

A Decade of Action and Insight from Bayview's Youth and Schools

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ISSUE

In 2008, the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) commissioned UC Berkeley's Center for Cities and Schools (CC+S) to develop a strategy for integrating education into future housing redevelopment in the Bayview. Two years later, HOPE SF was launched in the Bayview at the existing public housing site at Hunters View. In the past decade, CC+S has built on this strategy, particularly as the HOPE SF housing revitalization process began in 2010 at Hunters View. CC+S has worked in partnership with a number of stakeholders, including the HOPE SF Partnership led by the San Francisco Foundation on the PLUS Leadership (Planning and Learning United for Systems Change) and Y-PLAN (Youth - Plan, Learn, Act, Now!) initiatives working in complement to HOPE SF to demonstrate how schools and young people are a positive force in this future redevelopment. Such work is critical because it creates not only social and physical pathways, but processes to establish youth engagement going forward.

The work of the past decade in the Bayview has not been comprehensively assessed nor viewed holistically, underlying the challenges of fragmentation in processes with so many stakeholders. This report lifts up the partnership of the past decade to examine **how this work to engage youth and schools in comprehensive housing development in the Bayview can inform future work**. Understanding this landscape can support future work and better alignment of investments, particularly concerning the role of young people and schools in community redevelopment.

METHODS

This landscape analysis relies on existing evaluations, reports, and analyses of this work, a comprehensive education and HOPE SF literature review, and stakeholder interviews. Stakeholders interviewed include, **Isaac Dozier**, Regional Vice President at Urban Strategies, Inc.; **Margaret Miller**, Vice President of Development at The John Stewart Company; **Chris Moore**, Teacher at Malcolm X Academy; **Ellie Rossiter**, Partnership Director, HOPE SF at The San Francisco Foundation; **Nancy Waymack**, Former Executive Director of Policy and Operations at SFUSD; **Hydra Mendoza**, Former President of SF Board of Education at SFUSD; **Carolina Reid**, Assistant Professor in Department of City & Regional Planning at the University of California at Berkeley; **Dr. Shirl Buss**, Creative Director at CC+S at the University of California at Berkeley; **Deborah McKoy**, Research Director at CC+S at the University of California at Berkeley.

FINDINGS

A number of reoccurring ideas were identified between the literature review and the series of interviews conducted. Across diverse stakeholders in the work of community revitalization and engaging youth as agents of community change, **connection**, **continuity**, and **collaboration** came up frequently. Educators, developers, and the school district as key partners in this work are all thinking about how to connect people, place, and priorities.



Y-PLAN engagement allowed **connection** between youth and housing developers to take place. Both the district and housing developer interviews included a story about student design pitches for safe pathways to school. The developer listened to the students and altered their pathways plans to accommodate students' ability to get to school.

In the past ten years, Y-PLAN engaged over 300 young people at both Malcolm X Academy and Bret Harte Elementary, while the PLUS Leadership Initiative produced six individual reports in partnership with key stakeholders focusing specifically on HOPE SF, youth, and schools in the Bayview. These sustained engagements of young people and the work at MXA in particular demonstrate the importance of **continuity** to accomplish change.

Throughout these initiatives in the Bayview, kids were teaching adults to be collaborators. In an interview, Hydra Mendoza, former President of the SF Board of Education at SFUSD, discussed a critical shift in student perspective from "this is happening to us to this is happening with us," demonstrating the power of **collaboration** in aligning people, priorities, and place.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The work accomplished has led to connection, continuity, and collaboration, however these areas also present opportunities for the future. There is a tremendous opportunity to align and leverage this existing work to current, as well as future, city policies and priorities.

1. **Connection:** Integrate youth voices as permanent representatives in HOPE SF Partnership Education Task Force
2. **Continuity:** Integrate Y-PLAN metrics and methodologies as part of existing processes and institutions
3. **Collaboration:** Develop infrastructure that allows for forging of strong cross-sector relationships