

# SCI Network NYC

A NYC Cultural Institution Partnership



AMERICAN MUSEUM  
OF NATURAL HISTORY



Queens  
Botanical  
Garden

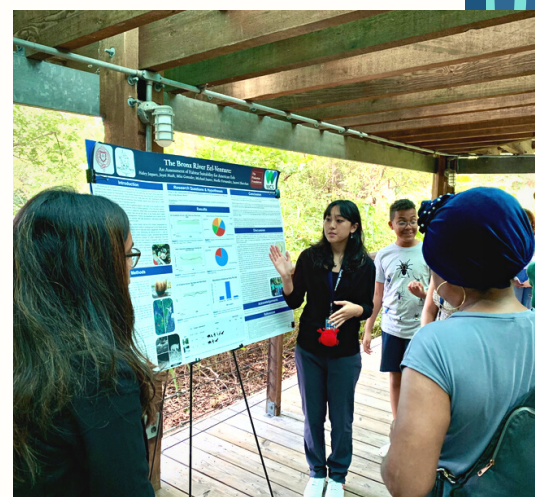
Staten Island



NYBG  
NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN



Wildlife  
Conservation  
Society



## Acknowledgements

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## Photos

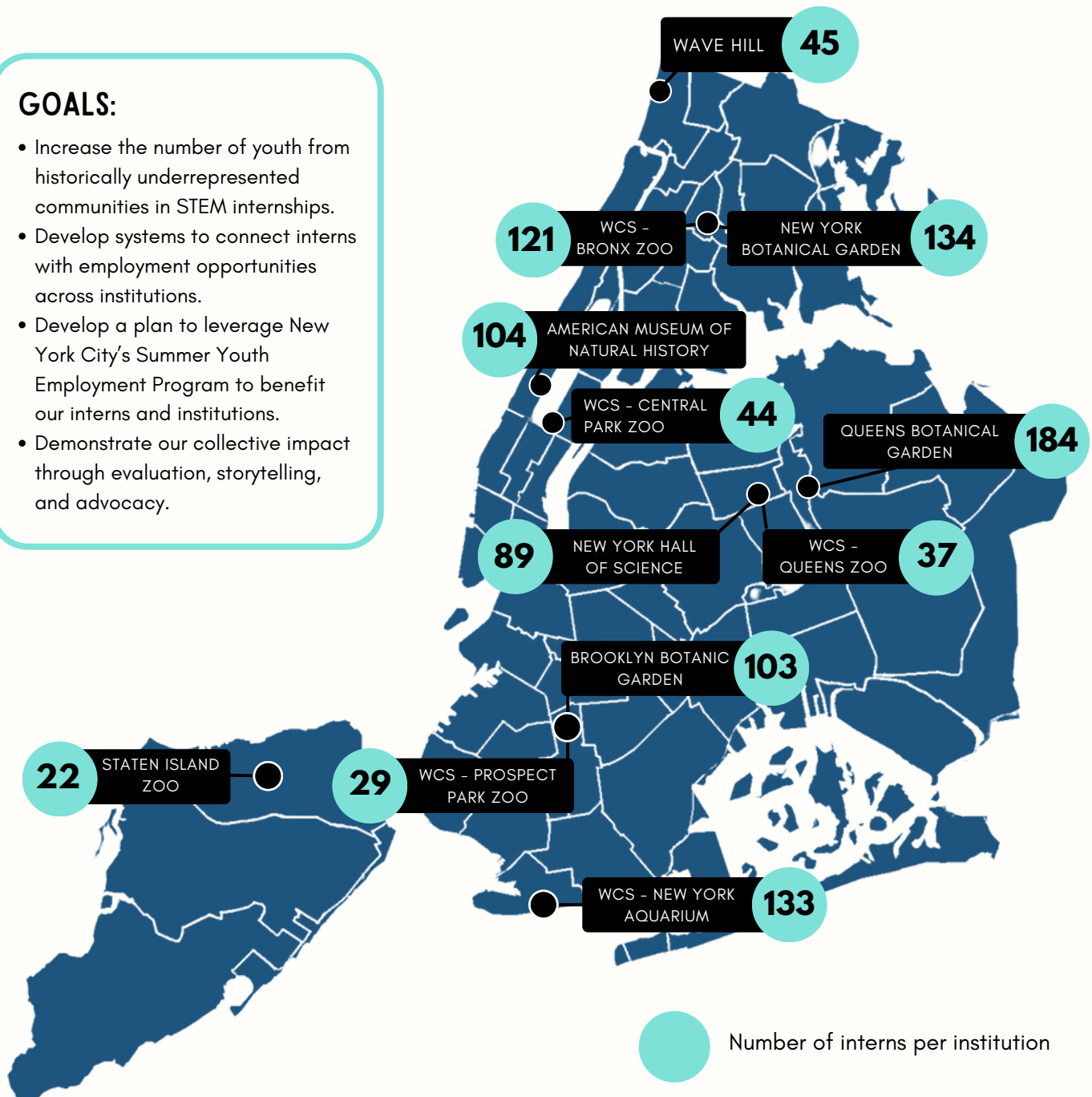
Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Queens Botanical Garden, Staten Island Zoo, Wave Hill, Wildlife Conservation Society

