



Creative Proposals for Building a Healthy, Sustainable Community

What are some of the ingredients that will make Hunters View a green and healthy neighborhood?

How can young people help the new Hunters View HOPE SF housing developers forge stronger connections between the school, the neighborhood, and the larger community?

How can the needs of young people, especially those at Malcolm X Academy, be meaningfully integrated into the public spaces in the new development and the school?

For two years, the students at Malcolm X Academy have been engaged in a series of hands-on architecture and planning projects focused on these questions. In this Think Tank we have generated designs around the themes of healthy living, and sustainable building practices. We have also been working with teens from the HOPE SF Youth Leadership Academy on Promontory Park and public spaces in the For the HOPE SF Hunters View park and public space



This project is collaboration between UC Berkeley Center for Cities & Schools, Hunters View Associates, SF National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA), and San Francisco Unified School District. The Avery Foundation Bay Tree Fund and the Stewardship Council have generously provided funding.

Project Goals:

Using the CC&S Y-PLAN methodology, together we engaged in a series of hands-on architecture and planning projects focused on the Hunters View HOPE SF neighborhood revitalization project now being built by Hunters View Associates.

Our goals were:

- To build upon and further develop the ideas generated by the students last year for the public spaces in the HOPE SF housing development. To work with and offer substantive and appropriate input to the Hunters View Associates, John Stewart Company, landscape architects, and the Mayor's Office of Housing about these public spaces.
- To engage the youth as civic activists working as a positive force in the community.
- To augment the academic learning objectives (applied mathematics, oral presentation, oral and written expression).
- To add the younger youth perspective to the ideas and proposals generated by the high school students in the HOPE SF Youth Leadership Academy (spring and summer 2010).
- To showcase the students' creative accomplishments, and capabilities through drawings, models, and other visible artifacts representing their ideas and visions.
- To honor students' voices by creating and presenting to parents, community members, public officials and other professionals.



Our Process

1. Revisited last year's work on the HOPE SF Hunters View Project

Together we reviewed our work and recommendations from last year, which focused on the Promontory Park public space adjacent to the Hunters View housing development and Malcolm X Academy. Those recommendations were focused on healthy active living and included:

- Places to move, exercise
- Places to grow plants, fruits and vegetables
- Natural playground
- Safe pathways
- Places for adventure
- Places of refuge
- Places for creative expression and inspirational public art



2. Learned about youth leaders' vision for HOPE SF park and public space

The older teenage students from HOPE SF Youth Leadership Academy presented their ideas about the Promontory Park and public spaces in the Hunters View development. They generated designs around the themes of healthy living, and sustainable building practices. They shared their ideas for park benches around the theme of "Healthy Sit-uation"



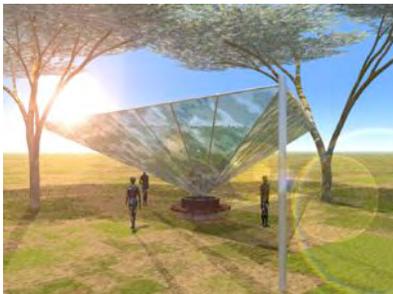
3. Visited the Eco Center at Heron's Head Park in Bay View

The is the first environmental justice education facility in the Bay Area and San Francisco's first 100% "off-grid" building, modeling solar power and alternative wastewater technologies. Nearly every feature of this 1,500-square-foot facility is innovative and used to educate the public about renewable energy, pollution and greenhouse gas reduction, wastewater treatment, "green" building materials, and the green economy.



4. Studied sustainable building strategies

Mr. Reavis and Mr. Taylor gave us two excellent slide shows illustrating traditional ecological building practices in various communities throughout the world—including Southeast Asia (Thailand), Africa (Ethiopia), North America (Oakland!) and South America (Peru). During the interactive presentations, we discussed illustrative example of green strategies such as solar heating, wind capture, and water conservation.



5. Built scale models of our ideas

Each student constructed an "ecologically sustainable house". Built at a 1" = 1' scale, each small clubhouse included a series of eco-effective interventions to capture the energy of the wind and sun; to harvest and conserve rainwater; and to use earth and plants as both food and building insulation. Each building also included super-graphics featuring fresh, nutritious fruit and vegetables. The building criteria were: accessible, inclusive, sustainable, maintainable, encourage active living and eating nutritional foods.



6. Presented our recommendations in public forums

Oral presentation was a key theme throughout the project. Each week four students presented their project to the group. Using the oral presentation rubric, the other students gave each speaker feedback about their speaking skills: eye contact, projection, organization, etc. Students also presented the work in docent format at the Family Health Faire at Malcolm X Academy. The students invited family, friends, and representatives from the City, the HOPE SF development firm, UC Berkeley and the school to come to a culminating presentation, where they exhibited their models and spoke about the design process.

Our recommendations included:

- Solar Panels
- Windmills
- Green Roofs
- Green Walls
- Water catchment
- Water retention tanks
- Build out of all recycled materials
- Integrated curtain wall systems
- Operable windows



Adult Allies

During the 2011 Architecture Think Tank residency the students worked with architects from the San Francisco Chapter of the National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA) and the Center for Cities & Schools. Their dedicated teacher, **Mr. Moore**, and their amazing Principal **Ms. Cooley** supported the students every day. We were also joined by teacher emeritus and volunteer **Ms. Gorman**.

Shirl Buss, CC&S

For more than 20 years, Ms. Buss has worked with children and adults on design and construction projects, with a specialty in consensus-based participatory design. As an educator and researcher, Buss' work focuses on children, youth and the urban built environment. The Center for Cities & Schools promotes high quality education as an essential component of urban and metropolitan vitality.

Katherine Williams, NOMA

Ms. Williams is an architect, mom, project manager, community do-gooder, and native of Virginia, who loves books, sharing time with friends and family, and listening to others' stories. A graduate of Howard University, she currently works on community development projects at the Housing Community Development Corporation. She writes online at katherinerw.com

Prescott Reavis, NOMA

Mr. Reavis has spent the majority of his career focusing on the programming, planning, managing, designing and the construction of buildings, which enable healing, learning and discovery, throughout the country. Mr. Reavis' latest endeavors are the design and planning of the Energy Center for the University of California's San Francisco Medical Center at Mission Bay with Anshen+Allen. Prescott is the Corporate Internship Coordinator for Anshen+Allen.

Rommel Taylor, NOMA

Mr. Taylor has a degree in Architecture from California College of the Arts. His professional design work has focused on nonprofit organizations, public and single-family homes, and public work. In his art he explores the aesthetic, social, and narrative potential of public and private spaces. He is passionate about exposing young people to architecture, art, and design. He works for the San Francisco Department of Public Works, Bureau of Architecture.



Ms. Cooley



Ms. Buss



Mr. Taylor



Ms. Gorman



Mr. Moore



Ms. Williams



Mr. Reavis

Thank You!!



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