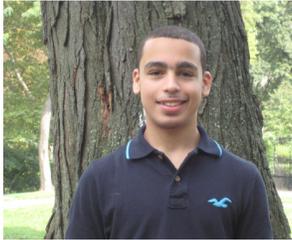




## 2012 PARTICIPANT BIOS

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**Ahmed Zakria** is a junior at Curtis High School in Staten Island. He is the Vice President of the Muslim Student Association and the founder/leader of the Friday Jumma Prayer held at his school. Ahmed is on the Curtis bowling team and on the wrestling team as well. He leads a bi-weekly pre-teen group and gives bi-weekly lectures to a crowd of 50 adults, youth and children at a local mosque. Ahmed is currently doing a summer research internship program at The Cooper Union. As a council member of the Mayor's Youth Leadership Council, Ahmed hopes to gain leadership experience in working with different groups of people and gain effective interviewing skills.



**Angelique Loperena** is a rising senior at The School for International Studies in Brooklyn. She is a member of her school's National Honor Society (NHO), and is looking forward to being an active senior so that she can help her school and community. Although there are not many clubs or activities at her school, she manages to stay busy and is very involved in school events which include: ceremonies, school fairs, orientations, and catering events with her culinary teachers. Angelique hopes that as council member of the Mayor's Youth Leadership Council she will have the opportunity to learn more about issues affecting youth in New York City. She wants to make her community aware of these issues and hopes that together they can make her community a better place. Angelique also wants to gain the confidence to say something about the problems affecting her community.



**Ashley Harford** is a junior and recently transferred to Medgar Evers College Preparatory School. She lives in Brooklyn and was a cheerleader prior to transferring schools. Outside of school she is active in her church choir and a member of the youth group. Growing up Ashley was always the shy, quiet one amongst her peers, but she always had a passion to help people, especially underprivileged individuals. The reason that she became a part of the Mayor's Youth Leadership Council is because it presents an opportunity for her to voice her opinion and address problems that she encounters in her community. This program will teach her the skills that she needs to become successful at accomplishing her goals.



**Brianna Young** is a senior at Queens Gateway to Health Sciences Secondary School and lives in Queens, NY. Brianna strives for academic excellence and optimizing opportunity. She says, "Not every kid has a perfect life but we do have the chance to make it better for ourselves and our community". Brianna has participated in multiple community service projects including the Youth Justice Board, Jamaica YMCA Leader's club, Borough of Queens student advisory council, Global Teens South Africa and multiple volunteer campaigns. She also serves as a Youth Representative on the Board of Managers and a Strong Kids Campaign Spokesperson at the Jamaica YMCA. As part of the MYLC, Brianna hopes to learn new strategies and then implement them to affect the lives of kids just like her in New York City.



## 2012 PARTICIPANT BIOS

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**Diana Marino** is an ambitious tenth grader who attends the Bronx Lab High School in the Bronx, where she was born and raised. During school, Diana volunteers in a program named City Year, where she explains to middle school students that cleaning and supporting their community can make a huge difference. She is also involved in sports such as basketball, softball, and cycling. Diana joined the MYLC to gain more knowledge about how to help communities and students in the city of New York. She would also like to develop her leadership skills and would like to know that she can make a huge difference, even at such a young age.



**Jodaliza Feliz** is a junior at Mott Hall V High School, born to Dominican parents in Manhattan and resides in the Bronx. Jodaliza has been in the Student Council and has helped many other students who are struggling academically. She is also involved in a college bound program, Keeping the Vision, which prepares high school students to make their college goals a reality. Jodaliza wants to be a part of the Mayor's Youth Leadership Council because she wants to help her community and most importantly the youth of New York City. She believes that the youth are the future and they need to be aware so that they can create change in their communities.



**Joshua Leon** is a junior at Acorn Community High School in Brooklyn where he was born and raised. He describes himself as an intelligent literary artist with a bright future. Although he is not enrolled in any extracurricular programs in school he loves basketball and is a positive influence in his community to all younger children. Joshua is also a proud member of S.I.M.B.A academy, a program for High School males that teaches him to network as well as give him the tools he needs to be successful. He signed up for M.Y.L.C because he saw an opportunity to better himself as a young black male.



**Keandre Powlette** is a tenth grader who attends High School for Law and Advocacy and Community Justice in Brooklyn. He aspires to one day be a lawyer and to practice law in the great state of New York. Keandre is a very optimistic, outgoing, and fun-loving individual. He spends his spare time exploring life and making the best of it. Keandre is a member of the S.I.M.B.A (Safe In My Brother's Arms) Academy, an empowerment program for high school males. During winter and spring breaks, Keandre helps out in shelters, taking youths on educational, fun-filled trips. As council member of the Mayor's Youth Leadership Council, he believes that this will be a wonderful opportunity to voice and address issues for those who can't be heard. Keandre is looking forward to working with his peers to find solutions to the issues affecting young people.



## 2012 PARTICIPANT BIOS

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**Khadijah Sawyer** was born in Dominican Republic and came to the United States at the age of 8 months old. She currently resides in Queens, New York and is a junior at Excelsior Preparatory High School. In school, she is a dedicated member of her track team. Khadijah also participates in the Young Women's Leadership program where she helps young females in her community become more aware of the issues that females endure in society. Khadijah joined MYLC because she wants to help reform issues that underrepresented neighborhoods face such as poor education.



**Manuel Ventura** was born in the Dominican Republic, and moved to the United States at the age of 12 and currently lives in Brooklyn. Manuel is a student at The International High School at Prospect Heights and is a member of the National Honor Society (NHS). As a member of NHS, Manuel helps to improve the community in and out of his school. He is also involved in many different activities at his school in particular, Drama Club, where he is the lead actor and recently performed in the play Fences by August Wilson. Manuel looks forward to his role as council member of the Mayor's Youth Leadership Council(MYLC) because he feels being part of this program will open doors and allow him to step up and make the youth community in New York City more visible.



