

"It is common sense that the quality of public schools and the quality of cities are impacted by one another but rarely, if ever, are educational and urban policies connected."

— Bruce Katz

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Dear Friends:

Welcome to the first newsletter from the Center for Cities and Schools. The Center was officially launched in September, 2004 at UC Berkeley's Institute of Urban and Regional Development. It was founded to research the synergy between cities and public education and to promote understanding and collaboration between educators and urban policy makers.

The Center for Cities and Schools aims to make visible the diverse aspects of urban life that are inseparable from academic development and learning. We do so using three principal tools: research, education, and service.

Our fall symposium, "The Role of Public Education in Neighborhoods of Choice and Connection," was the first step toward achieving this goal. The Center brought together over one hundred students and teachers, elected officials, UC Berkeley faculty and students, with urban policy and education visionaries Bruce Katz, Vice President of Brookings Institution, and Arlene Ackerman, Superintendent of San Francisco Unified School District. We explored two interrelated questions:

- How can cities and neighborhoods promote high quality public education?
- How can public education promote healthy, vibrant cities?

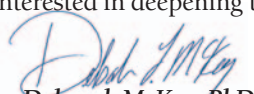
In participatory planning sessions, we discussed how schools cannot be the sole institution responsible for preparing future generations to be active, engaged, and healthy citizens. The lives of young people are shaped by their housing, health care, employment opportunities, and safety on the streets. To address the impacts of these largely unacknowledged urban realities, schools need the support of other agencies and communities.

We are off to a great start and in just a few months the Center has received local and national attention:

- The Fannie Mae Foundation has partnered with the Center to better understand the interrelationship between housing and education
- State level organizations such as the Cities, Counties, and Schools Partnership of California have asked the Center to join a task force on land use and school siting
- Bay Area community leaders and housing developers have come to the Center seeking ways to engage youth and schools directly in local redevelopment efforts.

We don't have all the solutions to the myriad challenges facing policy makers, advocates, and communities, but we hope to pose the critical questions.

As the Center continues to grow, we welcome questions and suggestions from all those interested in deepening the relationship between cities and their schools.


Deborah McKoy, PhD
Director

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Center's Mission

To foster the improvement of both cities and public schools, the Center for Cities and Schools works to position high quality education as a critical component for broader city and metropolitan policy making.

Center's Founding Team

Deborah L. McKoy, PhD, is the founder and Director of the Center for Cities and Schools. She holds a PhD in Education Policy from UC Berkeley and an MPA from Columbia University. For fifteen years, she has worked at the intersection of urban policy and education both in the United States and abroad. McKoy's work and research in housing, community development and education reveal the opportunities for transformation when these usually disparate worlds are brought together.



Jeffrey M. Vincent, cofounder of the Center, is a doctoral candidate in the Department of City and Regional Planning at the University of California, Berkeley. He holds a master's degree in Community and Regional Planning from the University of Nebraska. His research looks at the intersection of land use planning and urban redevelopment, housing, and public education.



Research

The Center's research is focused on understanding ways to improve our public education system through making cities more equitable, diverse, and livable. We strive to critically assess linkages between schools and urban policies by focusing on issues of the social, built and natural environment.

Currently, we are sponsoring three major research projects:

The Social Environment — *Mobility, Housing, and Academic Achievement*

Since 1998, more than 500 Bay Area children have been relocated as a part of the HOPE VI Urban Revitalization program, yet little to no attention has been paid to the impact on the education of the children or the schools they have attended. In collaboration with housing authorities in Richmond, Oakland, and San Francisco, the Center is assessing the effect of the HOPE VI housing policies on educational experience and academic achievement.

The Built Environment — *Planning and Siting New Public Schools in the Context of Community Development: The California Experience*

Since 2002, California has passed two school construction bond measures totaling over \$26 billion. This research takes a case study approach to understand the planning and siting of new public schools in built-out urban areas. It will look specifically at the land use "silo planning" phenomenon between school districts and cities. This study will illuminate examples of coordinated planning efforts in the current era of overcrowded schools, aging infrastructure, shrinking fiscal capacities, and changing demographics.

The Natural Environment — *The City Watershed Education Project*

Technology is becoming an increasingly important tool in engaging both adults and youth in understanding the natural environment. The City Watershed Evaluation studies how the UC Berkeley Interactive University Project (IU) works with partners across the campus, Bay Area high schools and environmental non-profits to use technology both to protect the urban watershed and enhance the education of urban youth.



Sponsors

- Annie E. Casey Foundation
- City of Oakland Housing Authority
- City of Richmond Housing Authority
- Interactive University Project
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- San Francisco Foundation
- Stuart Foundation
- UC Office of the President's UC Links Program
- US Department of Housing and Urban Development

Service

Bridging theory and practice, the Center develops national and local initiatives.