# WHO WE ARE & NETWORK GOALS

The SCI Network NYC is a consortium of **eight science-based cultural institutions** committed to providing high-quality STEM internships to New York City youth. In 2023, we collectively hosted **1,045 interns** who gained experience in a variety of fields, including animal care, horticulture, science communication, teaching, and administration.

## GOALS:

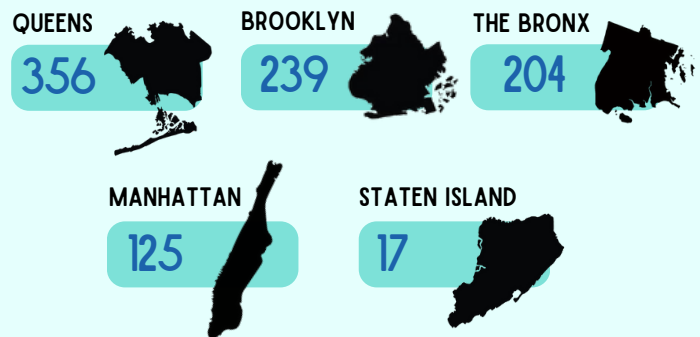
- Increase the number of youth from historically underrepresented communities in STEM internships.
- Develop systems to connect interns with employment opportunities across institutions.
- Develop a plan to leverage New York City's Summer Youth Employment Program to benefit our interns and institutions.
- Demonstrate our collective impact through evaluation, storytelling, and advocacy.



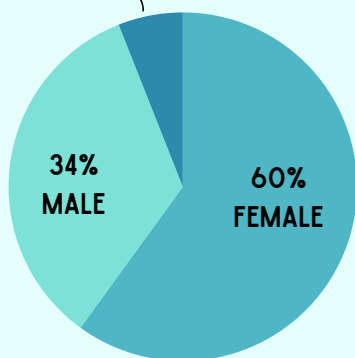
# WHO ARE SCI NETWORK YOUTH?

Internships are critical pathways to employment, but have historically been available only to those with financial resources and social capital. SCI Network NYC is working to ensure that youth from all backgrounds can participate in science internships. We partner with local organizations, council members, and schools to recruit youth and support them as they pursue the rich learning experiences at our institutions.

**90%** OF YOUTH LIVED IN  
NEW YORK CITY

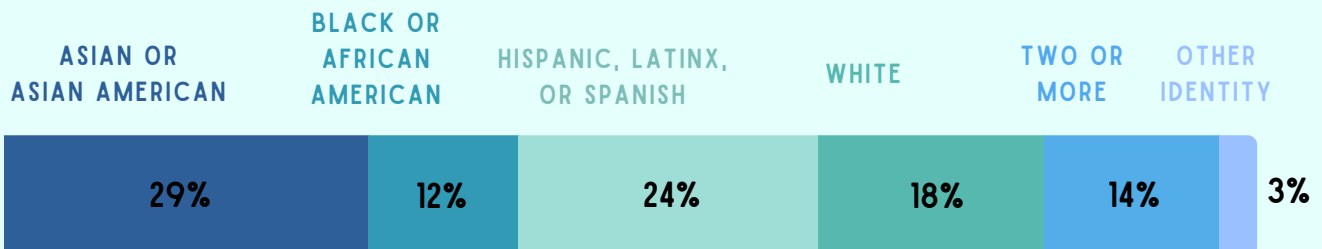


6% NON BINARY



YOUTH SPEAK A TOTAL OF  
**52 LANGUAGES**

**55%** SPEAK A LANGUAGE OTHER  
THAN ENGLISH AT HOME



**82% OF SCI NETWORK YOUTH IDENTIFY AS PEOPLE OF COLOR COMPARED TO 69% OF  
NEW YORK CITY RESIDENTS**

*The Other Identity category includes American Indian or Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and write-in options.*



