

Flare Education

288 Western Ave

Cambridge, MA 02139

Description

We intend to use the Civic Space as the epicenter for Flare Education operations and community relations. This ideal space will be used to bridge individuals and community stakeholders with Boston Based companies.

Flare Education, Inc. is a Massachusetts-based nonprofit educational organization that provides a comprehensive workforce development program to high school students across the Greater Boston area. Our focus is on providing professional training sessions using a curriculum geared towards building employability skills, 1:1 career mentorship, events like field trips and networking meet-ups to facilitate community exposure, a 2-week summer camp, and 6-9-week project-based internships during the summer. The goal of our program is to serve as the bridge between schools and companies, kickstarting students' future career success and building a long-term talent pipeline of future leaders.

Our greatest source of positive impact comes from community members and organizations that offer something tangible to make our students' lives better. In 2022, we launched our Community Ambassadors program to give individuals across Greater Boston (and nationally) the opportunity to get directly involved in the important work we are doing at Flare Education by partnering with us to help our students matriculate to long-term success through financial sponsorship, mentorship, providing internships, and professional networking opportunities. Community Ambassadors work directly with Flare Education staff as we scale to 10,000+ students across the country in the next 10 years.

Visitor Contact Room [500-sq ft.] - To be used as a public space that showcases the 100+ relationships with start-up, tech, and global companies, who have partnered with Flare Education, and how they are contributing to the work. This space will be outfitted with a large screen and associated audio-visual equipment, an information kiosk and other furnishings making it ideal and attractive for visitors.

Operator's Base of Operations [1,500-sq ft.] - To be used as private space for Flare Education daily operations and student simulated workspace.

Organization Programming & Service Delivery

Flare Education is a Greater Boston-based program that pays students \$6,000/year for 300 hours of workforce training, mentorship, events, and job experiences with partner companies (\$18,000 in 3 years). In our second year, we are serving nearly 100 students from 7 Greater Boston schools and working with 125 volunteers, and 25 company partners headquartered in Boston. Flare Education is also partnered with the Boston Private Industry Council, Boston Public Schools, and Cambridge Mayor's Office.

The Flare Education program offers students a 36-month immersive, paid workforce development program that provides career exposure, exploration, and skill building opportunities. Each 10-month program year, students can earn up to \$6,000 in total compensation by completing 300+ hours of workforce training, professional mentorship, community events, summer camps, and project-based summer internships. Flare Education provides students with an expansive view of the workforce by the time they leave high school, equipping them with the durable human and technical skills, professional networks, and workforce experience necessary for long-term success.

Flare Education's program includes activities that focus students and their families on identifying the academic, training, and education pathways that will enable youth to pursue high paying occupations. These activities - including workforce training, professional mentorship, community events, summer camps, and project-based summer internships - encourage students to take advantage of academic learning opportunities that exist in their schools and discover education and training options that exist outside of school such as early access to college and online certifications. Flare Education's staff also take an active approach with other program stakeholders (school partner staff, volunteer mentors, legal guardians, company partner staff) to provide personalized career information to students, such as job and skill requirements.

The Civic Space will provide an easily accessible space in the heart of Boston for our students in close proximity to our company partners. The space will serve as a bridge between the underserved communities we target and the corporate center of Boston while within reach of many of Boston's educational institutions. The Civic Space will serve as Flare's home office with office space for our small but growing staff. The space will become our central meeting space for Flare activities, specifically workforce training, summer camp and community events. Additionally, the space will provide students during their summer internships with remote work space alongside staff, a much needed asset for our students who often have a difficult time finding private space at home to work remotely.

Contribution to Community

Flare Education is a resource to bridge the gaps between companies and individuals. In our plan for this space, our ultimate outcome is to make Boston based companies more accessible to individuals and families in the community by introducing our company partners and highlighting their participation in our workforce development program and the greater Boston community.

Flare Education operates on a twelve month cycle that includes training sessions from Sept - June and Summer Programming from July - August. This schedule of operations allows for robust movement and traffic in and out of the space all year long. Our primary stakeholders - students, families and community members - will bring diversity to the water's edge and business to retailers.