



2011 PARTICIPANT BIOS



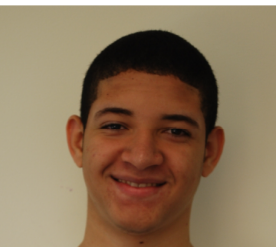
Asamia Diaby is a tenth grader at Health Opportunities High School and resides in the Bronx. Asamia describes herself as “opinionated” and joined MYLC because she wants to become more aware and informed about things that may or may not affect her and she wishes to make a change to better the lives of the people around her. Asamia has been attending Arabic school for ten years, is involved in student government as well as a community service program where she also develops her leadership skills.



Ayodele Aruleba goes to Herbert. H Lehman High School in the Bronx. He is a Council Member because he thinks that he can bring a “raw” perspective on how public school in the Bronx really works. Ayodele believes an authentic view of school life is important to make real change which is what he hopes to accomplish by participating in the MYLC. Ayodele likes to play basketball, loves listening to music and playing the piano.



Denise Vivar was born in Mexico City and came to the United States when she was 7 years old. She lives in Brooklyn and attends Sunset Park High School, enjoys reading and has worked with Project Safe for a year informing teens about sexual health. Denise grew up in a very complicated environment where gangs, drugs, and fights took over her life. She sees serving on the MYLC as an opportunity to understand the confusion about the life she has lived and to do something about what is happening for youth.



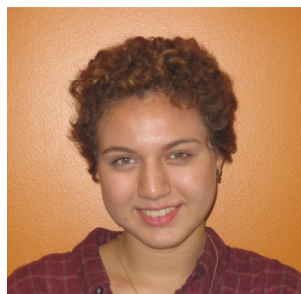
Edgar Pineda is a junior from DeWitt Clinton High School in the Bronx. In school he is involved in Sports and Arts which is an after school program, and Arista Honor Society where students do community service. He is concerned about the education of other students and he believes there needs to be a change in the way that students connect to their education. Edgar joined the MYLC hoping to help students throughout the five boroughs to be more interested about their education.



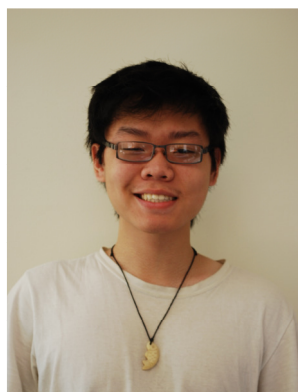
Felix Amankwah attends Medgar Evers College Preparatory School in Brooklyn where he was born and raised. He is involved in the Fellowship Initiative, a J.P. Morgan funded program which is currently offering him SAT preparation, and exposure to the business world; a world he aspires to join in the future. He wants to be a part of MYLC because he feels that through the program he will get the chance to be a part something bigger than himself and influence change in the circumstances of marginalized and underrepresented teenagers and students.



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Gigi Guzman is a student at Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music and Performing Arts. She currently lives in midtown Manhattan, takes piano lessons and classes at NYU campus as part of the Science and Technology Entrance Program (STEP). She is passionate about being a part of the MYLC because she has seen the struggles that students face in staying connected to their education. She knows the difficulty there is in finding educational programs that could keep them off the streets and occupied with productive activities. Gigi believes that all students deserve to get the best education possible and strongly desires to be a voice for the youth of New York.



Jingwei (Jason) Tu is a junior at Stuyvesant High School and lives in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn. He keeps a very busy but exciting schedule as a filmmaker, actor, varsity member of his school's Speech Team, Student Union, and the leader of an award winning physics research team. Jason plays the alto saxophone with the school symphonic band and for a semi-professional jazz band; while running a free website community that serves as a student forum for open communication of study material and student concerns. He believes that the MYLC will bring positive results to the city he calls home, and to his peers. He wishes to provide a voice for those who otherwise cannot be represented and believes that if he can better the life of just one person each day, then he has not lived a day in vain and can sleep at ease.



Jordan Nichols is a sophomore at Queens High School of Teaching Liberal Arts & Sciences and is from the borough of Queens. Jordan is involved in numerous school and community activities including being the President of The Church Ushers Association of Queens & Vicinity, first Vice President of The Church Ushers Association of the Eastern Region and a candidate for the 4th Vice President of The National United Church Ushers Association of America Inc. Jordan is also involved with the New York Police Department with the Explorers Program. Jordan is in MYLC to make a difference in his life and community because he believes that it is possible.



Kadheem McLeod is a junior at the High School for Public Service and is from Brooklyn, NY. Kadheem enjoys helping people with school life and on a more personal level. He is very active in performing arts such as dance, song, and acting. He applies his talents throughout all of his extracurricular activities including a student government; The H.O.T Team (Heroes of TODAY), which works on the well being of the school and the Out Doors Unlimited Club, which works on bringing kids out side of the city life and giving them the chance to experience nature in a more intense and deeper way. One of the main reasons that Kadheem wanted to be part of the MYLC is because he enjoys the feeling of peace in his life and wants others to be able to experience that as well. He believes that the MYLC will bring him one step closer towards that goal.



