I don't really read, so picking a book made me happy because it is what I'm really interested in." —SBL MENTOR

"It has reminded me how much reading matters and how I've missed reading so much."

—SBL MENTOR

How would you describe your experience of being downtown all week?

*"I feel like being downtown the whole time means a lot to me because I am not a social person. I prefer staying home. **SBL MADE IT FEEL LIKE AN ENJOYABLE PLACE.**"*

—SBL MENTOR

"It was very eye-opening." I have only been downtown once before which made the experience even better.

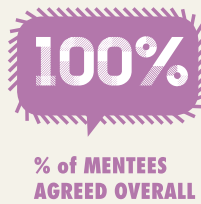
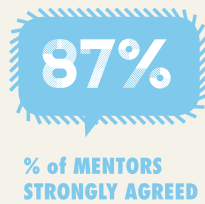
—SBL MENTOR



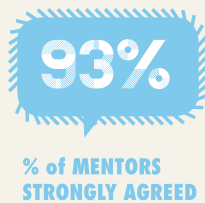
FEEL TOWN UN



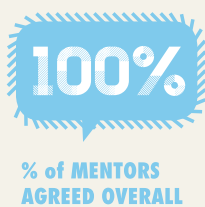
Since going to the SBL March Break Program I feel more confident and ready for employment.



The SBL March Break program has helped me better understand ways to achieve my career goals.

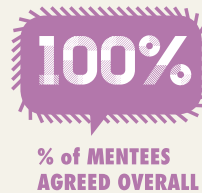
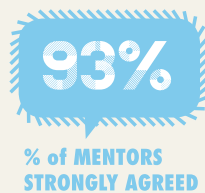


The SBL March Break Program helped me better understand the transition into Post-Secondary (ie. university, college, apprenticeship)



Mentors: I was able to build relationships with the Mentees during the program.

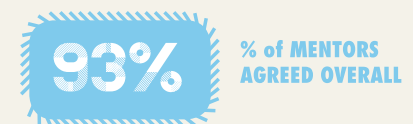
Mentees: I was able to build relationships with the mentors.



The SBL March Break Program helped me gain an in-depth understanding of different careers.



The MLSE space made learning more enjoyable.



Mentors: Being downtown for the week allowed us to have greater access to opportunities.

Mentees: I enjoyed being downtown for the week.



SUMMARY

OUTCOMES:

Through our youth-centered, systems focused approach, the program addresses:

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & YOUTH LEADERSHIP

-Ontario youth are able to navigate the resources within their communities

-Ontario youth are exposed to opportunities within their community & their city

-Ontario youth are aware & involved in conversations regarding their community & future

Through intentionally creating spaces for relationships to develop we are addressing:

YOUTH FRIENDLY SPACES & COMMUNITIES

-Youth are engaged in their communities

-Ontario youth have safe spaces that are accessible and engaging

Having a strong management & mentor team allows us to engage youth within the community. Therefore, during each step of the March Break program we are addressing the following:

BUILDING STRONG & CONSISTENT RELATIONSHIPS

-Ontario youth have a consistent and caring adult

-Ontario youth form & maintain healthy relationships



SUMMARY

By providing innovative workshops & exposure opportunities/outings throughout the program, we are addressing:

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION & APPRENTICESHIP

-Ontario youth are aware & informed on various educational opportunities

-Ontario youth receive training and exposure that will help them achieve academic success

EMPLOYMENT/ ENTREPRENEURSHIP & SOCIAL CAPITAL

-Ontario youth have greater access to employment opportunities

-Ontario youth receive training & support to help secure future employment

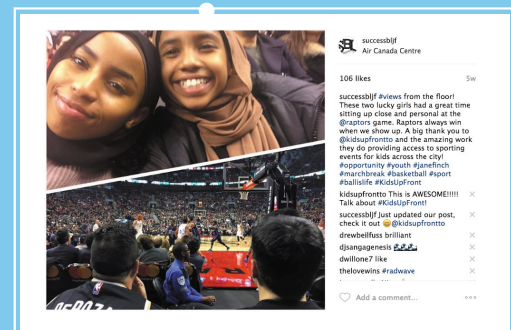
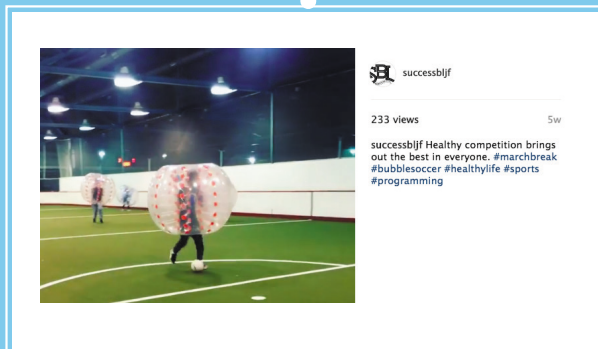
By providing a healthy lunch & recreational activities throughout the March Break we are ensuring that:

-Ontario youth are healthy and active

-Ontario youth are mentally and emotionally well



SOCIAL MEDIA



FUNDERS & PARTNERS



Thank You!