

# **CSU & Imani Village /Trinity UCC/Nehemiah Rising - Social Justice Internship**

## **Community Sustainability via Social Enterprise**

### ***Through the Lens of Mitigating the Impact of Mass Incarceration***

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#### **Internship Description**

Community Sustainability and the social construct of African American and other communities of color is severely hampered and handicapped by the impact of “mass incarceration.” The epidemic of mass incarceration, that has seen prison populations grow four-fold since the early 1980s has many parents – the War on Drugs, Three Strikes laws, over policing of, and disinvestment in, marginalized communities, poor education, the lack of economic opportunities, and generational poverty, among other determinants. While government should have a role to play, and communities should not ever give up on the pursuit of a fair distribution of their tax dollars; time has proven the futility in waiting for others to fix the problem. Research has shown that communities that provide grass root economic opportunity for their residents have created conditions and living environments that mitigate against the negative social determinants that have led to the epidemic of mass incarceration, and contributes to the development of a social environment that supports and enables Community Sustainability.

This internship provides an opportunity for a student to explore in depth, an economic based approach to: enabling Community Sustainability, strengthening the social construct; mitigating the conditions that lead to the continuation of mass incarceration as well as its aftermath. The methodology of exploration will be through the student’s engagement in an embryonic project that focuses on creating paths to sustain and develop economic opportunity within underserved African American communities. The internship activities will primarily focus upon exploring the tools of and analyzing the impact of encouraging the support of Black businesses, growing the capacity of Black banking and other financial institutions, as mitigating conditions that assist in reversing the community destabilization caused by mass incarceration and simultaneously providing skill building that leads to the expansion of property ownership and entrepreneurial endeavors in African American communities.

**Cole Properties** is a key partner with Trinity United Church of Christ’s program to promote sustainable communities program, and would like to place an intern in their organization, a boutique Real Estate Holding and consulting firm. The candidate must be interested in learning about the negative social determinants that lead to incarceration and its aftermath; the positive social determinants that lead to Community Sustainability; real estate investing, analysis, and community reform (through property management in divested and/or low-income areas). In addition, student intern would be involved in the launch of Majority, a social enterprise that will use real estate development as an engine for community financial skill building and wealth growth, as a positive social determinant leading to the enhancement of Community Sustainability.

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**Intern Duties and Responsibilities**

- Learning or reviewing as a way of orientation, and context for the position, the origins, mission, goals, objectives, and methodology of COLE properties, including, but not limited to interviews/conversations with local leaders of the business
- Research and analysis of the economic social conditions leading to mass incarceration and its destabilization of African American communities in Chicago, Illinois, with an analysis of whether or not social enterprises such as COLE in particular, have a mitigating impact.
- Contributing to the development and implementation of strategies for investment and marketing
- Real Estate prospecting and analysis, including some value analysis
- Administrative support
  - General office management
  - Scheduling
  - Finding and vetting new service professionals (lawn services, carpenters, plumbers, cleaning services, etc.)
  - Developing and maintaining contacts for contractor services
  - Data entry
  - Tenant interviewing
- Participation in Trinity Justice Watch Team meetings and programming that focuses on social justice actions in a variety of areas: mass incarceration, restorative justice, health disparities, environmental justice, police accountability, and others.
- May perform additional projects upon request

**Requirements**

- Criminal Justice, Social Work, Business, Marketing, or related major
- Good written and verbal communication skills
- Solid math skills
- Typing speed beyond 50 wpm is required
- Must include cover letter to show writing and communication skills to be considered. Applications that are missing a cover letter may not be considered
- Experience with Mac OS and Microsoft Office
- Excellent critical thinking and problem-solving skills

**Benefits**

- Shadowing, mentoring, and training opportunities with experienced and accomplished professionals
- Opportunities to attend meetings and networking events
- Flexible schedule for students for one semester

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**About Us**

Our office is located at 2245 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago. Cole Properties has been in the property appraisal business for over 15 years working with both residential and commercial developers. We also do our own property redevelopment and residential leasing. We are most proud of our work at encouraging tenant participation in “buy local” efforts, financial literacy efforts and the opportunities we provide for home ownership through our leasing/rental programs.

To apply, email your resume, a cover letter expressing your interest in the internship, and a letter of recommendation from a CSU faculty member to Daryle Brown at [debrown@trinitychicago.org](mailto:debrown@trinitychicago.org).

PROFESSOR:

Intern Placement Contact/Supervisor

Daryle Brown

Phone:847-922-3361

E-mail: [debrown@trinitychicago.org](mailto:debrown@trinitychicago.org)