



**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 24<sup>th</sup>** through the afternoon of **Friday, July 29<sup>th</sup>**.

### 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 *Student Voices* Counselor and/or teacher or 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 *Student Voices* or directly to the MCCJ offices (mail to address below, **or** email to [Lutze@miamiccj.org](mailto: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 *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 29<sup>th</sup> may be moved to the waiting list.**



# APPLICATION FORM

## PERSONAL/ CONTACT INFORMATION

(PRINT LEGIBLY AND FILL OUT ALL PORTIONS)

Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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 2016: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade you will be enrolled Fall 2016: \_\_\_\_\_ 9<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ 10<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ 11<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ 12<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ College/Military/Other

Applicant's E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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 24<sup>th</sup>-July 29<sup>th</sup>**. 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**

Female    Male    Transgender \_\_\_\_\_ Gender non-conforming    Specify: \_\_\_\_\_

➤ **ETHNIC/CULTURAL BACKGROUND**

American    African American    African    American Indian/ Native

Asian    Asian- American    Caribbean Islander    Cuban    European

European American    Haitian    Jamaican    Jewish    Latinx / Hispanic

Middle Eastern    Pacific Islander    South Asian    Specify \_\_\_\_\_

➤ **RACE**

Asian    American Indian/ Indigenous American    Biracial/ Multiracial

Black    Caucasian/White    please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

➤ **FAITH OR RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION**

Agnostic    Atheist    Buddhist    Catholic

Hindu    Jewish    Muslim    Protestant    please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

➤ **HOUSEHOLD ARRANGEMENT**

Both Parents    Single Parent    Other Relative    Other Non-relative    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; failure to answer all questions will disqualify your application. 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?

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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)

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

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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.

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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.

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***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 all of 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?

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

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Please comment on the applicant's ability to relate to and interact with their peers:

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Please comment on the applicant's involvement in school and their community:

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

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

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## 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 the MCCJ staff will view your application.



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

You will receive a letter of notification of acceptance by MCCJ by March 21<sup>st</sup>.

### 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 50 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 email me [Lutze@miamiccj.org](mailto:Lutze@miamiccj.org) if you need the \$25 fee waived.

### **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 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade years in June 2016, though applicants completing 12<sup>th</sup> grade in 2016 may apply and can be accepted if space is available. Applicants who have previously served as *MetroTown* delegates, who are graduating in June 2016, and who are 17 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 teacher, counselor, 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 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.

