



THE GRIND COLLECTIVE

Building Futures Through Collaboration, Creativity, and Inclusivity

WHO WE ARE

THE GRIND COLLECTIVE (The GRIND)

is a Chicago-based 501(c)(3) organization founded in 2024 and incorporated in 2025.

GRIND stands for Generative Research and Inclusion Networks in Diverse Development.

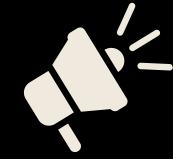
We bridge universities, schools, community organizations, and creative industries—creating spaces where youth can learn, create, and thrive.

OUR MISSION

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

We design programs that prepare youth to lead, invent, and reimagine their futures.

OUR VISION



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

We aim to be a national model for inclusive collaboration—linking schools, universities, entrepreneurs, and creatives to transform systems and unlock youth potential.

OUR CORE VALUES

Collaboration:
Shared purpose,
collective impact.

Equity: Centering
underrepresented
voices.

Innovation: Inspiring
creativity and critical
thinking.

Integrity:
Transparency and
accountability.

Learning: Research,
curiosity, lifelong
growth.

WHY WE FORMED A 501(C)(3)



The GRIND emerged from a network of 40+ organizations after the 2024 GRIND Conference. Formalizing as a nonprofit enables us to:

- Build sustainable partnerships.
- Access new funding streams.
- Support emerging initiatives through fiscal sponsorship.
- Institutionalize equity-driven innovation across Chicago and beyond.

WHAT WE OFFER

We operate as a collaborative ecosystem supporting partners and communities through:

- Fiscal Sponsorship
- Program Design & Implementation
- Community Research & Evaluation
- Professional Development
- Partnership & Capacity Building

WHAT IS FISCAL SPONSORSHIP?

A cost-effective pathway for launching social impact projects without forming a separate nonprofit.

The GRIND serves as your project's legal and financial home—managing funds and compliance so you can focus on mission impact.

HOW FISCAL SPONSORSHIP WORKS AT GRIND



As a sponsored project, you gain:

- Charitable status & donations processing
- Financial & administrative support
- Capacity-building and coaching
- Credibility through GRIND partnerships
- A collaborative network of changemakers

WHY CHOOSE GRIND AS YOUR FISCAL SPONSOR

- Immediate operational capability
- Reduced admin burden
- Access to shared expertise
- Strong donor confidence
- Flexible structure for short- or long-term projects

SERVICES FOR FISCAL SPONSEES

(Year One)

- Financial management & reporting
- Donor acknowledgment & tax receipting
- Shared branding & communication tools
- Pro bono consulting support
- Networking & visibility within GRIND
- Transition assistance to independent nonprofit status

OUR COMMITMENT

Collaboration is at our core.

Through fiscal sponsorship, we empower community innovation—providing the structure, resources, and credibility for ideas that create lasting change.

LIST OF PARTNERS

- TRUE STAR MEDIA
- RED ORACLE FILMS
- KOUNTRY WAYNE PRODUCTIONS
- TULANE UNIVERSITY
- ESPN
- BIG TEN CONFERENCE
- CHICAGO SKY
- PROJECT SYNCERE
- BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF CHICAGO
- FLASH HOOPS
- GAME FLO
- YMCA OF CHICAGO
- UNIVERSITY OF IL CHICAGO
- CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS - CITYWIDE STEM INITIATIVES
- C. J. BROWN FOUNDATION
- CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
- 530 SCHOLARS
- PROJECT EXPLORATION
- UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
- REDWELL FOUNDATION
- NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY- TIILT LAB
- HERO FOUNDATION
- TIILT LAB
- BLACK KIDS PREDICT
- T.O.B.Y. AGENCY
- TRANSFORMING LEARNING
- DREXEL UNIVERSITY- ILLEST 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, BERKLY - TEAM INC.
- 1000 WATTS SPORTS
- THE FUTURE IN COLOR INSTITUTE
- BRAND B SPORTS
- CITY OF CHICAGO MAYORS OFFICE
- YOUTH SPORTS SCIENCE INSTITUTE
- THE FAB FOUNDATION
- NJAPA ENTERPRISES LLC
- COMCAST
- CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
- SHOT TRACKER
- CHICAGO CUBS
- VANDERPOEL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
- CREATIVE ASTRONAUT VENTURES
- STRIDES FOR PEACE



**THANK YOU
SO MUCH**