



GREATER SEATTLE CHAPTER – 2016-17 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

A LEGACY OF SERVICE AND IMPACT

For more than 60 years, the **Greater Seattle 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 Umbrella Programs and five program 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 1.5 million dollars 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 seventh 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.

WHY BUILDING STEAM?

Washington State data indicate there is an achievement gap for African-American students. Research confirms that non-school educational experiences that supplement and enhance in-classroom learning make an overall measurable difference in student learning. Research further confirms that free-choice/informal learning can create interest and understanding of career fields in science and other areas like math, engineering, arts, and technology.

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 students 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 the girls may not otherwise experience. The program is designed to enhance their interest in STEAM careers, high school graduation, and college attendance.

Our Building STEAM program, initiated in 2011, is fully supported by the GSCL. We recruit 30 to 35 middle and high school girls each year, ranging from sixth through ninth grades. The students are provided hands-on learning opportunities.

The curriculum includes 30 hours of classroom-focused programming instructed by credentialed technology instructors. The middle school participants complete a robotics curriculum and the high school students complete a video game development curriculum. All classes are experiential with developmentally appropriate skill building. Speakers and workshops are provided. 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.

An example of an off-site field trip held again this year was a trip to Seattle Children's Research Institute Science Adventure Lab where the girls conducted neuroscience experiments, learned about the functioning of the brain and the scientific method of inquiry. The Links also provided a weeklong summer camp, **The Links**

Science Camp for Curious Minds, in conjunction with the Pacific Science Center. There, the girls participated in the “Tech Lab: Remote Sensing, and used science and technology to explore the universe. In past years, we have partnered with Perkins Coie, Seattle University, University of Washington, the Federal Reserve Bank, Boeing, the Woodland Park Zoo, the YWCA, Green Plate, and the Seattle Art Museum. We have enjoyed the enthusiastic support of corporate and individual sponsors for the work we do. We are grateful for our community partners who make our work possible.

GSCL AWARDS RECOGNITION PROGRAM

In addition, GSCL recognizes academic excellence and awards scholarships to high school seniors. We celebrate academic achievement by honoring elementary and middle school students nominated by their schools for academic excellence. It is particularly gratifying to see the parents of award recipients, some of whom were themselves award recipients as youth, attend the program and witness their children receive honors and awards. Through these efforts, we foster a culture of achievement in the community. This year we provided more than \$75,000 in scholarships and honored more than 90 students.

CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP LEVELS & BENEFITS

We hope that you will help us continue our legacy of service and impact within our community by becoming a sponsor of the GSCL’s 2017 fundraising event, ***Continuing the Legacy***, to be held on **Saturday evening, November 4, 2017**, at the **Four Seasons Hotel** downtown, 99 Union Street, Seattle, WA 98101. The evening will feature savory appetizers, dinner, refreshing cocktails, and conclude with a short program, and lively entertainment and dancing. In addition to becoming a sponsor, we hope you will consider raising your paddle at the event. Help us develop the next generation of scientists, technologists, engineers, artists and mathematicians in our community, and make dreams come true!

Gold Level Sponsors: \$5,000 – and above

- Up to 6 tickets to the event
- Special acknowledgement at all GSCL’s program activities throughout the program year
- Special recognition from the podium during event
- Recognition in the printed program
- Premier logo on display

Silver Level Sponsors: \$2,500 – \$4,999

- Up to 4 tickets to the event
- Recognition from the podium during event
- Recognition in the printed program
- Premier logo (large font) recognition at event

Bronze Level Sponsors: \$1,500 – \$2,499

- Up to 2 tickets to the event
- Recognition in the printed program
- Logo (standard font) on display

Thank you for making a difference!

Seattle Children's Research Institute – Adventure Lab—Field Trip May 2017

