



## MEXICAN AMERICAN OPPORTUNITY FOUNDATION (MAOF) & LISTOAMERICA®, INC.

### COMPUTER CLUBHOUSE FACT SHEET

The **Mexican American Opportunity Foundation (MAOF)** and **ListoAmerica®, Inc.**, both 501c(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organizations, have formed a strategic partnership in the form of a Joint Venture to develop and execute after-school programs. This will take the form of computer clubhouses designed to provide safe and fun after-school educational and tutoring programs and experiences to middle school and high school students in underserved communities in California and beyond. The Joint Venture is proud to have opened in November, 2010, its first **Computer Clubhouse** located at the Plaza La Alameda (Florence Ave at Alameda) in the Greater Southeast Los Angeles area.

MAOF is a well established community-based organization which has a 47 year history of providing pre-school and human services throughout California. ListoAmerica® is a new, corporate-bred organization founded on the premise that Latinos/Latinas can become a significant resource for our country's 21<sup>st</sup> Century workforce in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). This will help solve one of the most pressing issues facing the United States - the critical shortage of STEM-based skilled employees in our country's future workforce. MAOF and ListoAmerica are uniquely positioned with their complementary skills and strengths to advance the strategic objectives of their Joint Venture.

**The mission of the MAOF and ListoAmerica® Computer Clubhouse is "to provide an after-school learning environment to inspire our youth, through the use of technology, to excel...especially in math and science."** Computer Clubhouse students (members) are engaged in creative projects, learn to use sophisticated software, design and make their own videos and games, receive tutoring and mentoring, and learn about careers for the 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce. **This Computer Clubhouse at Plaza La Alameda was recently awarded a license by the prestigious Intel Computer Clubhouse Network for after school programs.** This will provide Computer Clubhouse students with the unique advantage of having access to other students at over 100 Computer Clubhouses throughout the world affiliated with the Intel Network. The Intel Computer Clubhouse Network will also provide advice and consultation based on research conducted by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Media Labs on best practices for after-school programs. The Computer Clubhouse at Plaza La Alameda opened in the fall of 2010 with an initial group of 20 students from South Gate Middle School. Students from other targeted schools will be invited to join over the next several months. The key elements for the successful implementation of the MAOF and ListoAmerica® Computer Clubhouse programs are as follows:

#### 1. APPROACH

The MAOF and ListoAmerica® Computer Clubhouse has adopted an innovative approach that is referred to as **HI-TECH...HI-TALK...HI-TRUST**. The objective of the Computer Clubhouse is to link students to mentors, tutors and role-models who will have constant and consistent contact with the students. To facilitate this contact, the students are linked online with the mentors, tutors and role-models via computers at the Computer Clubhouse. The students also utilize technology to do creative projects and have online access to other students who are affiliated with the Intel Computer Clubhouse Network around the globe (**HI-TECH**). The Computer Clubhouse staff facilitates frequent tutor/student face-to-face communication and tutoring sessions (**HI-TALK**). The Computer Clubhouse staff also assigns a mentor to each student to develop a trusting mentor/student relationship for

effective advice, influence and inspiration (**HI-TRUST**). The Computer Clubhouse will bring together the resources of the community, education and the corporate sectors to achieve the focused objective to educate, inform and inspire our youth to excel in STEM. The Computer Clubhouse will track the students' progress through their middle school, high school and college years to help the students achieve positive results and also to assess the effectiveness of the Computer Clubhouse programs.

## **2. INSPIRATION**

A major component of the programs is to introduce students to the concepts of math and science in such a way to inspire them to excel in STEM. These inspirational methods will supplement the students' course work at school. Presenters are invited to demonstrate the use of science and math, explain the work and role of engineers and scientists in our society and let the students engage in interactive programs. These are presented in fun, compelling and interactive ways. Most of the targeted students have never been exposed to math and science in such a manner. Students are encouraged to use technology to design and build their own creative projects and to work in teams. Students are also encouraged to utilize technology (such as making their own videos) to demonstrate their science projects and knowledge as part of their school assignments and homework. Field trips to corporate work locations and museums are scheduled as part of the overall set of activities. Students engage in other developmental programs to improve communication and team-working skills.

## **3. VOLUNTEERS**

Volunteers serve as tutors, mentors, presenters and role models. These volunteers come from corporations, small businesses, community members and educators who have a compelling interest and passion in helping underserved youth to excel in STEM. Partnerships have been established with employee groups and affinity groups in corporations, technical societies and community service organizations who want to actively participate in the many roles that are necessary to significantly impact our students. Most of the programs are scheduled after school on Mondays through Thursdays and Saturday mornings.

## **4. ADVISORY BOARD**

An Advisory Board for the MAOF and ListoAmerica® Computer Clubhouse was established to provide necessary advice and recommendations for effective programs, educational methods and approaches and the necessary monitoring to help achieve the objectives of the programs. This Advisory Board includes educators from the targeted middle schools (Gage, Nimitz and South Gate), parents and other interested individuals. The Computer Clubhouse is committed to implement best practices that have shown to work and to "pull the plug" for those that don't. A key role for this Advisory Board will be to serve as an interface with the students' schools and teachers.

## **5. CONTACT INFORMATION**

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