

Center Highlights 2006–2007

CC&S ENTERS NEXT PHASE

Now in our third year, UC Berkeley's Center for Cities & Schools moves into our next phase of work, continuing our mission to promote high quality education as an essential component of urban and metropolitan vitality. During our inaugural two years, the Center built local, regional, and national partnerships with educational and municipal leaders; produced research to support their work; and launched new initiatives focused on systems change.

This past year, the Center raised \$1.3 million, including \$450,000 from the Walter and Elise Haas Fund and \$400,000 from the Stuart Foundation, to support the development of our vision and mission for the next three years.

Because cities and schools are both spaces where learning occurs, we are creating new paradigms to describe the interconnections between quality educational environments and healthy, vibrant cities. The Center provides a laboratory for understanding and engaging schools in urban revitalization while provoking new thinking about how city and metropolitan policy and collaboration can support educational processes. Our next phase of work builds off these beliefs as we deepen our own understanding and work with local practitioners on these important and complex issues.



The needs and realities of students — who cross multiple physical, social, and institutional spaces each day — drive our work and vision/theory of change.

COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE

“PLUS” Leadership Initiative

This year, CC&S is launching the PLUS (Planning and Learning United for Systems change) Leadership Initiative in collaboration with UCB's Graduate School of Education and Haas Business School. To ensure a more coherent and coordinated pathway for young people to be engaged, both as students and as citizens, the PLUS Leadership Initiative provides space for civic and educational leaders to further develop and expand collaborative initiatives. PLUS teams, comprised of city, county, CBO, and school stakeholders, are showcasing selected ongoing projects and best practices from five cities in the Bay Area region: Oakland, San Francisco, San Pablo/Richmond/West Contra Costa, Berkeley, and Emeryville.

Together in a series of interactive, hands-on institutes, educators, and civic leaders are building relationships, tools, and systems for collaboration, with a focus on Housing and Neighborhoods, Civic Partnerships, and Infrastructure/Facilities. This 3-year initiative includes both pre-professional and professional leadership development, including curricular modules for future educational leaders.

Planners Network Conference 2007 New Orleans

Students from the Y-PLAN will be meeting in a mini-conference along with students from the Academy of Urban Planning, Brooklyn, NY and the Walker High School in New Orleans, LA starting May 29th. They will conduct a participatory workshop entitled “Youth Participation in Planning” at the Planners Network Annual Conference.

Social Enterprises for Learning (SEFL) Projects

As students and teachers in San Francisco Unified School District continue to adapt and refine this project based learning model, educators are exploring how to integrate the SEFL program into Small Learning Communities and Career Academies across the country.

EDUCATION

Building Schools, Building Communities: The Role of State Policy in California Forum

This invitational forum is being presented in partnership with the American Architectural Foundation (AAF) Great Schools by Design effort in June 2007. It will focus on California, which leads the nation in public school construction funding, passing more than \$28 billion in state bonds over the past 5 years.

The forum will create an opportunity to examine and realign school construction and renovation policies and practices with innovative thinking about design, planning, and educational reform efforts. Additionally, this forum serves as a model to inform other states' policy and practice on school facilities development, especially on the relationship between schools and the communities they serve.

Y-PLAN (Youth-Plan, Learn, Act, Now) 2007

The Y-PLAN is a national model for youth civic engagement in city planning that uses space slated for urban redevelopment as a catalyst for community revitalization and educational reform. This course and related projects partners UCB mentors, high school students, government agencies, private interests, and other community members who work together on a real-world planning problem. There are three central conditions on which the success of the Y-PLAN rests:

- authentic problems engage diverse stakeholders and foster a "community of practice"
- adult and youth partners share decision-making
- projects build sustainable individual and institutional success.



This year's Y-PLAN with UC Berkeley and Emery Secondary School students focuses on Assemblywoman Loni Hancock's vision of turning San Pablo Avenue, the East Bay's first street, into a vibrant transit route through family-friendly neighborhoods.

RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS

Growth and Disparity: A Decade of U.S. Public School Construction

CC&S is a research partner in the national BEST (Building Educational Success Together) collaborative, funded by the Ford Foundation. Our new research report analyzes patterns of school facility spending across the US. Senator Barack Obama stated that "BEST has illustrated disparities in provision of funds for school construction, and provided valuable policy suggestions that should receive serious attention" (2006). Available at <http://citiesandschools.berkeley.edu>.

Engaging Schools in Urban Revitalization: The Y-PLAN (Youth – Plan, Learn, Act, Now!)

An article on the theory and practice behind the Y-PLAN in the Journal of Planning Education and Research (July 2007).

Promising Practices to Improve Schools and Communities

A national report on collaborative and comprehensive education reform efforts (2007) with support from the Fannie Mae Foundation.

Understanding the Housing-Schools Nexus: Integrating housing and educational policy and practice to improve neighborhoods and schools

Forthcoming book chapter published by the National Fair Housing Alliance on housing discrimination in the U.S. (2007).

Public Schools as Public Infrastructure: Roles for Planning Researchers

Article in the Journal of Planning Education and Research (Fall 2006).

LOOKING AHEAD . . .

CC&S' future research agenda emanates from our collaborative practice and is driven by the needs and interests of our inspiring partners. With the PLUS Leadership Initiative we will study the power, potential, and impact of cross-sector partnerships; for the Y-PLAN we will study youth engagement in civic planning; with BEST and other partners, we will continue our analysis of school facilities and its effect on schools and local communities.

