

# HOW TO BE A SUPERHERO

*The STUDENT Guide to  
#mtvx*

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# LETS BUILD GARDEN CITY!

*The COMMUNITY Guide  
to #1b9c2019*

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'i wanna cut to the feeling,'

~ Carly Rae Jepsen

## Introduction: Follow Your Dreams!

Think of if two girls decide they want to be just like Shiri & Nakia from *Black Panther*. Or if a class of kindergartners sees Bruce Banner & Tony Stark, AKA superheroes the Incredible Hulk & Iron Man, as scientists working side-by-side in fields of limitless energy in *Avengers* and decide they want that to be their field. If they walked out and got everything they needed to be those heroes...

A high schooler who sees a Jaden video and pulls out their phone to organize ALL the neighborhood clean ups. Plant ALL the trees.

Say a student loves Beyoncé and is always expressing about how they love her but everyone else in their dance squad is a backstabbing jealous hating ass n-word who thinks trying to be a celebrity is the n-word.

Consider a young nigga under investigation who thinks he should be free like Rocky but no MFers wanna give him his props. He should be able to play "Multiply" as his piece.

A child who sees Nipsey Huddle and becomes a master of the world transcending the city, no questions.

What if a child held by ICE could use a Madonna video to get free?

isn't that worth living for?

isn't that worth...tweeting for?

That's the power in these hands.

This is #mtux

. . .

## These are the three views:

#miserable  
#presentable  
#plussable

The views are ways of looking at art. Lenses. Perspectives. You'll see them everywhere as you promote your service project. **#miserable** ways of looking a piece of art see only bad things about it. **#presentable** perspectives give you unbiased facts about the physical world art lives in and is responding to. **#plussable** shares a positively ecstatic view where art transcends money and borders to free us all and make a world beyond death. We put the 25 laws of POP culture together and attached them to our program to help you be as **#plussable** as possible!

## the 25 laws of pop culture

1. Life Does Not Transcend Money & Borders
2. Freedom Transcends Money & Borders
3. Art Transcends Money & Borders
4. Believing In Yourself Transcends Money & Borders
5. The Savior Transcends Money & Borders
6. Partying Transcends Money & Borders
7. Love Transcends Money & Borders
8. Utopia Transcends Money & Borders
9. Hip-Hop Transcends Money & Borders
10. Future Transcends Money & Borders
11. eminem is the greatest mc of all time
12. chris brown is the king of r&b
13. kanye is the dopest artist ever
14. trent reznor is the greatest living rock star
15. the rock is awesome
16. beyonce, duh
17. jay z is hov
18. Both lil pump & linkin park are cool
19. x69x\*
20. drake is the king of rap
21. Taylor Swift saves the world
22. Madonna is the Queen of Pop
23. Nicki Minaj is the queen of rap
24. M.I.A. is underrated
25. Magic = Art

These laws are designed to give students the ultimate power as they pursue service-learning projects in the city. Laws drawn from the power of observation and also genuine acknowledgement of the entirely sovereign power artists have, i.e. 'Hip-hop is bigger than religion/the government' and you can too! Online you might notice the first ten laws (referred to during *The World's Fair 2018* as **the 10 laws of #nomoneynoborders**) often have emojis that go along with them - feel free to use these symbols as abbreviations when there's a lot to fit in, like, a tweet.

For more examples of the 25 laws check out the [#1b9c2019](#) blog @ [tenderdiscovery.com](#) // [search: "the 25 laws"]

## Other Helpful Hashtags

Our Twitter page *@mtvxnews* also has a few taglines spun off from the laws that function as their own channels to support student goals:

*#stopdeath* - when art is promoting peace/immortality  
*#alifeofmeaning* - when art affects or directs a life  
*#themeaningoflife* - when art gets deep about life  
*#crybaby* - when art makes you cry  
*#nomoneynoborders* - when art transcends money & borders  
*#TheRevolutionAlreadyHappened* - when art shows perfection  
*#american9ods* - when a pop star is really magical  
*#freeda9uys* - when pop wants to get us out of jail

Finally, *#mtvx* has real world crossover most strongly with via our Pop Church events and the interview series *#Flip*. *#Flip* shows you how to transform the people, places, & relationships around you during *#1b9c2019* AND highlights the real life celebrity projects helping us build garden city!