The National Public Housing — Youth Leadership for Change Initiative

The Center was host to 75 youth and their adult “allies” from fifteen cities across the nation at the Hope VI Youth Leadership for Change Conference in August. This year’s summit focused on using the media arts — video, radio, and graphic arts — as a tool for social change. Participants returned to their home cities from Camden, NJ to Los Angeles, CA full of fresh ideas for enhancing their communities. Many participating housing authorities have started local youth councils and a wide range of youth programs aimed at creating healthy and vibrant communities. Plans are underway for a fourth summit this summer 2005!

Social Enterprises for Learning Projects

At Galileo, Burton, and Lincoln high schools in San Francisco, students are participating in Social Enterprises for Learning (SEfL).

SEfL is a form of school-based enterprise where students develop projects which fulfill three purposes: 1) Produce goods or services for clients or customers; 2) Provide social benefits to a larger community or general public; and 3) Enable participants/students to develop specified kinds of knowledge or skill.

This spring, the Center will partner with SFUSD teachers and students to create a SEfL Tool Kit, using case studies from SFUSD projects such as a website providing teen health information to high school students and an environmental education project in the SF Presidio.



Education

The Center hosts a series of symposiums, brown bag discussions and interdisciplinary classes in the Department of City Planning and Graduate School of Education.

UC Berkeley Course: Spring 2005

Y-PLAN Focuses on West Oakland Historic Rail Station

This spring, students at McClymonds High School are joining with UC Berkeley graduate students to develop ways to restore West Oakland’s historic train station as a vital part of the community. Y-PLAN (Youth – Plan, Learn, Act, Now), CP 290b, is an award-winning course that gives graduate students fieldwork experience mentoring local high school students, engaging everyone in linking schools and redevelopment efforts.



Abandoned West Oakland train station to be re-imagined by McClymonds High School students.

Y-PLAN classes culminate in final presentations at Oakland City Hall. Students in 2004 presented their ideas for a cultural history project for the local library before DCRP Chair John Landis, San Francisco Foundation’s Charles Fields, community leader Jamoke Hodge, representative of Councilwoman Nancy Nadel, and others.

Center Symposia 2004–2005: Engaging Scholars and Policy Leaders

Our Fall, 2004, symposium featured **Bruce Katz**, Vice President and Director of the Metropolitan Policy Program, Brookings Institution, and **Dr. Arlene Ackerman**, Superintendent, San Francisco Unified School District. These two visionaries identified key issues to be considered by the Center. A summary of the talks and discussion is available on our website www.citiesandschools.org.



Bruce Katz



Arlene Ackerman

This spring, 2005, symposium will feature **Pedro Noguera**, Professor of Education, New York University and **Tom Bates**, Mayor, City of Berkeley. They will discuss “The Importance of Vibrant Cities in Reclaiming the Promise of Public Education.”



Pedro Noguera



Tom Bates

This spring, the Center also welcomes our first visiting Scholar **Joshua Simon**, Director of Real Estate Development at East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation and member of Emery Unified School District. Joshua will join the Center research team from February – April, 2005, enjoying a well earned sabbatical. He will be studying the intersection of housing and education.

www.citiesandschools.org

Be sure to check out our new web site for up to date info.



Spring Speakers & Events

February

- February 9: Professor Norton Grubb discusses his new book: *The Education Gospel: The Economic Power of Schooling*, 12 NOON – 1 PM, 1000 Wurster Hall, UC Berkeley.
- February 25: Author Larry Ty discusses “*The Pullman Porters: the Impetus of African-American Education*” 11AM –12 NOON, 106 Wurster Hall, UC Berkeley.

March

- Panel of activists, developers, and policy makers discuss: “*Gentrification, Schools and the Future Generation*,” McClymonds High School, Oakland, CA. (Date TBD)
- The Center will be in two American Planning Association (APA) National Conference events: March 19: “*Bay Region Youth Charrette*” Workshop, 9 AM–4 PM, Pier One, SF. March 22: “*Making Youth Part of the Solution*,” Panel Presentation, 7:15–8:30 PM, Moscone Convention Center.
- March 29: Researchers from Urban Institute share findings from their recent national study: HOPE VI Panel Study: How Are HOPE VI Families and Children Faring?” 9 am – 4pm, Women’s Faculty Club, Hall, UC Berkeley.

April

- April 1: Professor Pedro Noguera and City of Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates present their current views and initiatives on “*The Importance of Vibrant Cities in Reclaiming the Promise of Public Education*,” 112 Wurster Hall, UC Berkeley.
- April 14: Center co-hosts panel with Berkeley’s Graduate School of Education at American Educational Research Association (AERA) National Conference in Montreal, Canada.

May

- *Y-PLAN Final Presentations* at Oakland City Hall (Date TBD)

CENTER for CITIES & SCHOOLS

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