# SCI NETWORK INTERNSHIPS

COLLECTIVELY, WE HOSTED **1,045 INTERNS**

THIS REPRESENTS A **16% INCREASE** SINCE 2022, THANKS IN PART TO SCI NETWORK SUPPORT.

SCI NETWORK NYC INTERNSHIPS ARE WIDE RANGING. WE OFFER OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH IN THE FOLLOWING DISCIPLINES:



SCIENCE COMMUNICATION



HORTICULTURE/GARDENING



SCIENCE RESEARCH



ANIMAL CARE



CONSERVATION ADVOCACY



SCIENCE EDUCATION

COLLECTIVELY, YOUTH EARN MORE THAN

**\$ 2.3 MILLION\***  
IN STIPENDS AND WAGES

\*20% of these funds come from NYC Department of Youth & Community Development, CUNY, and Fordham University

ON AVERAGE, YOUTH RECEIVE MORE THAN

**200** HOURS OF TRAINING  
THROUGH INTERNSHIPS

YOUTH RECEIVE ACCESS TO THE NETWORK RESOURCES, INCLUDING:

- SKILL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS
- PEER NETWORKING EVENTS
- ASSISTANCE WITH ADVANCING



# COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

## THE SCI NETWORK NYC COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE CONTINUES TO ADVANCE OUR PROFESSIONAL GROWTH AND COLLECTIVE ACTION TO SUPPORT NEW YORK CITY YOUTH.

### Training supervisors

Scheduled for March 2024 at Brooklyn Botanic Garden, the session will bring together 25 supervisors who oversee over 1,000 interns. Supervisors will bring a problem encountered in their practice and facilitate a mini working group to discuss, share resources and ideas, and develop solutions. This training will lead to stronger supervisors and a richer experience for our interns.

### Growing SYEP partnerships

We partnered with St. Nicks Alliance, a community-based organization that facilitates a sector-focused SYEP contract. SCI Network partners selected **55 youth** for internships at the Bronx Zoo, New York Botanical Garden, Staten Island Zoo, and Wave Hill, and St. Nicks supported the SYEP applications and placements. The efficiencies gained through this partnership benefitted all and in 2024, we plan to place 77 SCI Network youth through St. Nicks, comprising three-quarters of their sector-focused SYEP contract.

### Hosting Youth Events

- Staten Island Zoo Natural Sciences Careers & Experiences Panel (Apr 2023)
- New York Hall of Science STEM Career Expo (May 2023)
- Bronx Zoo Holiday Lights Networking Night (Nov 2023)
- Bronx Science Consortium Research Symposium (Jan 2024)
- WCS Job Internship & Volunteer Expo (Feb 2024)



# IMPACT: CAREER PLANS

## 87%

OF YOUTH REPORTED THAT THEIR INTERNSHIP HELPED THEM IDENTIFY SOMETHING THEY WOULD LIKE TO DO IN A CAREER. FOR SOME, THEIR EXPERIENCE HELPED THEM SEE SCIENCE IN A NEW AND TRANSFORMATIVE WAY.



"Before my internship, I was not interested in science, but I applied because I liked being outside. During my internship, I saw first-hand how the environment affects our communities and became passionate about environmental justice. I learned that science is really about curiosity and wanting to learn more about the world around us. By the end of the internship, I knew that I was going to work in this field. Now I have graduated high school and am going to college as an urban studies and environmental science major!