You can *#Flip* a lot of things:

*#FlipMyBlock*  
*#FlipMySchool*  
*#FlipMySquad*  
*#FlipMyOrg*  
*#FlipMyPlace*  
*#FlipMyHouse*  
*#FlipMe*  
*#FlipMyMind*

*#FlipMyBody*

*#Flip!*

As long as we're making something into a agent of change for treating nature & each other right, it's a *#Flip*.

**IMPORTANT:** Use *#mtvx* as a personal prompt. Combine this with your assignments and academic requirements. Find your deepest self safely here. You should feel empowered to do your own series, channels, hashtags, & make up your own laws! Be encouraged to email [letsbuildgardencity@gmail.com](mailto:letsbuildgardencity@gmail.com) or tag us on any of our channels to submit coverage & projects.

Let us know how the growth is going!

## Introduction: Time to Be Brave!

*Once upon a time there was a STUDENT. They decided what they wanted, and their city pitched in to help them make it. Go wherever they wanted. Live their dreams.*

*It's you!*

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Hi all!

We're gathering folks to support, volunteer, and donate on behalf of students gardening to graduate. Welcome to **Let's Build Garden City! 2019** aka *#1b9c2019* the summer PARTY supporting student gardens with treasure hunts, free festivals, cool classes, and more!

This fall Chicago Public Schools' NEW service learning program will empower students to do long-term projects in their community.

So far we've focused on signing up students and community members on the Southside at schools like Bogan & Kenwood, held events at spaces like Museum of Contemporary Art & 61st Street Farmers Market; and amassed hundreds in digital signatures + donations online.

Over the summer *#1b9c2019* began the process of prepping available lots for students and will do more outreach and cleanup as the fall harvest approaches.

This guide contributes to engaging local high schools, staffing public programs that support student gardens, and fundraising.

Thank you for your support.

*Detailed Budget:*

<http://tinyurl.com/1b9c2019fundraiserbudget>

*Donate:*

[tinyurl.com/gardencityfundraiser](http://tinyurl.com/gardencityfundraiser)



Who are we?

*Let's Build Garden City!* is a diverse service learning Platform including resources and educational ties spanning many community organizations. We have work experience in corporate and nonprofit spheres as well as grassroots movements; collectively we have our mitts in fields including most facets of the art world, education, and agriculture.

Why have we focused on schools for our produce in lieu of planting directly in the soil first? Most of CPS consists of black and brown students. The high school Service Learning environment will keep our future produce protected from outside contamination thanks to the power of education. If we reach our goal, this will all be possible.

When we get 10 folk in any neighborhood to sign up to support/volunteer/donate we'll put in land-clearing plants in nearby lots for students! Donate at least \$10 and we'll name some of those healthy seeds in your honor. :)

## What do we want to create?

We seek to create a garden resource that all community members can access, service, and benefit from. In our first and only operating year, we're growing the infrastructure that will allow our city to have a successful bounty next harvest and for years to come. Our vision is the first city without hunger! Several distinct projects comprise our goals for this season:

*I. Double the number of Community Gardens* via the empty spaces and neighborhoods in the city. We seek to facilitate additional raised vegetable+herb gardens to keep the food we grow safe from contamination due to pollution.

Keeping in mind the state of our land, we've set out to help students rehabilitate the soil- in the process reversing the built up effects of disinvestment, gentrification, and toxification. For instance, surrounding vacant lots with wildflowers and sunflowers serves to cleanse the polluted soil and attract bee activity, benefiting our plants and beautifying our communities.

*II. Fill the Let's Build Garden City! Directory* with community support liaisons and organizations who can help students build strong relationships, educate, and facilitate donations.

