



MetroTown is a selective leadership and anti-prejudice program for youth from different neighborhoods in Miami Dade County to come together and share meaningful dialogue about issues such as diversity, prejudice, school culture, social problems facing teens, and ways to improve our community. By choosing to participate in **MetroTown** you are making a decision to be a part of this supportive and inclusive community of young people who dare to imagine a more just and cooperative society.

MetroTown will be held on the campus of St. Thomas University, in Miami Gardens, from the afternoon of **Sunday, July 26th through the afternoon of Friday, July 31st.**

Included in this Packet:

- *MetroTown* Brochure
- Application Form
- Character Reference Form
- Frequently Asked Questions

How to Apply:



1. Discuss your motivations and abilities to participate in **MetroTown** with your *Diversity Action Team* Advisor and/or *Student Voices* Counselor.
2. Share **MetroTown** materials with your parents/guardians and ask them to complete the appropriate section of this application.
3. Obtain recommendations from **an adult** (counselor, advisor, teacher, coach, clergy, etc.) and ask them to complete a Character Reference Form.
4. Complete all remaining sections of the enclosed application and submit the application to your *Diversity Action Team* Advisor, *Student Voices* Counselor or directly to the MCCJ offices (mail to address below, **or** email to Lutze@miamiccj.org, **or** fax to 305-755-6094) as soon as possible, as remaining space is limited. Please complete each section as thoroughly and honestly and possible. Incomplete applications will not be considered.
5. Once you have submitted your completed application, you will receive notice of your acceptance.
6. Accepted applicants will be provided with a registration packet. The completed registration packet and \$25 registration fee must be submitted to your *DAT* Advisor, *Student Voices* Counselor, or mailed to MCCJ (see address below) by as soon as possible. Checks can be made out to: MCCJ. **Accepted applicants who submit registration packets after April 30th may be moved to the waiting list.**



APPLICATION FORM

PERSONAL/ CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Applicant: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Address where applicant receives mail: _____ Check if different from home address

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Date of Birth: _____ (month/ day/ year) Age applicant will be at MetroTown: _____

School you will be attending Fall 2015: _____

Grade you will be enrolled Fall 2015: _____ 9th _____ 10th _____ 11th _____ 12th _____ College/Military/Other

Applicant's E-Mail Address: _____

Parent or Guardian Name(s): _____

Primary Parent/Guardian Mailing Address (if different from applicant's address): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Parent's/Guardian's Phone (Home): _____ (Work): _____ (Cell): _____

Primary Parent's/Guardian's E-Mail Address: _____

Does parent/guardian speak English? _____ What is the language spoken in the home? _____

Preferred way to contact parent (circle one): email mail phone

RESPONSIBILITIES AND PERMISSION

I give my permission for my child to attend *MetroTown* at St. Thomas University, **July 26-31st, 2015**. I understand that the program is residential and that this applicant will sleep in the dorms, sharing a room with other delegates, and will be under the professional supervision of adult, MCCJ staff members, at all times.

Parent/Guardian Name (Print): _____ Relationship to Applicant: _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____ Date: _____

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

To ensure the diversity at *Metrotown* accurately reflects Miami's demographic, and to help us supply data of our applicants to our funders, please *circle all of the following that apply to you*. All data provided will be kept confidential.

➤ **GENDER IDENTITY**

male female transgender gender-nonconforming

➤ **ETHNIC/CULTURAL BACKGROUND**

African American African American Indian/ Native American
Asian Asian American Caribbean Islander Cuban European
European American Haitian Jamaican Jewish Latino(a) / Hispanic
Middle Eastern Pacific Islander South Asian Other, please specify: _____

➤ **RACE**

Asian American Indian/ Indigenous American Biracial/ Multiracial
Black/ African American Caucasian/White Other, please specify: _____

➤ **FAITH OR RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION**

Agnostic Atheist Buddhist Catholic
Hindu Jewish Muslim Protestant Other, please specify: _____

➤ **HOUSEHOLD ARRANGEMENT**

Both Parents Single Parent Other Relative Other Non-relative Other, please specify: _____

➤ **HOUSEHOLD INCOME**

\$0-19,999 \$20,000—49,000 \$50,000-and up Unknown

➤ **SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM**

FREE REDUCED N/A

➤ **SEXUAL ORIENTATION**

Heterosexual/Straight Bisexual Gay Lesbian
Pansexual Questioning Self-Identified, please specify: _____

➤ **SPECIAL NEEDS**

Does the applicant have a disability? Yes No

If yes, what accommodations/modification are required? _____

Does applicant have any special needs? Yes No

If yes, explain: _____



QUESTIONS FOR THE APPLICANT

Please answer all questions below. There is no right or wrong answer. Be honest and provide as much detail as possible.

Are you a **Student Voices** Panelist? If yes, when were you trained?

Are you a member of your school's **Diversity Action Team**? If yes, please describe the roll you played/ are playing in helping to complete your team's project.

Are you a member of any other school clubs or participate in any school activities or sports? If yes, what clubs/activities/sports? (Include for how long and role/ position)

In what other capacities are you involved in your community? (job, religious, political, arts, music, neighborhood, service, etc.)

Please describe a time when you have experienced or witnessed prejudice, discrimination, or some other "ism" (for example: racism, sexism, ageism, etc.). Provide details including how you felt, what you saw, what you did, and how that event made you see yourself or others in a new light.

Please tell us about a time when you have taken some sort of action to stop prejudice, discrimination, or some other form of "ism." If you have not taken an action, describe a time when you wish you had taken an action and why you did not.