-Wave Hill Intern

UPON COMPLETION OF  
THEIR INTERNSHIP

## 65%

OF YOUTH ENVISIONED THEIR  
CAREER INVOLVING SCIENCE



## 73%

OF YOUTH WOULD LIKE TO WORK  
OR INTERN AT A CULTURAL  
INSTITUTION IN THE FUTURE



## 2023 YOUTH SPOTLIGHT

### Julio Alonso 🏠 Queens, NY

- WCS New York Aquarium Youth Ocean Advocates, 2021
- AMNH Science Research Mentoring Program, 2021
- AMNH Museum Education Employment Program, 2023
- AMNH Teaching Assistant, 2023

"One of my most memorable experiences was when I was able to facilitate science conversations with AMNH visitors, but in Spanish! I understand the lack of science education opportunities in Spanish-speaking communities first-hand and it felt wonderful to answer scientific questions about a particular topic or exhibit. I will continue to pursue opportunities where I am able to communicate about science, especially to those who are underrepresented in STEM fields."





# IMPACT: LEARNING & SKILL DEVELOPMENT

MANY SCI NETWORK INTERNSHIPS TRAIN YOUTH TO COMMUNICATE ABOUT SCIENCE WITH THE PUBLIC AND MANY INTERNS DESCRIBED HOW THEIR **NEW INTERPRETATION SKILLS** ARE RELEVANT FOR THEIR FUTURE.

"I was joyously surprised at how much visitors engaged with me, often coming up to me and asking questions. I'm planning to study science in academia and will use what I've learned to convey scientific ideas to both colleagues and the broader public."

-AMNH Intern

"Public speaking has been my weak spot, but ever since I started presenting stage activities to large groups, I have gotten more comfortable speaking. I was even able to say my speech at my Quinceañera without feeling nervous in front of a 200-person crowd."

-NYSCI Intern

A FEW YOUTH—ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO DID INTERNSHIPS AT GARDENS—DESCRIBED HOW THEIR INTERNSHIPS HELPED THEM CULTIVATE A **DEEPER APPRECIATION FOR NATURE**.

"My time at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden has proven to me the importance of people connecting with the soil and food they eat! I will continue gardening for the rest of my life."

-BBG Intern

"I learned about the history of our land, how to make food, and how to take care of fruits and vegetables. I'm grateful for the food we have and want to share that knowledge with others."

-NYBG Intern

## 2023 YOUTH SPOTLIGHT

### Keely Jean-Baptiste 🌍 Brooklyn, NY

- BBG Garden Apprentice, 2022 - 2023
- WCS Prospect Park Zoo Discovery Guide, 2023
- WCS Prospect Park Zoo Discovery Guide Leader, 2023

"The thing that drew me to these positions was my love for the environment and working with children and animals. I have always wanted to work surrounded by nature, but I live in a city where it may seem hard to find those opportunities. I felt supported and welcomed in my internship communities and got better at working in a team, despite being an introvert. These experiences have helped me grow and will help me in any career path I choose."



# IMPACT: LEARNING & SKILL DEVELOPMENT

## 2023 YOUTH SPOTLIGHT

### Maliha Mehjabin 🏠 Bronx, NY

- NYBG Edible Academy Educator, 2022
- NYBG Explainer, 2022-present

"I applied to the program as a way to complete a graduation requirement, however, I ended up falling in love with the welcoming community and being able to give back. I love teaching kids about topics that they typically don't get to cover at school, from sustainability to endangered plants. My experiences have taught me to be open-minded and allowed me to see things from the perspectives of people who have been immersed in different cultures, mindsets, and views."



#### INTERNS DESCRIBED THE FUTURE RELEVANCE OF OTHER **POSITION-SPECIFIC SKILLS** LIKE PEDAGOGY, PLANT IDENTIFICATION, CUSTOMER SERVICE, AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY.

"I will use all of the knowledge I learned about the care of the specific animals I worked with, as well as the confidence I gained to work with these animals independently and safely."

-Staten Island Zoo Intern

"Learning how to talk to kids had a huge impact on me. Helping kids realize and understand wildlife conservation really brought out my passion to educate kids and people all around the world."

-WCS Queens Zoo Intern

#### OTHERS DESCRIBED HOW THEIR EXPERIENCE IN A WORKPLACE HELPED THEM BUILD **PROFESSIONAL SKILLS AND CAREER AWARENESS** THAT WILL BE USEFUL IN THE FUTURE.

"I'll use the confidence I built in my teamwork skills and professionalism. I know how to interact with my coworkers and what the type of workplace atmosphere I'm looking for."

-QBG Intern

"My internship helped me to appreciate each person's different skill set and what they can bring to a collaborative effort."

-WCS Bronx Zoo Intern