

# Long Branch Collective Action for Youth Newsletter

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Photo: Long Branch Community  
in Montgomery county, MD

## Updates from the LBCAY leadership team

The LBCAY Leadership Team and College and Job Readiness subcommittee are planning events and activities, including:

- **Special Event**

- **Long Branch Collective Action for Youth stakeholder meeting**

When: Tuesday June 7 from 3:30-5:30pm  
Long Branch Community Recreation Center  
8700 Piney Branch Road Silver Spring, MD, 20901  
(240)777-6975

If you have questions, send email to Aixa Alemán-Díaz at [aixa@communitycheer.org](mailto:aixa@communitycheer.org)

- **Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR) Summer 2022 program** with Long Branch youth, organized by CHEER. Contact Vanesa Pinto at [vanesa@communitycheer.org](mailto:vanesa@communitycheer.org)

- The College and Career readiness subcommittee is looking for new members. **Do you want to join?**  
Contact Aixa Alemán-Díaz at [aixa@communitycheer.org](mailto:aixa@communitycheer.org)



Passion4  
Learning

## Partner Highlight: Cynthia Rubenstein, Executive Director

Passion for Learning (P4L) is an active member and collaborator with LBCAY. For 19 years P4L has been serving students in Long Branch, from Eastern and Silver Spring International Middle Schools as well as Montgomery Blair High School. We provide STEM enrichment and college readiness programs for middle and high school students who are under-resourced and often under-encouraged. Our caring, committed instructor-coaches and older student mentors are important keys to youth success.

P4L looks forward to continued collaborations with LBCAY to ensure that Long Branch youth can access opportunities and become thriving, contributing and productive young adults in our community.

For links to the Long Branch Collective Action for Youth LBCAY Unified Plan and supporting documents:

<https://www.communitycheer.org/lbcay>

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## Visita a un Colegio Comunitario Local: Montgomery College en Takoma/Silver Spring by Aixa Aleman Diaz and CHEER Team

La iniciativa "Acción Colectiva de Long Branch para la Juventud" organizó una visita el sábado 11 de abril al Colegio Comunitario local: Montgomery College o "MC". Un grupo de alrededor de 30 personas se reunió y visitaron el campus guiados por Gloria Bonilla (consejera MC) y tres estudiantes miembros de MC del Club Dream Alliance. El Dream Alliance Club es un club de estudiantes de MC con la misión de empoderar, apoyar y servir a la comunidad indocumentada. En enero 2021, este club fue formado por estudiantes de MC para apoyar a la comunidad indocumentada dentro y fuera de Montgomery College como para dar charlas a los estudiantes de las escuelas públicas como embajadores para invitar a solicitar entrar a la universidad. Esta visita fue dedicada a 20 estudiantes de escuela públicas nivel intermedio y superior y quienes residen en Long Branch, Maryland. Esta actividad piloto es base para planificar eventos similares en otoño 2022 en coordinación con las escuelas públicas y siguiendo los objetivos del Unified Plan 2021 establecido por un grupo de residentes de la comunidad, organizaciones comunitarias y organizaciones privadas.

## A College Tour: Local Community College Montgomery College in Takoma Park/Silver Spring by Aixa Aleman-Diaz and CHEER Team

The Long Branch Collective Action for Youth organized a college tour Saturday April 11 to a local community college: Montgomery College (MC). A group of 30 persons got together and walked the Takoma Park-Silver Spring campus guided by Gloria Bonilla (MC Counselor) and her group of 3 MC Club Dream Alliance members. The Dream Alliance Club is an MC student club whose mission is to empower, support, and serve the undocumented community. In January 2021, the group was formed by immigrant college students that help the community inside and outside the college through high school talks as ambassadors of the college. The college tour focuses on serving 20 public school students from middle and high school levels and who reside in Long Branch, Maryland. This pilot activity will be the foundation for future events in fall 2022 in coordination with MCPS public schools and following the goals of the Unified Plan 2021 created by a group of residents of Long Branch, community-based and private organizations.



Photos: Dream Alliance college students serving MCPS public students from Long Branch. Montgomery College Tour visit Saturday, April 11, 2022 from 1-4pm EST.

## Collective Impact Action Summit by Meredith Smith YMCA partner

The 2022 Collective Impact Action Summit was held virtually April 26 – 28, 2022. This virtual summit brought together hundreds of change makers from 38 different countries around the world. Collective impact is a network of community members, organizations, and institutions that advance equity by learning together, aligning, and integrating their actions to achieve population and systems-level change. The 3-day virtual summit included opportunities to engage in many different virtual workshops and learning sessions. Participants had the opportunity to engage directly with presenters, as well as other conference attendees.

The Summit invited as guest speaker Priya Parker, author of 'The Art of Gathering and Why it Matters'. Focusing on "The New Era of (Re)Gathering" in a post pandemic world. Priya highlighted the importance of a shared purpose among stakeholders when gathering to make a collective impact. As teams consider how to "regather", Priya presented the following questions for reflection: What did you long for/miss when you couldn't gather; What didn't you miss; What did we create; What might we experiment with now? To learn more about Priya and the Art of Gathering, here's a link to a short podcast.

The Art of Gathering: How We Meet and Why It Matters with Priya Parker - YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JXk93nmmt-0&t=715s>

## Long Branch Events

### Long Branch Community Recreation Center Re-opening

When: Saturday, May 21, 2022 from 12-3pm EST.  
Activities for the entire family. Face Painting. Moon Bounce. Food. Dancing and Community Provider Information Tables.

Long Branch Community Recreation Center  
8700 Piney Branch Road Silver Spring, MD, 20901  
(240)777-6975

### Long Branch Parks - Sunday Picnic

When: Sunday May 22 from 1-4pm EST.

Food, games, music and fun for all ages!

[www.MoCoParks.org/LBParksSurvey](http://www.MoCoParks.org/LBParksSurvey). How can

Montgomery Parks make the parks in the Long Branch Area Even Better- Let us know! Remember to complete a short survey of 12 questions about what you want in your local parks.