What would you like to get out of your **MetroTown** experience?

Please talk about one or two social issues that interest you or you want to know more about. Describe the issue, and tell us why it matters to you. If applicable, also tell us what you have done so far to learn more about it and/or take action to make change.



CHARACTER REFERENCE FORM

The following information must be completed by a school counselor, teacher, coach, club advisor, clergy, or administrator to whom the applicant is not related; who can attest to the applicant's potential to participate in the *MetroTown* program.

MetroTown is a selective, youth anti-prejudice, conflict resolution and leadership program taking place over six days and five nights during the summer. Youth represent their schools and neighborhoods as part of a diverse group of students who will participate in trust and team-building exercises and engage in dialogue about issues of concern to teenagers and the wider Miami community. Though *MetroTown* participants are not necessarily traditional student leaders, participating youth must have the ability to demonstrate empathy, responsibility, and respect for others. Additionally, *MetroTown* youth must be able to speak to the unique experiences of the groups they represent (racial, ethnic, religious, socio-economic, gender identity, etc.).

Please provide us with the following information. Any anecdotes or specific examples of the applicant's character, abilities and experiences you can provide to us will be especially helpful in our decision-making process. Our goal is to assemble a group of young adults who will grow together as they seek change in their communities in order to create a more just and inclusive society.

Please answer the following questions, or attach a separate narrative describing the applicant's character and potential to participate in *MetroTown*.

Name of Applicant:

Your Name: _____

Your Position: _____ School/Organization/Institution: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____ Today's Date: _____

In what capacity and for how long have you known the applicant?

Please comment on the applicant’s demonstration of the following qualities—trustworthiness, responsibility, ability to follow-through with commitments:

Please comment on the applicant’s ability to relate to and interact with his/her peers:

Please comment on the applicant’s involvement in school and/or his/her community:

How do you believe the applicant will benefit from and contribute to an anti-prejudice, conflict resolution and leadership program?

Is there anything else you wish us to know about the applicant?

Frequently Asked Questions:

Where is the camp located? Will I stay overnight?

MetroTown will take place on the campus of St. Thomas University in Miami Gardens, utilizing the university's student union building, dorms, outdoor areas, and classrooms. *MetroTown* is a residential program. Delegates will share a dorm room with other delegates. Dorms are divided by gender and supervised by both Peer Counselors and adult Advisors. MCCJ provides transportation to/from St. Thomas at no cost.



What can I do to make my application stand out?

Be honest! As much as we value applicants' talents and skills, we are more interested in learning about who you are, why you want to come to *MetroTown*, what you hope to gain from the experience.



Is the information that I provide on the application confidential?

Yes. Only your *DAT* Advisor, *Student Voices* Counselor and MCCJ staff will view your application.



How will I be notified if I have been accepted into the program or not?

You will receive an email and a letter of notification of acceptance by MCCJ by March 21st.

How do I know what to bring to camp?

If you have been accepted to the program, you will receive a registration packet that will include additional forms, a list of suggested things to bring, camp schedule, and other information.



What kind of food will we get?

St. Thomas University's campus catering will prepare breakfast, lunch, and dinner buffets. Healthy snacks will be provided. Each meal includes vegetarian and kosher/halal options. Please let us know on your registration forms if you have any food allergies or other dietary restrictions so that we can let the chef know.

Can I leave camp early or arrive late?

No. We expect you to attend for the entire duration of the program. If you cannot attend the entire camp, please do not apply and consider applying when you are able to attend the entire program.

Who will be with me at *MetroTown*?

You will participate in *MetroTown* with 49 other youth delegates (including 6 Peer Counselors) and 12 MCCJ adult staff members and Advisors (teachers, counselors, program directors, etc.).



What fees do I have to pay, and when do I have to pay them?

A registration fee of \$25 is due with the **registration packet** which you will receive when you are accepted. Financial Aid is available to all applicants who need it. You are encouraged to apply regardless of your financial status, and should speak with your *DAT* Advisor or *Student Voices* Counselor if you need financial assistance.

What if I have been accepted and I cannot attend?

Please let us know as soon as you know that you will not be able to attend so that we may allow the next person on our waiting list to take your spot.

I just graduated high school this year can I still apply?

Acceptance priority is given to applicants completing their 9th, 10th and 11th grade years in June 2015, though applicants completing 12th grade in 2015 may apply and can be accepted if space is available. Applicants who have previously served as *MetroTown* delegates, who are graduating in June 2015, and who are 18 or older may apply to be Peer Counselors.

How can parents learn more about *MetroTown*?

Your parents may call MCCJ at 305-755-6096 for more information or they may speak with your *DAT* Advisor or *Student Voices* Counselor. Please let your Advisor or Counselor know if your parents require application and registration materials to be translated. Two parent-information sessions will be held in the spring, one in the north, and one in the south. You will be notified of the dates and locations in your registration packet.

Do I have to be a *Student Voices* Panelist or a member of my school's *Diversity Action Team* to apply?

Any Miami Dade County High School student can apply to attend *MetroTown*, regardless of his or her previous participation in MCCJ programs. However, in the event of a waiting list, preference will be given to students who have participated in one or both programs. Students who have demonstrated commitment and leadership to his/her school's *Diversity Action Team* and/or *Student Voices* program have a high chance of being accepted.

Can participation at *MetroTown* help me when I apply to college?

MCCJ will provide you with a certificate and description of the program to add to your files. The training and experience that you receive at *MetroTown* will not only contribute to your personal growth but will be a great boost to your college applications. Students who have attended *MetroTown* in the past have included their experience in Personal Statements and scholarship applications.