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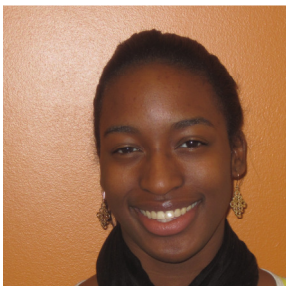
Kevin Izquierdo was born in Ecuador, migrated to United States when he was 7 and currently lives in north Brooklyn. Kevin attends Benjamin N. Cardozo High School in Oakland Gardens, Queens. Kevin is a leader at his school; is part of the fencing, track and mock trial teams and helps with many school projects and volunteers in his community. Kevin is also a chess player and has been to eight different national events in the country and has placed in the top three on two occasions. He also enjoys learning about other cultures and their history. As part of the MYLC, Kevin would like to address high school drop out rates because he feels that graduating from high school is a way to deal with high poverty rates.



Maeve Kerr is an eleventh grader from Manhattan attending Eleanor Roosevelt High School. Maeve plays forward on her school's basketball team, is president of the Ski Club, a student government member and founder and President of the ElRo Ambassadors, a club focused on school and community outreach. Outside of school, Maeve is a volunteer with the Good Dog Foundation and the Holy Family Shelter. She is a New Yorker in every sense of the word and sees New York as a place of limitless opportunities and possibilities; New York welcomed her grandparents and father who were immigrants hoping to create a life for themselves. Through the MYLC, Maeve wants to give back to the city that has done so much for her family and hopes to make it stronger and better for the future generations.



Meredith Peng is an 11th grader living in Staten Island and attends Staten Island Technical High School where she is very involved in extracurricular activities there including SING, Multicultural Festival, Art Club among others. She is also a part of the Chinatown Youth Initiatives and enjoys volunteering at the local soup kitchen. Meredith is a part of MYLC not only because she loves to partake in leadership activities but mainly because she wants to help better her community and the world.



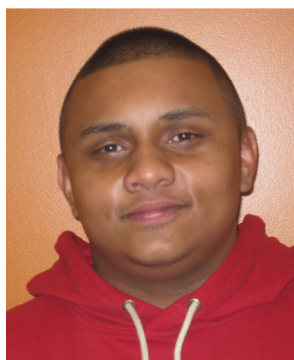
Minah Whyte is a student at the Renaissance Charter School and resides in Queens, New York. Minah enjoys trying different cuisines and spending time with friends. In her years as a high school student, she has attended City@peace, now known as The Possibility Project, Colgate's Sports and Science Camp and was chosen to attend Mississippi's 50th Anniversary of the Freedom Rides by her school. As a council member, Minah hopes to better New York City by voicing the opinions of the youth, affect change regarding the statistics in the Young Men's Initiative and help come up with solutions.



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Noah Morton attends Manhattan Center for Science and Mathematics and is from Manhattan. Noah has a profound interest in business and wants to become a billionaire one day and is part of The Fellowship Initiative, a program sponsored by JP Morgan Chase, that helps prepares him to become a global leader. A recent accomplishment includes placing 2nd in the nation as a business camp competition where he successfully managed 300 billion dollars. Noah is also a believer in the Bible and reads it frequently so he can increase his wisdom. As part of the MYLC, Noah wants to help inspire other young people to think positively and be engaged in their education and community.



Rashad Mujumder attends the High School of Graphic Communication Arts in the Bronx and is in the 11th grade. Rashad is heavily involved with community service and in the summer of 2010 began the "Interact Club" which is the junior version of the Rotary Club, a worldwide humanitarian organization, in his Central Bronx community. Through this club, he has completed multiple projects such as an autism awareness campaign, a public speaking workshop, can drives, and community garden work. Rashad is a part of the MYLC because he feels that the youth of NYC have a strong voice that needs to be heard; especially regarding topics such as education, which directly affect them. He also feels that there is a misconception that youth cannot be a part of the solution and thinks that MYLC will give the Mayors office a perspective, opinion and voice they need.



Sagrario Fabian is a sophomore at Williamsburg Preparatory High School. She was born in Manhattan and resides in Brooklyn. Her activities in school include participating in track and the HIV/AIDS awareness program. As part of MYLC, Sagrario wants a much deeper understanding on what makes it difficult for youth in New York City to succeed in school. She also wants to be part of the group of council members that comes up with solutions for helping the youth in the city.



Sarah Murslim attends Hillside Arts and Letters Academy in Jamaica Campus. Sarah resides in South Richmond Hill Queens, New York and is currently on the wrestling team, a sport that she works very hard on. She is a council member because of her association with many disconnected youths. Sarah wants to make a change in her community to help her fellow youth in school and all over New York City.



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Shuba Maniram is a student at Manhattan Center for Science and Mathematics and is from the Bronx. She interns at a youth court in Harlem working within the field of juvenile justice and volunteers doing community service whenever she has free time. Shuba is part of MYLC because she has a passion for change and wants youth to have a voice in politics and education. She believes that sometime decisions affecting youth are made without youth participation and that in part may be why some initiatives don't work. Shuba wants to change this and use her experiences to help other youth in the city.



Ylli Dema is an Albanian who resides in Staten Island and attends Port Richmond High School. He is captain of the swimming team, Overall Director of his school's production, on the volleyball team and maintains a 4.0 GPA. Ylli enjoys running and drawing in his spare time. As a member of the MYLC, he wants to put forth all problems that people find pertaining to the school system and add a youth voice to them. He will take the time to listen to concerns from members of the council and his school to make sure that the youth voice is captured.