Loyola University Chicago Community Research Fellowship
Community Partner Proposal for 2018-2019 Academic Year

Description
Chicago Children’s Museum currently welcomes nearly 30,000 students and chaperones through field trips during the year. We provide rich, hands-on learning experiences for children throughout Chicago and the surrounding area. Roughly 25 of our partner schools per year are provided with chaperone tools to help guide discussion and prompt critical thinking while in the exhibit spaces. These schools are part of our Playing with Numbers professional development program, an ongoing series of math workshops for kindergarten and first grade teachers in Chicago.

This community research fellowship opportunity will assess the impact of our teacher-created “chaperone tool” on the Chicago Children’s Museum field trip experience.

Research Question
What we want to know is: What impact, if any, does the use of a chaperone tool have on the learning experience during a field trip at Chicago Children’s Museum? How often, and to what extent, are chaperone tools being used? Does the tool alter the interactions between adults and children? What are teacher and parent reactions to the chaperone tool? How could the tool design be improved? How can we better disseminate these tools to teachers, parents, and caregivers?

Expectations/Requirements
This fellowship is available to a small group (3-5 individuals) of Loyola undergraduate students, who will work collaboratively as a team to complete this analysis. The team of fellows will use a variety of methods to collect both quantitative and qualitative data on adult-child interactions in the field trip context. The conclusions drawn from this research will inform the museum’s decisions about tools and strategies provided for school field trips moving forward.

Fellows will complete an average of 5-10 hours weekly, with an average of two on-site visits to the museum per month. Fellows must be willing and able to collaborate virtually as needed, and to communicate well with museum supervisors and fellowship team members.
Timeline

- January 2018: Proposal provided by CCM to LUC for posting
- March 2018: Potential interns apply for fellowship
- September 2018: Interns build background knowledge of PWN program and CCM education mission
- October 2018: Interns work with CCM Program Manager to plan the scope of work
- November 2018: Interns begin preliminary observations, finalize data collection tools and methods for second round
- February 2019: Interns complete secondary round of observations
- March 2019: Interns record, organize, and synthesize results from observations
- April 2019: Fellowship interns present findings at LUC symposium
- May 2019: Submit final recommendations to CCM, next steps for 2019-2020 team