Like all gardeners, *Let's Build Garden City!* participants will be delivering food and hauling large amounts of garden necessities - soil, organic compost and rocks, as well as transporting tools and machinery such as greenhouse supplies, shovels, rakes, and rototillers. They will need at least two quality wheelbarrows to move materials within the gardens.

Many students will want to construct greenhouses for seed starting and nursing delicate greenery. A greenhouse can nurture plants before they are large enough to root outside and allow us to extend the growing season beyond the natural bounds of the Chicago climate. They will need plastic, steel and concrete to erect greenhouses as well as quality proven design.

Community support liaisons can facilitate infrastructure, tool donations to till and plant in fields, as well as hoses and other systems to irrigate our plants in times of drought. These are just a few examples of projects that our network is built to support.

*III. Build a Pop-Up Learning Garden* at *Let's Build Garden City!* headquarters for edutainment purposes. Your contributions will help us show students how to #flip their own yards!

*Where will this actually happen?*

Beginning with the Southside, we seek to revitalize abandoned space in all of Chicago's historic neighborhoods, many of which are known as food deserts. Giving new meaning to the idea of "fast food," many abandoned lots next to the highway will become the homes of community gardens and fields of scraggly weeds will be seas of beautiful flowers.

*When will the pantry be stocked?*

Last year we received approval from the Chicago Public Schools for Service Learning Partnerships, successfully petitioned the city and organized for public water access, had a string of impactful publicity events, contacted dozens of schools, released a website full of contacts & resources, and re-positioned our first community garden to be reclaimed by students & community.

This year we've continued canvassing and amassing signatures, and announced a whole season of awesome interactive events for students around the city.

In anticipation of crops throughout the summer and fall as well as sites permanently set up for future harvests, we'll roll this momentum forward by promoting the green programs necessary to cultivate food education well into the non-growing season.

## Why should YOU care?

Using the pre-existing social and ecological landscapes, we are creating a series of local and sustainable developments to serve as material resources for our community. By building the infrastructure for high yielding community gardens, we aim to construct a safe and beautiful community space for educational, economic and environmental opportunities. In a town that is too familiar with empty spaces and disinvestment, our garden network will be a positive social center for the city; it will engage and inform local residents, cultivate environmental responsibility, food and wellness education as well as civic engagement.

### *Risks and challenges*

Without reciprocity, a sustainable community garden network will not be possible. Seeking trust and transparency, *Let's Build Garden City! 2019* openly communicates our activities as we reach out to like-minded organizations and other community groups to unite in our shared goals.

This way we can share the burden and better prepare young folks for the risks and challenges of growing, which can be a very consuming endeavor.

Engagement with the community will be maintained and nurtured through acts of outreach including fostering bonds with our neighbors and going door to door, publishing regular newsletters, maintaining a relevant online presence and hosting or promoting a variety of events including garden workshops, musical performance fundraisers, art shows, skill-swapping events and educational workshops.

As of this writing *#1b9c2019* is reaching out to partner with orgs rehabilitating vacant buildings & homes on behalf of students. It's how a lot of US got started, anyway :)

## Upcoming Events

*Pledge Day 8/3 – Englewood/Woodlawn*

*Pledge Day 8/4 – Bridgeport/Little Village*

*Pledge Day 8/17 – Rogers Park/Irving Park*

*Pledge Day 8/18 – Wicker Park/Logan Square*

*Pledge Day 8/24 – Pullman/Roseland*

*Pledge Day 8/25 – Beverly/Morgan Park*

*Garden City Back-to-School Parade! 8/31*

*– Citywide/Millennium Park*

*Pop Church starts 9/1 – (Sundays, MESSAGE FOR ADDRESS)*

*Classes start 9/3 – Citywide*

*Student Parties 9/27-9/29 – Citywide*

*Student Markets 10/4-10/6 – Citywide*

*Garden Parties 10/25-10/27 – Citywide*

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*– About Pledge Day...* Come out on Pledge Day to let folks know about the NEW service learning programs empowering students to do long-term service projects in your neighborhood.

