

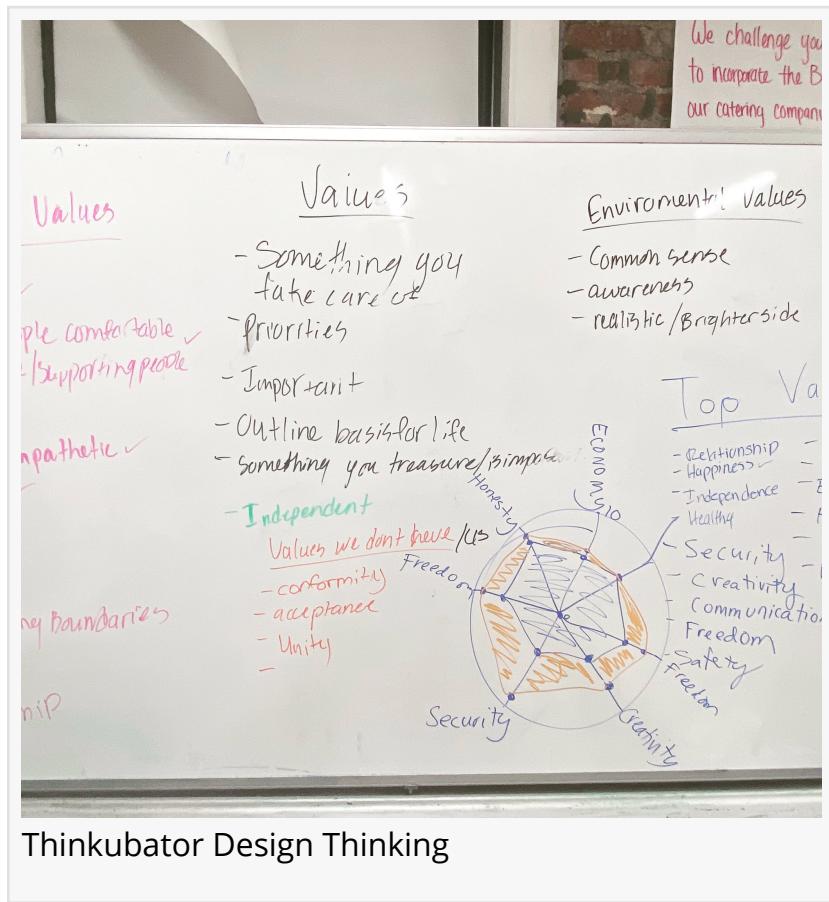
The Thinkubator launch work-based learning programs with more than 200 applications for 60 spots in four career pathways

Youth are training to become Junior Consultants, Project Managers, Research and Analytics Assistants, and Community Advocates and Engagement Specialists.

BRONX, NY, UNITED STATES, March 5, 2021 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The Thinkubator, a Bronx-based nonprofit organization, announces the launch of its spring programs after receiving more than 200 applications for 60 work-based learning slots. The Thinkubator's work-based learning programs are 10-weeks long and seek to prepare underrepresented youth from the Bronx with work experiences, career exploration, and wellness support while earning a salary during the course of the program. Youth are from the Bronx and hail from more than 20 schools, colleges, and

universities. Program participants will partake in four programs that prepare them for available jobs: The Thinkubator Solves (Junior Consultant), The Thinkubator Trains (Project Management), The Think Tank and Higher Education Consultancy (Research and Analytics Assistant), and The Thinkubator Leads, Youth Council (Community Advocate or Engagement Specialist).

