Growing our Future Community Activists and Land Use and Housing Policy Maker

Y-PLAN
(Youth – Plan, Learn, Act, Now)

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CA League of Cities Conference
Thursday, September 6, 2007
Agenda

I. Welcome and Introductions:
   *Who are you? Where are you from?*
   *What 2 questions do you have re: youth engagement?*

II. Overview of Center for Cities & Schools and Y-PLAN

III. Y-PLAN Spotlight: Emeryville 2007

IV. Youth Planning in Action Activity

V. Questions and Answers
Mission

To position high-quality education as a critical component for broader city and metropolitan policy-making.

We believe that invigorating public education and revitalizing neighborhoods are goals that can, and should, be accomplished in tandem.
Three main areas of CC&S work:

1. Research

2. Education

3. Collaborative Practice
   - Youth, Schools and Planning

=> Y-PLAN
History and Context

• Started in 1999
• “Change happens in communities outside the walls of UC” – UCB graduate student
• 8 year university-community collaboration and course
• Unites worlds of urban planners and education
• Based on Deweyan principle “Experience is knowledge”
Central Questions

• How can we **maximize authentic participation** by youth within the constraints of the systems within which we operate?

• What are the **substantive opportunities and limitations for engaging youth** in planning and policy making processes?

• How does young people’s participation in specific projects contribute to their **improvement of their city, educational development**, and cultivate their appetite for **civic activism**?
Hart’s Ladder of Participation

An analytic tool to understand decision making
Thinking Like Youth

VISIONING ACTIVITY:

• Close your eyes
• Think back when you were a child: where were you? State/city?
• Go to your favorite place where you felt safe and happy: look around, what’s there? People, streets, buildings, nature
• Why do you feel safe? What are the feelings? What are the streets and roads like? What are the homes like?
• Open your eyes and draw a map of this space on the paper provided
Curriculum Overview

Module #1
Touring the city
Learn to “look” at their every day environment
Collect data

Module #2
Making Sense of the City
Analyze data
Identify common themes
Develop maps to create stories
Module #3
The Charrette – “A Vibe for Change”

Look at sources of inspiration
Create models

Module #4
Public Presentation

Bringing it all together!
Final presentations at City Hall
Spotlight: Emeryville 2007

• 9th and 10th grade classes

• Client = Assemblywoman Loni Hancock

• Focused on questions of:
  – Affordable Housing
  – Vibrant Streetlife
  – Center of Community Life and Family Resource Center

• Presented observations, analysis, and action steps for change at City Hall to client, city officials, and community members
Emery Students’ Presentation
Youth Perspectives on
Creating a Vibrant and Family-Friendly Emeryville
along San Pablo Avenue

Presented by:

9th and 10th grade classes
Ms. Ruth Mathis & Mr. Max Monroy-Miller
UC Berkeley Y-PLAN Mentors

Tuesday, May 1, 2007
Emeryville City Council
Our Road Map to City Hall

Y-PLAN 2007 at Emery Secondary School
ROAD MAP to CITY HALL

PHASE 1: Introductions
- Feb 14/16 Intro to City Planning
- Feb 28/Mar 2 Community Mapping
- Feb 7/9 Intro to each other

PHASE 2: Project Planning
- Mar 7/9 Visioning #1
- Mar 14/16 Clients Guest Speaker
- Mar 21/23 Visioning #2
- Apr 4/6 Roadblocks

PHASE 3: Engaging the Public
- Apr 18/20 Regional Tour
- Apr 25/27 Presentation Prep

May 1st Presentation at City Hall & Celebration!
May 9/11 Reflection

Y-PLAN → PORTFOLIO → COLLEGE → CAREER
A Day in the Life of an EUSD student...
We took a Neighborhood Walk…

We found lots of opportunities for change!

Vacant lots

Vacant buildings
We worked together with Y-PLAN Mentors and made Community Maps
We worked on a vision for change for:

- Affordable Housing for Everyone
- A More Youth-Friendly San Pablo Avenue
- Improved Public Transportation
- Continued work on the Center of Community Life and the Family Resource Center at Emery Secondary School
Immediate Action, Visible Change!
Support the Measure A (Parcel Tax)

What we can do:
• Register voters in community
• Canvas at local businesses on San Pablo Avenue
• Spread the word to friends, family, neighbors

Why do we support the Measure?
• Increase funding for public spaces and our schools
• Help to fund our recreation center
• Increase our visibility as students in the community
Our Action Plan
A Timeline: Steps to Take After Today

- Create a Mural at Emery Secondary
- Conduct Community Interviews
- Get Measure A Renewed!
- Implement School Programs Fall '07
- Identify Land for CCL
- Improve Public Transit Reliability
- Attend Planner’s Network Conference, New Orleans
- Work more with ABAG on Housing
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ACTION PLAN
ACTION TIME LINE
Y-PLAN in Action!
*Small Group/Pair Activity*

(1) Identify **one** specific project that can:
   (a) contribute to the **improvement of your city**,  
   (b) provide **educational learning opportunities**,  
   (c) and cultivate students’ appetite for **civic engagement**

(2) Identify 3 key steps for engaging youth

(3) Identify 3 key challenges
• Center for Cities & Schools •

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