CONNECTING OUR CULTURES TO OUR CYBER & CONSCIOUS COMMUNITIES

Best Buy Teen Tech Center
Las Vegas
Our mission is to provide a fun, educational experience where technology and science, future science, and entertainment become

Dynamic Duo
Clubhouse Network Techies Plug-in at Teen Hot Spot

Hollywood’s Harriet
Inside

The Clubhouse Network
Boston in collaboration

VOLUME III • ISSUE 11 • THESOUTOWN.COM
COPYRIGHT © 2017 KABBA KREATIONS LLC
ISSN 2577-0137
ISSN 2577-0129
NOV. 2019 - DEC. 2019
www.thesoutown.com
US $6.00
Las Vegas Hosts Conference

LAS VEGAS, NV - While many of us are immersed in planning Thanksgiving dinner, how to prepare the turkey, which sides to include and the many desserts, nearly 20 of the best techies from The Clubhouse Network and Best Buy Teen Tech Centers paused and attended the West Coast Regional Conference November 18-20.

The objectives and goals were clear. The large group of highly educated and experienced tech coaches were to explore and experience the Clubhouse learning model as a regional team, share personal experiences, knowledge, and resources in a hands-on way with each other, acquire additional technical skills in order to adapt and deepen learning models and last, but not least, build camaraderie and community.

The conference began with a tour of the Clark County Library - home of the Best Buy Teen Tech Center - hosted by Megan Nykodym and Alan Mejias in Las Vegas, NV. (https://bit.ly/2LBiYAc) Best Buy is working in conjunction with The Clubhouse Network throughout the country with partners like the library with the commitment to preparing one million teens from underserved communities for tech-related jobs each year by the year 2020.

According to EdTech - Education that refers to software designed to enhance teacher-led learning in classrooms and improve students' education outcomes - virtual and augmented reality in the classroom has proved to be effective for history and chemistry lessons. It opens a new door for teachers to encourage students to explore the world of coding and creates their virtual reality worlds. Coding skills are in high demand and will soon become a necessary skill for nearly all industries.

Gustavo Madrigal, motivated self-learner who developed an interest since the first generation Oculus Rift, led the workshop for the coordinators. He is also the Director of the LatinAmerica Clubhouse inustin. "I've been most about the conferences is the hands-on activities that we engage in," says Gus. "...Like the VR workshop we had, I thought it was really fun with everybody here. Even me presenting is a lot of fun with the video and the digital storytelling." https://bit.ly/3lSAb7A https://bit.ly/3lSAb7A

Jeff Arthur, Community Liaison for The Clubhouse Network shared Clubhouse news and informed the coordinators of The Global R/E/CH (Revolutionizing Expression @ The Clubhouse) Media Festival. This is a signature platform exclusively for Clubhouse member-created media. The festival provides an outlet for youth around the world to express themselves and explore issues most important to them. Clubhouse and Teen Tech Center members create media that convey their personal experiences and gives voice to their ideas, feelings, and concerns. This festival showcases the talents and voices of youth media.

To better help the coordinators return to their respective clubs and continue the education, the conference also focused on the introduction of the

Bottom left, Megan and Alan pose for a photo. Top, Thas plays the bongos drumming during a break from the conference. Right, Fae shows his Latte Village headband and bottom right, Cassia and Maha explore other hands-on projects in the Best Buy Teen Tech Center.
COVER STORY

"To be honest with you, writing down my goals helps me know how to aim. It’s as simple as that. I’m a huge visual guy. I have a ton of notebooks and keep solid ideas. Personal goals are also huge. Outside of my business goals, I have some personal goals. There are a few homeless shelters where I help underprivileged people.

I was once underprivileged. Helping them is important to me."

~ Jessie Babico

Cosplay is a term derived from costume and play, which is a growing industry and fandom phenomenon in which individuals, cut, paste, sew and mold their dreams into reality. It is the practice of dressing up as a character from a movie, book, or video game, especially ones from the Japanese genres of manga and anime. Each novice Cosplay designer created their own headband from the Leaf Village.

Each day of the conference, the Clubhouse leaders engaged in training and discussions that have led them to develop new and amazing friendships. On the final day to learn about Green Screen Filming and Goal Setting by an Entrepreneurship Panel of business owners: Jessie Babico - Founder of the Lace Gallery, Cassie Betts - Director of Operations for VSEDC’s (Vermont Stauson Economic Development Corporation) new tech center and Cherie Chilin’ Kabba, Innovative Extraordinaire of The Southtown Magazine to discuss the journey of setting goals from a business perspective.

Babico shares, "I’m honest with you, writing down my goals helps me know how to aim. It’s as simple as that. I’m a huge visual guy. I have a ton of notebooks to record solid ideas. Personal goals are also huge. Outside of my business goals, I have some personal goals. There are a few homeless shelters where I help underprivileged people.
people. I was once underprivileged. Helping the hopeless is important to me."