The Thinkubator Solves is a youth-led design thinking consultancy program co-designed by HERE to HERE, DreamYard, The Do School, and The Bronx PIC where Junior Consultants (students), with the support of professionals, craft solutions to real-world challenges. Over the next few months, Junior Consultants will tackle challenges that each business faces and will provide solutions to these pressing challenges the first week of May in a public presentation. Three clients have hired the Junior Consultants: Uptown & Fresh Barbershop, Krasdale Foods and Imperfect Foods. "Working with the youth in our community is extremely exciting for us at



Uptown & Fresh. The Bronx is what inspired us. Knowing that The Thinkubator program can provide an opportunity for growth to kids just like us while helping expand our client base and reach for community service in the future, made the decision to get involved is an absolute no brainer. We can't wait to see what the future holds for the program, the barbershop and everyone involved" said Jesus Ramos, Owner & Founder. Krasdale Foods is a premier grocery distributor in New York and the northeast region located in the Bronx. Krasdale supports and operates supermarket chains including Bravo and CTown as well as thousands of bodegas around the city. John Borzumato, Director of New Business Development has tasked the Junior Consultants with providing a roadmap for Krasdale to own and operate a neighborhood grocery store. Imperfect Foods was founded in 2015 with a mission to eliminate food waste and build a better food system. Angie Crone, the Marketing and Social Impact Manager tasked the Junior Consultants to develop a grantmaking program that equitably rewards micro-grants to organizations that will aid in advancing Imperfect Foods' mission and embody their core values.

The Thinkubator Trains Spring 2021 has launched with a diverse group of students from three universities/colleges and eight respective high schools. The Trains program is a virtual project-focused program that works with [Bronx youth](#) and area companies on team project-focused assignments offering organizations the opportunity to shape the future of our nation's workforce and participate in the development of young people's careers and goals. This iteration features returning employers Montefiore Medical Center and RAP4Bronx and new employers sites Mott Haven Fridge, The Thinkubator, Inc. and a global influencer whose research project will showcase the skills and talents of Bronx youth. The Thinkubator Trains previous semester's program work partnered with RAP4Bx tackling food insecurity in the Bronx. This semester the program will start its focus around creating a community connected food sustainability model incorporating urban farming, AgriTech training, and hands-on implementation utilizing youth ingenuity to challenge the concepts of what does the future of the industry look like for boroughs, towns, and cities similar to the Bronx. The Thinkubator Trains utilize critical and design thinking skills to enact system-changing programming, along with its Mental Wellness program to support, advance, and amplify youth voice.

The Think Tank at The Thinkubator is a youth-oriented research center focused on understanding The Bronx as a contested, complex urban form, and addressing narratives of marginalized - Black, Brown, Female, and Low-Income communities. The Think Tank provides young people with opportunities to learn about research, writing, and analysis. The Think Tank will allow youth to conduct research and analysis, produce policy briefs and report, evaluate and measure The Thinkubator programs and activities, and host meetings, and public forums to elevate voices. In addition to the Think Tank, The Thinkubator has leveraged its expertise in higher education to provide research and strategic consultancy to colleges and universities under its Higher Education and Nonprofit Consultancy arm of the organization.

The Thinkubator LEADS (Youth Council) program aims to unite young people in the Bronx and beyond, foster relationships between both youth and community-based organizations, and allow

participants to develop leadership, communication and interpersonal skills. The goal for 2021 is to increase membership from 10 to 15 and to tackle major communal issues impacting youth. The main topic addressed for 2020 was food insecurity, which resulted in a guide to be shared with the broader Bronx community in physical and digital formats. The top two ideas identified by the students for 2021 are: Pollution/Environmental Racism and LGBTQ+ Rights/Gender Equality. The Council will also lead a Town Hall with the Bronx Borough Presidential Candidates on March 31, 2021.

The Thinkubator is extremely excited for the opportunity to serve our community and support youth talent development. Youth come from more than 20 schools and represent the diversity of the Bronx in terms of gender, race, ethnicity, and economic background. Youth in our programs are training to become Junior Consultants, Project Managers, Research and Analytics Assistants, and Community Advocates and Engagement Specialists. All promising career pathways that remain relevant and critically important post-covid-19. "During a time when there is so much uncertainty about the future of education and work, we must not miss a beat. The Thinkubator provides young people with critical skills such as critical thinking, communications, project management, presentation skills and a plethora of soft skills that are transferable to any industry and important to being successful in one's position" said Dr. Edward Summers, President and CEO, The Thinkubator. "We are training youth for positions that will place them on a pathway to earn above a family sustaining wage."

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