We'll be all over the city petitioning, flyer-ing, and supporting the next era of students gardening!

*– About the Garden City Parade...* Folks gather at gardens all over the city then make their way downtown beautifying, revitalizing, and activating land. We meet at noon @ Millennium Park and have a big utopia party!

*– About Student Parties...* Workshops to treat each other right, followed by student talent showcases and mingling!

*– About Student Markets...* Students take over the farmer's market for the day! Selling food, herb, etc. they've grown and doing presentations.

- *About Garden Parties...* Parties thrown by gardens to support student gardens! Coincides with the Fall Harvest.

- *About Pop Church...* Powered by #mtvx, the utopian POP culture network for students. Worship. Workshop. Pop.

## Outro: Faith Declines...

*"We all like aspirational things.*

*You're creating an idea. Whenever you think of someone who does something that you want, there's no fixed picture in your mind. The fixed picture in your mind is that he made him look like he wanted to look."*

*~ DAPPER DAN*

Here's the difference between our platform and what we see a lot out in the world: we believe POP is PURE. Because you can go back to all the things we've seen popular art do all the way up to & including "save the world" (inspired children, decreased racism, pushed science & the humanities forward, increased empathy toward the homeless & other minorities, pressured politicians globally for independence) -- you could even say it's been "essential" -- but still after all that the first and really only claim anyone has to trying to discredit what POP artists do is...

They *can't* be pure. Pop star's choices *have* to be being manipulated by outside forces. It's compromised. It's capitalism. It's demonic. Their face is unfair. Their followers are messed up. Otherwise if everyone didn't think that, people like Kanye West & Jaden Smith might *actually* fill the world with free water, food, & music.

Well, they're doing it anyway and so are we. We're taking the schools and grabbing the land for STUDENTS in their name. Putting it all on the faultline; whatever it takes to get it through to you, precious!

If you listen to, like, the *Kids' Choice Awards* and say yes, literally Kanye and Jaden *are* pure it's the easiest thing EVER for you to bridge gaps between our students and the biggest bosses real life has to offer. Kanye went to CPS too! Thanks to him, there are whole nonprofits here now facilitating every path he took to becoming a CHAMPION - but designed for students to cut the timing in half. We let our community jump off from the conflict & transcendence people who look like us went through because we know that's why we have an entire cultural universe to draw truth from. We call it art and call them celebrities or POP stars or whatever. Because they ARE our role models.

Life usually doesn't transcend money and borders, but in art it does, and POP does most of all if you let it. So let it. We promise it's completely safe. All religion all vibes all cities all musics & times. Families of families, flowers of flowers. Entire movements in a moment... we know that's what you'd want if that were *your* daughter up there with her lovely husband.

One final word... *Pop Church*. After we double the number of gardens in the city everybody will be ready for the truth: that magic is really fake. It's actually art. Starting in September, *Pop Church* utilizes worship, workshops, & POP art to joyously take us past the edge of this discovery. Each Sunday session be the door into the future. So that we can be ready to *#stopdeath2020*. Yeah. For real for real

Take a look at the schedule for *Pop Church*

& let's tightrope together:

- #1 Collision Course
- #2 Homecoming
- #3 Rap & The Meaning of Life
- #4 The Matrix
- #5 TESTING
- #6 Taylor Swift
- #7 Jaden
- #8 The Big Day
- #9 nine inch nails
- #10 Eminem

[MESSAGE FOR ADDRESS]

Pop Church... Powered by *#mtux*, the utopian POP culture network for students. Worship. Workshop. Pop.

IN CONCLUSION, we believe in art & advocates for urban agriculture. We believe in STUDENTS! And most of all, we believe in this city...

So you see, it will be super easy to finish building Garden City! Thanks to you for your curiosity today and thank you from everyone & everything in the future!

Love,

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*' that sound like poetic justice '*