"The side of my brain likes things organized," Betts adds, "I find a wall, a white board wall or and I'll write close to it. I'll put all the businesses ... everything I'm working on the wall. I post all of my goals and the Universe, or God listens. I said I am going to start a tech center and eventually, we got it.

Kabba discussed some self-help books in leadership to be shared with coordinators and young business entrepreneurs, "My go-to is John Maxwell's The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership, Malcolm Gladwell's The Tipping Point and The Outliers. There are many more out there, but these are the ones I can easily reference as times are changing with the trends of technology. Although I have a business degree, I am a lifelong student. I want to teach the youth all I know and also learn from them."

Results from a 2018 Pew Research Center survey finds that since 1990, jobs in science, technology, engineering, and math have grown by 79 percent, and are expected to grow an additional 13 percent by 2027. This means it is essential for educators to find a way to engage students early to build their coding knowledge, and virtual and augmented reality platforms may be the answer.

The Clubhouse Network is an international community of more than 100 Clubhouses located in 20 countries, providing youth with life-changing opportunities for over 25 years. The Best Buy Teen Tech Centers and the Computer Clubhouses are designed for project-based and production-based learning opportunities. It provides a creative, safe, and free out-of-school learning environment where young people from under served communities work with adult mentors to explore their ideas, develop new skills, and build confidence in themselves through the use of technology. Teens in middle and high school are welcome to drop into the center and try out the available technologies.

At any of the Best Buy Teen Tech Centers and The Computer Clubhouses, the youth can learn: 3D printer, Adobe Creative Cloud, Animation, Apple iMacs, Button maker, Circuit Easy Press & 3D Sublimation Heat Press and much more.

On behalf of The Soultown Magazine, we would like to thank The Clubhouse Network, the Best Buy Teen Tech Center of Las Vegas and all of the West Coast Coordinators for having SOUL!®

---

**VOTING CHANGES • WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW**

The Iowa Legislature passed a new voter identification bill in the spring 2017 session. Here's what it means for all voters, according to the Black Hawk County Auditor's office.

**Be Prepared:**
1. Register to vote in the precinct where you live at least 10 days before the election.
2. Always take your driver's license/non-operator's license with you to vote.

**Voter Law Changes**
- Beginning Jan. 1, 2018, registered voters must show a driver's license or non-operator's ID before voting.
  - If you do not have your ID, in 2018 only, you will be asked to sign an oath that you are who you say you are. You can then cast a regular ballot. In 2019 and on, a registered voter can verify/attest for two people.
  - If you do not have one of these IDs, you will automatically be issued a free Voter ID card. The state started mailing Voter ID cards in December 2017.
  - If you did not receive the Voter ID card or lost it, the BH County Auditor's Office can re-issue one. Call 833-3007.

**Absentee Voting**
An absentee ballot may be requested 120 days before the election. Absentee ballots will be mailed starting 29 days before an election (used to be 40 days). Absentee ballots must be received 10 days before a general election and 11 days before other elections. Absentee ballot voters must include their Iowa driver's license/ non-operator's ID number or their Iowa voter ID card's PIN number on the absentee ballot request form.

**Registering to Vote**
If you are already registered, you do not have to do anything unless you move within the county or outside of the county.
- Online: https://myvote.iowadot.gov/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2FVoterRegistrationRegister

**By mail:** Print the form, fill it out completely in pen, and mail it to: Black Hawk County Auditor Election Department, 316 E 5th St., Waterloo, IA 50703

**Register In-person:**
- Black Hawk County Courthouse, 316 E 5th St., Waterloo, IA
- Cedar Falls City Hall, 220 Clay St., Cedar Falls, IA
- Other locations listed at: http://www.ca.blackhawk.iowa.us/208/Registration-Locations

No straight party voting is available in Iowa now. Be sure to vote for all of the offices/ballot issues listed on the front and/or back of the ballot.

**Special Groups:**
High School Students - If you are 17 but will be 18 years old by the general election, you can register to vote.
College Students - If you are going to school in Cedar Falls or Waterloo, you can vote there. You must have an ID that has an expiration date on it. A college/university ID cannot be used.
Returning Citizens - Those convicted of a felony can request restoring their voting rights after their sentence is discharged. Complete the form on the Iowa Governor's web site under Services/Executive Clemency (https://governor.iowa.gov/constituent-services). Frequently asked questions about restoring voting rights are on that same page.

---

**INTERESTED IN JOINING THE NAACP?**

Monthly Meetings:
2nd Thursdays
515 Beech St.
Waterloo, Iowa 50703

- President - LaTanya Graves
  - Blackhawk County Branch
  - waterloonaacp.org
  - Email: waterloonaacp@gmail.com
  - Facebook: facebook.com/waterloonaacp

P.O. Box 304
Waterloo, Iowa 50704

---

Nov 2019 • The Soultown International Magazine • Celebrating 2 years • Connecting Our Cultures to Our Cyber & Conscious Communities • thesoultown.com