**Maassai Collier**, from Brooklyn, New York is currently a student at School for Classics: An Academy of Thinkers, Writers and Performers. She is an advocate for world peace and conscious music. She is apart of an all girls organization called Girls Advocating and Innovating the Nation (GAIN) which is a group that allows teenage females to mentor younger girls and she is in the beginning stages of leading a movement called Peace, Love && Lyrics, which is aimed to make change through the art form of Hip Hop. Maassai hopes, as part of the Mayors Youth Leadership Council, that she is able to fuse her creativity with her intellectualism to bring about a different kind of change and to be the voice box of her generation.



**Melvin-Rohsel Rodriguez** is a student at the Green School and is currently residing in Brooklyn. He attends his school's young runner's club and several smaller school activities. Growing up in the suburbs of Florida, he wants to bring a possibly different skill set and ideas to young adults in New York. As part of the Mayor's Youth Leadership Council, Melvin hopes to change the perpetuation of anger and violence in all communities.



## 2012 PARTICIPANT BIOS

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**Naflan Doole** is a senior in the International Baccalaureate Program (IB) at Curtis High School Staten Island. He is involved in many extracurricular activities. Naflan has been a part of the Curtis Warrior basketball team, track team, tennis team, and lacrosse team. As well as being very active in sports, he is also a member of many clubs at Curtis High School such as the Astronomy club, Newspaper club, Muslim Student Association club (MSA), and the Student Organization (S.O). Mr. Doole is also a founding member of the Curtis Dreamers Club which focuses on the policies of the Dream Act (The Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act). Through the activities of the club, he is able to help many undocumented youths in New York. Naflan also helps organize for Muslim Inter Scholastic Tournament (MIST) which Curtis High School takes part in every year. Naflan Doole is a part of the Mayors Youth Leadership Council (MYLC) because he wants to change the world. He understands that this is a daunting goal. However he believes that if he is able to fix one small part of the world at a time, then he can really make a difference.



**Nevia Gallimore** is currently a student at The Bronx School for Law, Government, and Justice. Though she was born and raised in The Bronx, Nevia is constantly on the move, in terms of exploring the large city of New York. During her spare time, Nevia can be found either furthering her education by attending College Now at CUNY Hostos, or coaching her school's local debate team. Nevia is part of her school's track team and is also an active participant in the school's Student Government Club. As a member of the Mayor's Youth Leadership Council, Nevia hopes to not only advocate for her community, school, peers and family, but also to strengthen the bond between the public and policy makers.



**Ololade Ngozi Olaleye** lives in the Bronx and attends the Bronx Envision Academy. She has experienced many hardships in her young life and knows first hand what it feels like to be discriminated and condemned for being a Black female. These experiences have triggered her belief that everyone in life is born an achiever, regardless of who you are and what race you belong to, you can achieve your dreams. Ololade performs poetry with Community Word Project. She is a Student Ambassador and represents her school in activities like high school fairs and P.T.A meetings. Ololade also volunteers to entertain the less privileged on religious occasions at church and she loves acting, singing, poetry, dancing and reading. Her aim is to be a source of positive change in people's lives, a pacesetter, and a change for good. Ololade has the feeling that in order to achieve this aim she needs to enhance her leadership skills and looks forward to achieving this through the Mayor's Youth Leadership Council.



## 2012 PARTICIPANT BIOS

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**Rajae Brown** is a junior at Bronx High School for Law and Community Service in the Bronx, the borough where he resides. Rajae Brown enjoys reading and going to the pool in his school to practice with the swim team for competitions. He is a full time member of the Junior Reserves Officers Training Corps where he runs a staff section and his own Colorguard team. Rajae Brown is a young man who sees the value in everyone and understands the misconceptions that come with one's race, religion, culture, and language. He views the Mayors Youth Leadership Council as a chance to help remove the stereotypes of minority youth in New York City and hopes to raise the possibilities for them by helping to bring about change.



**Ryan White** is a rising junior at The Renaissance Charter School in Jackson Heights, Queens. He currently resides in Queens. Ryan enjoys participating in many extracurricular activities such as: Colgate Sports, Science Camp, Drama Club, and recently had the opportunity to travel down South to Mississippi's 50th Anniversary of the Freedom Rides. As a council member of the Mayor's Youth Leadership Council, Ryan hopes to use this opportunity to show how students working together can create positive change within the city of New York.



**Sandra Vidal** is a tenth grader at The Young Women's Leadership School of East Harlem in Manhattan. She is a first generation Mexican-American who has lived in East Harlem and does not want to become another statistic. Sandra is involved with the Social Justice, Community Service, and Track Clubs. Sandra is also involved in the Step Up Women's Network. Step Up has given Sandra the opportunity to network and learn about women in the workforce. She is passionate about the environment and on the weekends she volunteers with the New Youth Conservationist in cleaning the Bronx River. Sandra wants to be part of the MYLC because she wants to become a strong and well-rounded leader to bring positive change to her community. Sandra knows MYLC will help her develop the skills necessary to help other young women achieve their goals and pursue a higher education.



**Zachary Lemonides** is a rising junior in Stuyvesant High School from Manhattan. He participates in Public Forum Debate in the Stuyvesant HS Speech and Debate Team, and is also a part of his schools Model United Nations team. Outside of school he is also a part of Young Judea, a Jewish Community Service organisation. He feels that it is very important to be involved with one's community, and is interested in joining the Mayors Youth Leadership Council because he feels that this would provide a way to make a difference.