



LinkNYC and DoITT Team Up With Global Kids at PS96 To Celebrate Black History Month

Links throughout New York City will display students' illustrations of significant figures in black history

NEW YORK— LinkNYC and the New York City Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications (DoITT) announced today a new collaboration with Global Kids, a nonprofit educational organization for global learning and youth development, at PS 96 in East Harlem to celebrate black icons in science on Link kiosks across New York City. Illustrations of these figures, including Elijah McCoy, Garrett Morgan, and others, were made by students in the Global Kids program at PS 96 and will be displayed on Link's 55" digital displays throughout the five boroughs from February 12-19, 2018.

This project created a unique opportunity for youth from East Harlem to conduct historical research in a culturally relevant way and to celebrate their digital murals with public viewings across the LinkNYC kiosks.

"What better way for LinkNYC to celebrate Black History Month than through the creative minds of young New Yorkers?" said **Samir Saini, Commissioner of the Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications**. "Link kiosks provide so much more than just superfast free Wi-Fi—they're community resources that show and celebrate the best of New York City."

"I love to draw, so it was a lot of fun to learn how to create art digitally on the computer," said **Jamie Herrera, Global Kids 6th grader at PS 96**. "I am so excited to have my artwork seen by people all over NYC!"

"With more than 1,300 Links throughout the five boroughs, Link is becoming part of the fabric of New York City, and we want our content to reflect that," said **Jen Hensley, President of Link**. "Through collaborations with local nonprofits like Global Kids, Link provides communities with an opportunity to share their great work and vision across the city like never before."

This is the second year in a row that LinkNYC has partnered with a local organization to help celebrate Black History figures. Last year, LinkNYC teamed up with Silicon Harlem and featured images of icons including Sojourner Truth and W.E.B. Du Bois. For more information and to see a map of Links, visit link.nyc.

About the Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications (DoITT)

DoITT is the technology core of New York City government, working with over 100 city agencies and entities to deliver the tech they need to serve and empower New Yorkers. DoITT's technology solutions help keep the five boroughs safe, strong, and vibrant. For more information, visit nyc.gov/DoITT or visit us on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).

About LinkNYC

LinkNYC is the first-of-its-kind communications network replacing the city's payphones to build the world's fastest and largest free public Wi-Fi network. Since Mayor Bill de Blasio announced the public launch of LinkNYC in early 2016, more than 1,300 Links are active across all five boroughs, with thousands more set to be deployed over the next few years.

More than 3.3 million people – more than the populations of the cities of Chicago, Phoenix, Philadelphia, Dallas, or San Diego – have used the free gigabit Wi-Fi service, with tens of thousands of new users joining the network each week. LinkNYC Wi-Fi subscribers have used more than 3,625,000 GB of data used, the equivalent of streaming 580 million songs and 3 million video hours, sending 36 billion emails and 123 billion messages.

In addition to free Wi-Fi, each Link offers free phone calls, device charging, and a tablet to access maps, 311, the social services platform Aunt Bertha, and access to 911. All of Link's services are 100% free for users and come at no cost to taxpayers.

About Global Kids

Global Kids, Inc., a nonprofit educational organization for global learning and youth development, works to ensure that youth from underserved communities have the knowledge, skills, experiences and values they need to succeed in school, participate effectively in the democratic process, and achieve leadership in their communities and our world.

Global Kids offers in-school and out-of-school time programming in New York City and Washington, D.C. public schools and at the agency's headquarters in Manhattan. Reaching over 10,000 youth and educators each year, Global Kids inspires its students to achieve academic excellence and global competencies. The overwhelming majority come from low-income neighborhoods and immigrant groups that are largely underrepresented in higher education and in professional spheres. Global Kids is currently active in 24 public elementary, middle, and high schools in New York City and Washington, D.C. and works with over 3,000 students weekly.