



GREATER SEATTLE (WA) CHAPTER OF THE LINKS, INCORPORATED 2019 - 2020 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

A LEGACY OF SERVICE AND IMPACT

For 65 years, the **Greater Seattle (WA) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated (GSCL)**, an international women's service organization, has contributed to the cultural and educational success of children, young adults and families. Through our Building STEAM Program and five facets (Arts, Health and Human Services, International Trends and Services, National Trends and Services, and Services to Youth), we have provided enrichment opportunities. We have awarded more than \$1.8 million in scholarships and grants-in-aid to deserving students and community projects in the Puget Sound region. Our GSCL award-winning program **Building STEAM** (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) is in its ninth year. As described below, it provides an exciting and effective initiative that is building brighter futures for our youth and stronger communities in our region.

GSCL UMBRELLA PROGRAM — “Building STEAM”

To address the achievement gap for African-American students in the Seattle area, the GSCL has chosen to focus our Umbrella Program on African-American youth with an emphasis on girls. The mission of Building STEAM is to provide middle and high school girls of color, from low to moderate income households in South and Central King County, with transformative experiences supporting their self-discovery, exposure to, interest in, and aptitude for STEAM curricula and careers. This program also exposes the girls to African-American women mentors and role models in a variety of careers and provides learning opportunities that they may not otherwise have. The program is designed to enhance their interest in STEAM careers, high school graduation, and college attendance.

Launched in 2011, our Building STEAM program is fully underwritten and supported by the GSCL. Thirty-two middle school girls, ranging from sixth through ninth grades, participated this program year. The hands-on, project-based curriculum includes approximately 30 hours of classroom-focused programming instructed by credentialed technology instructors. This year, the middle school participants completed either a robotics curriculum or bioplastics development curriculum. All classes are experiential with developmentally appropriate skill building. Speakers and workshops are also incorporated. A mentoring and career show-and-tell component is also a core part of the program. The curriculum includes field trips intended to expose students to organizations, environments and professionals that will broaden their world and make STEAM come alive.

Examples of off-site field trips include trips to Green Plate Special where the girls learn about sustainable farming and healthy eating and to the Pacific Science Center for a day of hand-on learning. We have partnered with Perkins Coie, Seattle University, University of Washington, the Federal Reserve Bank, The Boeing Company, the Woodland Park Zoo, the YWCA, Seattle Children's, and the Seattle Art Museum. We have enjoyed the support of corporate and individual sponsors for the work we do. We are grateful for our community partners who make our work possible.

GSCL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

In addition, the Greater Seattle Chapter recognizes academic excellence and awards scholarships to high school seniors. For the 2019-2020 cycle, we awarded nearly \$75,000 in new scholarship funds to high school seniors and will award an additional \$50,000 to returning college students who are experiencing financial hardship.

**About The Links, Incorporated &
Greater Seattle (WA) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated**

The Links, Incorporated is an international organization of 274 chapters comprised of concerned, committed, and talented women who, linked in friendship, enhance the quality of life in the larger community. The organization is primarily concerned with enriching, sustaining and ensuring the identities, culture, and economic survival of African-Americans and persons of African descent.

Established in December of 1955, the Greater Seattle (WA) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated contributes to the formulation of a positive, productive, and culturally diverse society. Within the Greater Seattle area, our community service focuses on youth – with an emphasis on STEM-related experiential learning, educational access and scholarship, and improving and uplifting the quality of life of African Americans and broader communities.

For more sponsorship information, please email: links@greaterseattlelinks.org.