

## Chicago Freedom School – GET INVOLVED!

**There are *MANY* ways to support the work of the Chicago Freedom School (CFS):**

1. Volunteer as a social justice mentor and support a young activist.
2. Become a Partner In Freedom. Make a donation to support our work.
3. Volunteer to teach a course in the Communiversity.
4. Attend a CFS-sponsored event.
5. Join a CFS Advisory Committee.
6. Explore and create opportunities.

### **I. BE A SOCIAL JUSTICE MENTOR**

If you are over 18 and consider yourself to be a social justice activist, we invite you to apply to become a social justice mentor within the Chicago Freedom School. Social justice mentors will support a young person implement his/her individual activism goal plan developed during the summer program. Mentors are asked to make contact with the young person at least once every six weeks by phone, electronically or, preferably, in person. We ask all volunteers to commit to supporting a young person for at least one year starting August 2007.

### **2. MAKE A DONATION**

We invite you to become a Partner in Freedom by making a financial donation to CFS. Checks should be made payable to Chicago Freedom School and mailed to 230 S. Clark Street, #109, Chicago IL 60604. We also welcome in-kind donations of supplies, books, videos, equipment, and furniture.

### **3. TEACH IN THE COMMUNIVERSITY**

CFS will offer free courses in its Communiversity starting January 2008. The Communiversity will offer short-term courses about the history of global social justice movements. Volunteer instructors will teach these courses for intergenerational classes.

### **4. ATTEND A CFS EVENT**

The Chicago Freedom School, in conjunction with the Illinois Humanities Council, will host a number of programs open to the public this summer. Check back for more details or visit [www.prairie.org](http://www.prairie.org).

### **5. JOIN AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Fundraising** – provides oversight for the organization's overall fundraising, and in particular, the fundraising done by the board. For more information about the fundraising committee, contact Nadeja Wesley ([n.wesley@sbcglobal.net](mailto:n.wesley@sbcglobal.net)) or Mariame Kaba ([mariame\\_kaba@hotmail.com](mailto:mariame_kaba@hotmail.com))

**Facilities** – recommends policies that guide the lease or ownership of property; oversees the maintenance and any capital improvements of such property. For more information about the facilities committee, contact Wendy Harvell ([wharvell@fic-sff.com](mailto:wharvell@fic-sff.com)) or Lamont Boswell ([lamontanthony@comcast.net](mailto:lamontanthony@comcast.net)).

**Youth Leadership** – looks at how to best incorporate youth leaders and leadership in our organization at every level. This committee exists as a youth board with representatives from other committees present as well. **This is open to people under 25 years old who self-identify as youth.** For more information about the Youth Leadership committee, contact Kevin Brown ([kevinmitbrown@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kevinmitbrown@sbcglobal.net)) and Adaku Utah ([adaku@icah.org](mailto:adaku@icah.org)).

**Program Committees** – There are three working committees that recommend policies that guide the design and implementation of programs, evaluate program effectiveness, and research and recommend new program opportunities:

- 1) *Communiversality* – develops an open space for experts and amateurs to offer engaging courses about the history of social justice movements around the world. CFS hopes to offer regular series of classes about topics such as the history of Puerto Rican Resistance, the Underground Railroad, Ella Baker and SNCC, or other subjects that qualified people can and want to teach. This committee will create a yearly calendar that can be distributed throughout Chicago and make logistical arrangements for course implementation.
- 2) *Activism Counseling/One on one social justice mentoring/Resource Directory* – develops an activism counseling component of the CFS where youth can get one-on-one support to identify their interests regarding social justice and change. This committee supports the creation of a comprehensive local/national/international electronic resource directory for youth activism.
- 3) *Research/Archive* – develops the concept for the Freedom Fellows and CFS archive projects. This committee ensures that CFS is documenting its practice. It will also support youth-led research within CFS and help organize a citywide youth-led research conference tentatively scheduled for April 2008.

These committees will be used to generate ideas for programming but also to provide hands and legs to the Chicago Freedom School. They will be *working* committees. All advisory committees will meet six times a year (August, October, December, February, April, June). Some committees may meet more if they are planning specific activities and events.

For more information about the program committees, contact:

*Communiversality* – Melissa Spatz ([womenandgirlscan@gmail.com](mailto:womenandgirlscan@gmail.com))

*Activism Counseling/Resource Directory* – ([info@chicagofreedomschool.org](mailto:info@chicagofreedomschool.org))

*Research/Archive* – Mariame Kaba – ([mariame\\_kaba@hotmail.com](mailto:mariame_kaba@hotmail.com))

## **6. EXPLORE AND CREATE OPPORTUNITIES**

### ***Coordinate the year-round Anti-Oppression Institute***

CFS is interested in providing regular workshops open to young people (ages 13-24) across Chicago about topics related to anti-oppression. The Anti-Oppression Institute Coordinator will be a volunteer who can reach out to local resources in Chicago to set up regular workshops such as anti-racism 101, trans ally workshops, anti-sexism 101, understanding disability 101, LGBTQ 101, etc... These workshops would provide introductions to these topics for interested youth from across Chicago. The workshops would be free and would run throughout the year. The volunteer coordinator would also manage the logistics of providing these workshops.

### ***Research and develop activism assessment tools***

CFS is interested in developing assessment tools that will help young people identify their social justice interests. Are you someone who is interested in developing such tools? Do you know of a college class interested in researching available assessments and inventories and helping CFS to create useful, culturally-relevant tools to help youth discover their activism interests?

### ***Help CFS record its own history***

Are you interested in oral histories? Would you be interested in recording the reflections and recollections of those who have been involved in creating and supporting the Chicago Freedom School? CFS is interested in documenting its practice and its own history. We welcome volunteers who would like to work with us as we do this.

### ***Develop and coordinate a week-long Civil Rights Institute Spring Break 2008***

Develop a curriculum and solicit volunteer presenters and instructors for a Civil Rights Institute. Host or arrange a tour of local Civil Rights sites. This institute should be targeted to middle and high school youth.

### ***Bring your own ideas and talents to CFS***

CFS values and encourages independent leadership. If you have a particular idea that you feel would fit within our mission and vision, please don't hesitate to contact Mia Henry at [mhenry@chicagofreedomschool.org](mailto:mhenry@chicagofreedomschool.org).

**We look forward to working with you!**