

"Urban Jungle" Bingo

The only thing is... this is not a game. It's reality!

Purpose: Become more aware of compounding (multiple) real-life issues people and families may face – especially in moderate or lower-income communities of Chicago. Share about these experiences in order to find commonalities, provide support to each other, and figure out how to take action on one or more of the issues stated in the game. The winner of this game is everyone – for sharing, building and taking action.

Preparation: Many of the issues listed below are very sensitive. Sharing one's own experiences may be hard. Create a safe space for sharing where themes of respect, support, and togetherness resonate. Ask everyone to honor privacy, have respect, and show empathy.

Directions: 1) Each player determines who they are thinking about while playing (themselves, a friend, a family member, the immediate family, or a larger community of people); 2) The rest of the game is played like "bingo" where the issues in each box are read off one at a time; 3) There should be some critical discussion as issues are mentioned (What? Why? How? Who? Where?); 4) After each issue-box is called out, ask students to tally up the issues they checked off.

Post Discussion: Hold an uplifting discussion that first centers on the amount of "strength" and "intelligence" people must have to cope with, address, and solve these issues. Then, ask participants questions – asking then to ask each other these - such as: *Who will share about what they checked off? Why are there so many issues people are facing? How does unaffordable housing and displacement compound peoples' problems? What are some resolutions to these issues? How have people (and how can they) work to change these?*

Your family lost or may lose home to foreclosure	Family is in debt to others	You were kicked out of your family's home	You, family, or friends caught up in gang warfare or violence	Materialistic / hooked on clothing, shoes, etc.	Community is being gentrified (turning richer)
Scarred war veteran living in the house (PTSD: Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder)	Hard to find decent wages / no one is hiring	Evicted from apartment recently	Pushed / dropped out of school before graduating	Drug and/or alcohol abuse or addiction problem	Lived or living through abusive relationships
Lives in a community that's in bad shape	Over sexualized and manipulating others for sex	Unemployed or not getting enough hours	Low reading / math skills & confidence	Health issues (pain, asthma, diabetes, or other ailments)	Losing family's ethnic / cultural roots
Witnessed numerous acts of violence or abuse	Had to attend more than 3 total schools from K - 12	Afraid to be outside or regularly travel in the city	Not enough nice and clothes and/or shoes	Little or no money on the average day	Recently engaged in violence (victim or perpetrator)
Undocumented immigrant facing deportation / prison	No health insurance or no regular doctor	Addict for entertainment / mass media	Been affected by racial discrimination	Young parent without good employment	Engaged in or pushed towards thug life / drug culture
No car and very little transportation money to go places	Low interest in school / falling behind	Feeling a sense of depression or hopeless	Generation gap with poor communication	Unable to connect and play w/ children affectionately	Unfamiliar with most other areas of Chicago that yours
Losing family's native language	Lost a close friend or family member to drugs or violence	Been sexually abused or committed abuse	Poor relations with one or more parents	Treated an LGBTQ person badly or got treated badly	School in local area closing or turning charter
Eating poor quality food – not enough fresh fruit / veggies	Harassed, abused or profiled by police more than once	Criminal record – including a felony	Divided family – maybe from divorce, DCFS, etc.	Imprisoned family member	Not getting enough sleep

Issues tallied: _____