



# Fall 2020 Newsletter

Welcome to The Thinkubator's Fall Newsletter. We just wrapped up a successful first summer as The Thinkubator, providing more than 60 work-based learning opportunities to our youth and other organization's program youth. This fall, we've launched our existing programs while adding new programs such as our Thinkubator Leads (Youth Council) program and added new members of our team to support our programs, health and wellness activities, and youth needs. We are very grateful that we are in a position to provide work-based learning opportunities to Bronx youth and support local businesses.

We would not be in this position but not for the leadership of Judy Dimon, James and Judith K. Dimon Foundation, The Thinkubator Board of Directors, Abby Jo Sigal and Victoria Shire, HERE to HERE, The Bronx Borough President, The Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation, and The former Bronx PIC members. We are grateful for their contributions to The Thinkubator and more importantly for supporting Bronx youth. While we are able to provide paid opportunities to youth we continue to apply for external funding proposals to sustain our work. To date, The Thinkubator has applied to 7 local and national grants to support the work of the organization. As you will see from the content of this newsletter, the need for work-based learning opportunities exceeds our capacity and we would like to be in a position to meet the needs of our local community. We appreciate any support you can provide to our organization.

Sincerely

Edward Summers, Ph.D.

# The Thinkubator Fall Programs Received Overwhelming Demand

170 Applicants

60 Work-Based Learning Spots  
110 Young People Not Served

**YOU CAN  
MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE  
FOR OUR  
YOUTH**

Fund and Support  
Work-Based Learning  
Opportunities

[thethinkubator.org](http://thethinkubator.org)



*The*  
**Thinkubator**

# Fall Programs Update

## THE THINKUBATOR TRAINS UPDATE



**Launch date: October 16, 2020**

The TRAINS program, our Micro Internship Program working with companies and organizations on project-based experiences, has successfully placed all youth in their perspective sites. The sites include RAP4Bx, Great Performances, Montefiore Medical Center, Hunger Free America, and Don Carvajal.

## THE THINKUBATOR SOLVES UPDATE

**Launch date: October 19, 2020**

The SOLVES program, our Youth Consultancy that works with executives of companies and organizations to solve complex or not so-complex problems, had the challenge handover to our two cohorts. Their respective clients are Margaret Sullivan Studio, a full service design firm specializing in cultural and civic institutions and Rethink Food, a non-profit aiming to create a sustainable and equitable food system.

Stay tuned for Solutions Day:

**Solution Day #1: Wednesday, December 16, 2020 with Margaret Sullivan Studio**

**Solution Day #2: Thursday, December 17, 2020 with Rethink Food**



MARGARET SULLIVAN STUDIO



## THE THINKUBATOR LEADS UPDATE



**Launch date: October 19, 2020**

The LEADS program, our Youth Council, holds 12 students who are tackling issues of food insecurity and education. This program amplifies our youth's voices in a more dynamic way as it is our most student-driven program. Students are supported on the changes they wish to make and see in regards to the issues they are tackling.

**Stay tuned for their first project in January of 2021.**

## THE THINK TANK AT THE THINKUBATOR UPDATE

The Think Tank at The Thinkubator launched this Fall with a study from James Waldron, which examined the impact of COVID-19 on Bronx Youth. This study found that 94% of the youth need and/or want to work this fall to help themselves and their families cope during these difficult and financially unstable times. The Think Tank also released a food insecurity policy brief, which provided four policy prescriptions to tackle the food insecurity in the borough and city-wide. The Think Tank will release several reports by the conclusion of the year on holiday food insecurity, education, and youth plans post high school in light of COVID-19. The Think Tank has taken great pride in allowing its studies to be led by youth. All policy reports can be found at [www.thethinkubator.org/thethinktank](http://www.thethinkubator.org/thethinktank).



## 1 Year Reflection

“Working with the Thinkubator has been a fun learning experience. I am on track with my projects, I am learning something new everyday, I feel like the work that I complete actually benefits the team, and I like what I do. I enjoy feeling like I serve a purpose to the team and not just doing work that won't be really used. I look forward to continuing to expand my horizons and see what I am comfortable doing and learning more from the things I am uncomfortable with. I want to make sure that I can really hone in on my skills and get the most out of this apprenticeship.”

- James Waldron

## FOOD INSECURITY UPDATE

The Thinkubator has partnered with World Central Kitchen (WCK), the RAP4BRONX, The Bronx Community Relief Efforts (BxCRE), and other local community-based organizations to support food insecurity. The WCK Direct program has enrolled more than 160 households in its pilot food program. The program respondents have reported a more than 95% satisfaction rate with the program and reported that the food has supported their families during these challenging times. Additionally, The Think Tank has released a policy brief recommending policy solutions to the challenge the Bronx and other borough's face.

