
THE GRIND COLLECTIVE

Website Written Copy & Structure Guide

(For Web Developer Use)

PAGE 1: ABOUT THE GRIND COLLECTIVE

Hero Section

The GRIND Collective

Building futures through collaboration, creativity, and innovation.

The GRIND Collective is a Chicago-based 501(c)(3) organization uniting educators, researchers, creatives, and community leaders to expand access to high-quality STEAM learning and innovation pathways for Black and Brown youth.

Primary CTA: Support Our Work

Secondary CTA: Explore Our Programs

Who We Are

The GRIND Collective was formed in **November 2024** following the inaugural GRIND Conference, which convened more than 40 organizations across education, sports, media, technology, and community development. The Collective was created to address a shared challenge: siloed systems limit opportunity for youth, while collaboration unlocks scale, sustainability, and impact.

What began as a convening has grown into a collaborative network and, in 2025, a formally incorporated **501(c)(3)** organization. GRIND serves as both a programmatic hub and a shared infrastructure for partners working to reimagine youth learning, creativity, and access to opportunity.

Mission

To unite educators, researchers, innovators, and community leaders to create equitable pathways for Black and Brown youth through science, technology, creativity, and social impact.

Vision

A Chicago where every young person—regardless of zip code—has access to the skills, networks, and opportunities needed to thrive in a data-driven and innovation-centered world.

Values

- Collaboration
 - Equity
 - Innovation
 - Integrity
 - Learning
-

PAGE 2: FOUNDERS & VISIONARIES

Founders of The GRIND Collective

Web-Optimized Bios (Short)

Dr. Marcelo Worsley

Dr. Marcelo Worsley is a Karr Family Associate Professor of Computer Science and Learning Sciences at Northwestern University. He leads research and community-connected initiatives that expand access to STEM learning through inclusive, equity-centered design. He is a co-founder of The GRIND Collective and founder of Black Kids Predict.

Dr. Kareem Edouard

Dr. Kareem Edouard is an Assistant Professor of Learning Technologies at Drexel University. His work focuses on culturally responsive learning environments and equitable technology integration. As a co-founder of The GRIND Collective, he supports collaborative models that connect youth, schools, and creative innovators.

Natika Washington

Natika Washington is a strategic nonprofit leader, Principal Professional Fundraiser, and community impact designer. She leads organizational strategy, partnerships, and fundraising for The GRIND Collective, ensuring programs are community-centered, sustainable, and aligned with long-term impact.

LinkedIn-Style Summaries

Dr. Marcelo Worsley

Karr Family Associate Professor | Northwestern University
Co-Founder, The GRIND Collective | Founder, Black Kids Predict
Researcher and educator advancing equitable access to STEM education through data literacy, community-engaged research, and inclusive learning technologies.

Dr. Kareem Edouard

Assistant Professor of Learning Technologies | Drexel University
Co-Founder, The GRIND Collective
Scholar and designer focused on culturally responsive pedagogy, narrative learning, and inclusive technology ecosystems.

Natika Washington

Principal Professional Fundraiser | The GRIND Collective
Executive Director, Black Kids Predict
Nonprofit leader specializing in collaborative strategy, fundraising, and capacity building across education, arts, and innovation sectors.

PAGE 3: PROGRAMS

What We Do

The GRIND Collective designs and supports programs that connect youth to hands-on learning, mentorship, research, and creative production.

Program Areas Include:

- GRIND Summer Institutes
- After-School & Weekend STEAM Programs
- Youth Innovation & Research Projects
- Creative Media, Sports, and Technology Collaborations
- Professional Learning & Convenings

Programs are piloted in partnership with schools, universities, and community organizations and are designed to be measurable, scalable, and responsive to community needs.

PAGE 4: FISCAL SPONSORSHIP

Fiscal Sponsorship at GRIND

Fiscal sponsorship is a core service of The GRIND Collective.

We provide a compliant, cost-effective pathway for individuals and groups to launch community programs or pilot new ideas without immediately forming a separate nonprofit.

Under fiscal sponsorship, projects operate as programs of The GRIND Collective while retaining their own leadership and vision.

Fiscal Sponsorship Includes:

- 501(c)(3) charitable status
 - Donation processing and tax receipting
 - Financial management and reporting
 - Administrative and compliance oversight
 - Capacity-building support
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PAGE 5: CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE GRIND COLLECTIVE

Our Collective Network

The GRIND Collective is powered by a diverse network of institutional, community, and creative partners across Chicago and beyond.

Current Members Include:

True Star Media
Red Oracle Films
Kountry Wayne Productions
Tulane University
ESPN
Big Ten Conference
Chicago Sky
Project SYNCERE
Boys & Girls Club of Chicago
Flash Hoops
Game Flo
YMCA of Chicago

University of Illinois Chicago
Chicago Public Schools – Citywide STEM Initiatives
C. J. Brown Foundation
530 Scholars
Project Exploration
University of Southern California
Redwell Foundation
Northwestern University – tiilt Lab
Hero Foundation
Black Kids Predict
T.O.B.Y. Agency
Transforming Learning
Drexel University – IILEST Lab
Twin Flame Ventures
Chicago Park District
New York University
STEM From Dance
University of Maryland
Perry Co Shoes
The Next IT Girl
4th Family
Duke University
Shaw University
Nunn Group LLC
NFL – Do Not Disturb
University of California, Berkeley – TEAM Inc.
1000 Watts Sports
The Future in Color Institute
Brand B Sports
City of Chicago Mayor’s Office
Youth Sports Science Institute
The Fab Foundation
NJAPA Enterprises LLC
Comcast
ShotTracker
Chicago Cubs
Vanderpoel Elementary School
Creative Astronaut Ventures
Strides for Peace
Digital Youth Divas

Developer note: Display as a responsive grid or categorized list (Education, Media, Sports, Community).

PAGE 6: SUPPORT OUR WORK

How to Support GRIND

Your support fuels collaborative, youth-centered innovation across Chicago.

Ways to Support:

- Make a tax-deductible donation
- Sponsor a GRIND program
- Support a fiscally sponsored project
- Partner as an institution or organization
- Invite GRIND into aligned funding initiatives

Donation Language (Required):

The GRIND Collective is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

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- EIN: 39-2249058
 - Contact: grindcollectiveorg@gmail.com
 - Partner With Us: (703) 795-2704
 - Donate: <https://grindcollective.betterworld.org/donate>
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