



Summer Student Research Interns for Wellness Empowerment for Brooklyn April 2019

The MIT Community Innovators Lab (CoLab)

The Community Innovators Lab (CoLab) is a center for planning and development within the MIT Department of Urban Studies and Planning. CoLab supports the development and use of knowledge from excluded communities to deepen civic engagement, improve community practice, inform policy, mobilize community assets, and generate shared wealth. CoLab believes that community knowledge can drive powerful innovation and can help make markets an arena for supporting social justice. CoLab builds strategic partnerships and works to implement strategies that enable communities to harness their existing assets and capture the value they create to promote inclusive economic development that is environmentally sustainable, socially just, and deeply democratic. CoLab brings multi-disciplinary expertise from the urban planning discipline, municipal government, business, community media, civil rights advocacy, and community and labor organizing.

Position Description

CoLab seeks up to five student researchers to join the team conducting a Comprehensive Planning Process for Wellness Empowerment for Brooklyn, a multi-year effort to improve community health and grow community wealth in Brooklyn neighborhoods.

Responsibilities of the position include working with the CoLab team and its partners to:

- Conduct background research to inform the asset mapping and planning process
- Analyze quantitative and qualitative data collected over the course of the study
- In collaboration with CoLab staff and local stakeholders, help to prepare a development study based on the results of the participatory asset map findings to identify synergies among assets, needs and aspirations in Brooklyn communities in order to create the conditions for health, wellness and the development of shared wealth

Ideal Candidate

- Is a college student, masters level preferred, with an interest in urban planning, public health or a related field
- Is familiar with participatory action research, participatory asset mapping and similar methodologies
- Has strong writing and analytic skills
- Has experience in quantitative and qualitative data analysis
- Is familiar with mapping software
- Has experience working in neighborhoods to collect survey, interview and focus group data
- Has a record of meeting deadlines
- Is able to develop strong rapports with colleagues from a range of backgrounds and levels of experience

Compensation

- Student researchers are compensated at a rate of \$20/hour.
- 40 hours/week are required over 10 weeks during the summer.
- Part time spring hours are available in advance of the summer start date.

Application Process

Please submit the following by April 30, 2019 to be considered for the position:

- A resume
- A brief statement of interest (4-5 paragraphs)
- Two writing samples of no more than 4 pp. each

Application materials and questions should be directed to Gretchen Susi at gsusi@mit.edu.

People of color, people with disabilities, women, and LGBTQ candidates are strongly encouraged to apply. We are committed to a diverse workplace, and to supporting our staff with ongoing career development opportunities.