**Stay tuned for the release of our holiday report on food insecurity, which will be released prior within the next week.**



## NEW TEAM MEMBERS



**Emily Cacho**

Assistant to the President



**Anthony Cintron**

Facilitator



**Nathalie Vargas**

Mental Health and Wellness Intern



**Linda Edwards**

Mental Health and Wellness Intern



**Morine Bowen-Avery**

Grants and Mental Health and Wellness Intern



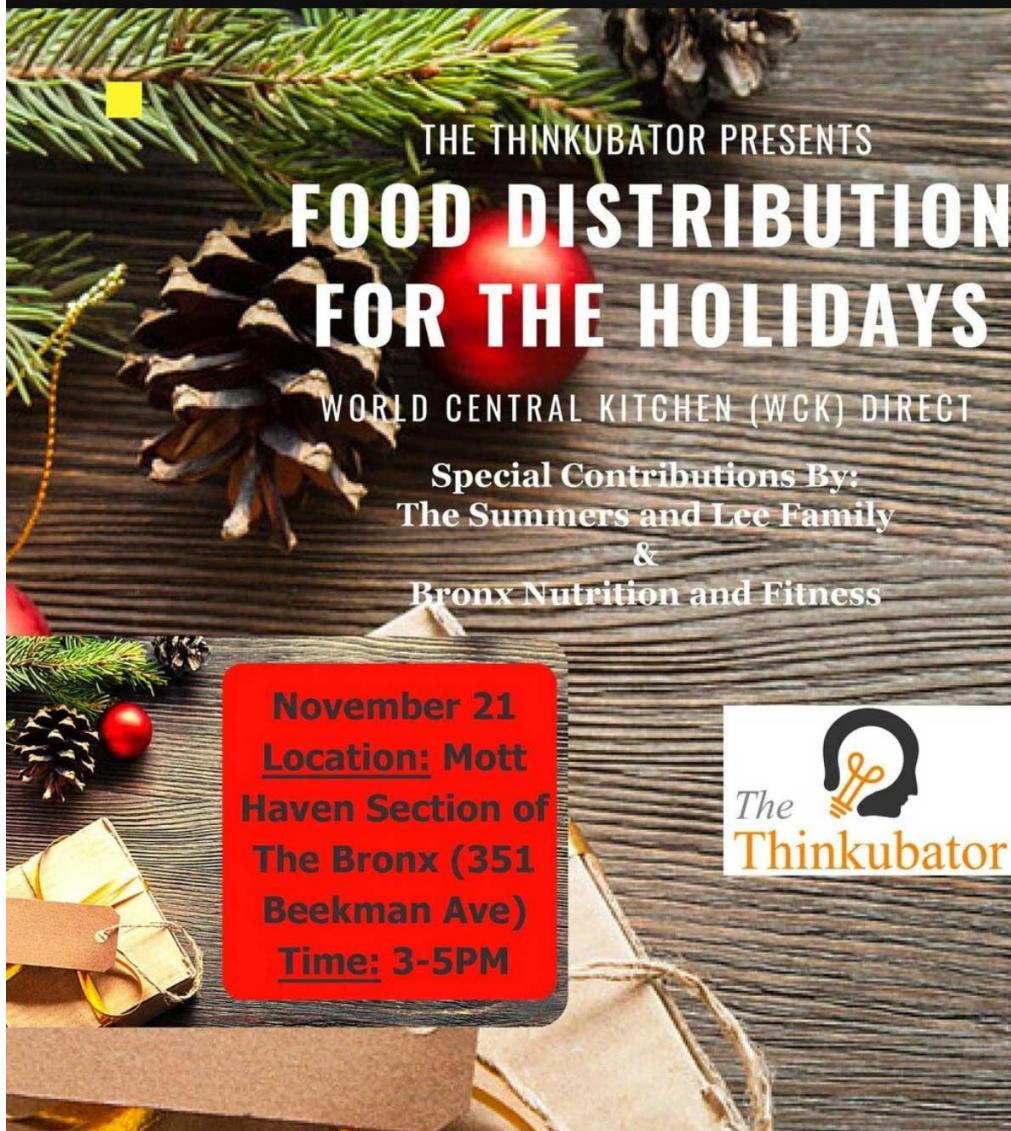
**Antonio Parisi**

Policy Intern



## Holiday Giving!

**The Thinkubator hosted a Turkey giveaway for WCK Direct participants and the community. We also supported various Turkey giveaway efforts in the Bronx including Mott Haven Bar and Grill's annual 7th annual Turkey Drive.**




THE THINKUBATOR PRESENTS

# FOOD DISTRIBUTION FOR THE HOLIDAYS

WORLD CENTRAL KITCHEN (WCK) DIRECT

Special Contributions By:  
The Summers and Lee Family  
&  
Bronx Nutrition and Fitness

**November 21**  
**Location:** Mott Haven Section of The Bronx (351 Beekman Ave)  
**Time:** 3-5PM

  
The Thinkubator

**QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS? EMAIL US AT:**

**CONTACT@THETHINKUBATOR.ORG**

**SAFETY PROTOCOL: PLEASE REMEMBER TO WEAR A FACE MASK AND PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCE!**

We are grateful for the launching of The Thinkubator and our programs, our youth, the Bronx, and most importantly you all, for the tremendous faith and support you've given us as we provide our youth with training and academic counseling, employers with the talent they need to be successful, and our community with food support to sustain their families.

The Thinkubator appreciates YOU!



National Giving Month



# December is National Giving Month. Consider Giving to The Thinkubator!

Make a difference and help us create a more inclusive, equitable, and just world. Support The Thinkubator.

<https://thethinkubator.org/donations>

## Upcoming Events!

**Happy Holidays  
From our Family  
to Yours! Be Safe,  
Healthy, and  
Joyous!**

The Thinkubator , 452 East 149 Street Suite 200, Bronx, United States



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