

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT



Y-PLAN Youth-Plan, Learn, Act, Now

The Oakland Planning Department is partnering with UC Berkeley's Y-PLAN (Youth-Plan, Learn, Act, Now!), Oakland Unified School District's civic engagement program, and local youth-serving organizations to involve Oakland's youth in shaping a Downtown that they want to live, study, work and play in.

Why Youth?

Oakland's youth are active participants in the community and its public sphere. Despite their lack of representation in government and traditional civic processes, young people take advantage of City services, use Downtown's streets and parks, create art that reflects and challenges Oakland's culture, consume local goods and services, are employed by Oakland's businesses and are apprenticing to become the leaders of Oakland tomorrow. The Downtown Specific Plan needs their expertise in youth issues and their fresh perspectives and solutions to community planning challenges.

Components

Y-PLAN High School Intensive

Four classes, at Skyline and MetWest High Schools, are acting as consultants to the City of Oakland on the Downtown Specific Plan following the Y-PLAN. Their projects, mentored by UC Berkeley students, will include youth-driven asset maps, place stories, community surveys or interviews, policy memos with recommendations for the plan, and public presentations to City staff, elected officials and other stakeholders.

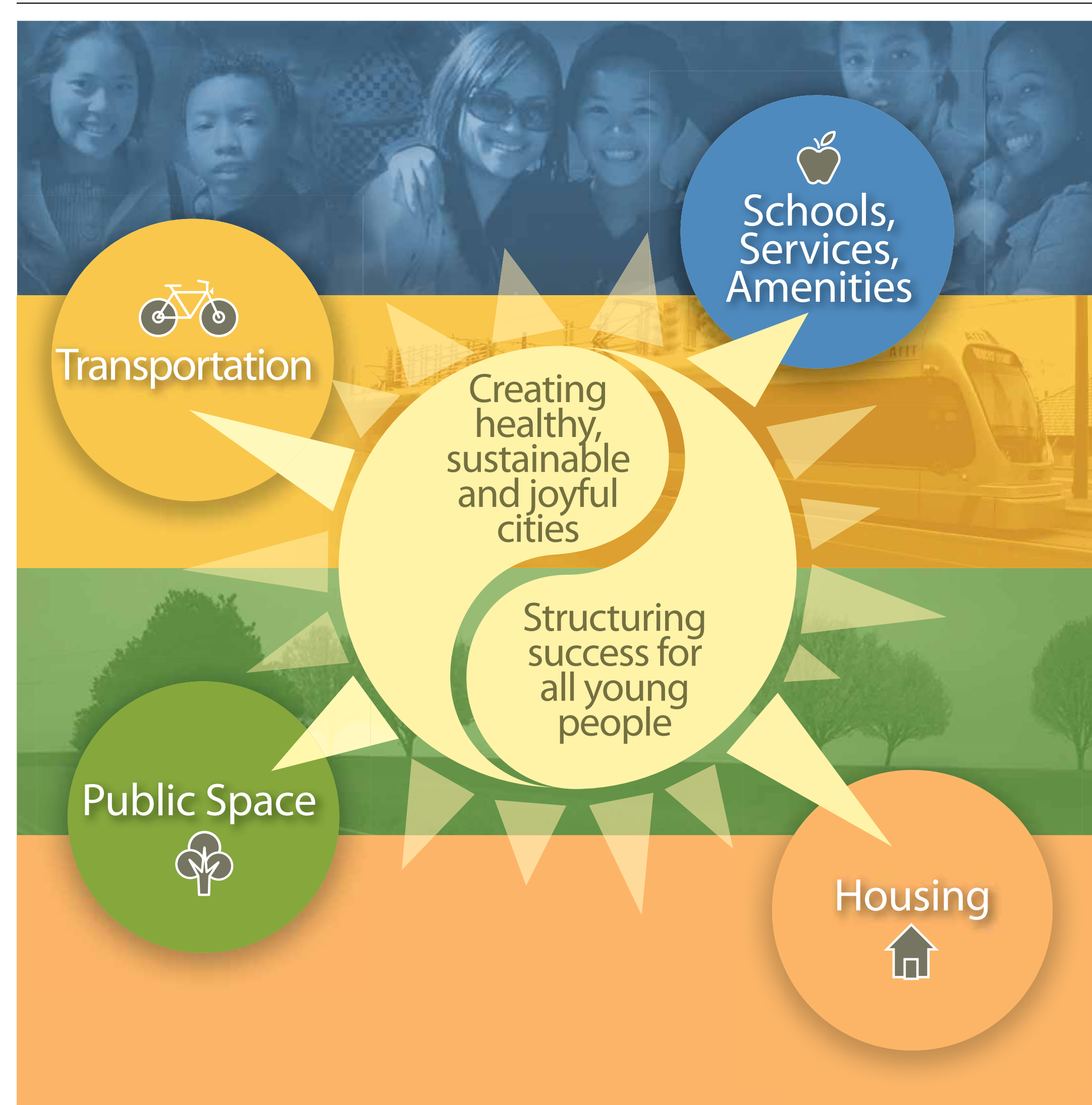
Youth Projects in Schools and Community

Youth organizations and other schools will engage their youth in more free form ways that fit their organizations' missions. Depending on the skills they want to emphasize building, projects might include a mobile app that helps youth better access services, entertainment and public space downtown, art (place stories, oral histories, family histories, photography, poetry, etc.) that represents the diversity and history of Downtown culture and the way Oakland's youth experience it, a proposal for a youth watchdog group to make sure these ideas are implemented, a branding strategy to reflect Downtown's unique culture and acculturate newcomers into the historic vibe of the city, or a youth-friendly urban redesign of Downtown.

Youth Summit

Students around the city will be working this spring on these projects to put their fingerprints on the Downtown Specific Plan. The youth summit will be an opportunity partway through this process for young people to meet one another, share what they've learned so far, exchange ideas, give feedback to the City and hear from other young people who have taken action and changed their neighborhoods.

All middle school through college-aged youth in Oakland are invited, whether they've been participating in the longer-term projects or not. Invitees include classes, recreational groups, after-school programs, school leadership and community service clubs.



Y-PLAN Project Elements

Invited and Participating Schools & Organizations

- 67 Sueños
- BAY Peace: Better Alternatives for Youth
- Chinatown Youth Center Initiative
- CiviCorps
- CURYJ (Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice)
- East Bay Asian Youth Center (EBAYC)
- East Oakland Youth Development Center
- Envision Academy
- First Place for Youth
- Girls, Inc.
- Hack the Hood
- I-SEED
- MetWest High School
- Movement Generation
- Movement Strategy Center
- Oakland School for the Arts
- Oakland Kids First
- PUEBLO (Youth Greening Oakland, Highway to Work)
- Queno Labs STEM education/Hackathon Academy
- Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth
- Rose Foundation
- Skyline High School
- United Roots - Youth Impact Hub
- Urban Peace Movement
- Urban Strategies Council (Opportunity Youth Group)
- West Oakland Educators Round Table
- Yes We Code
- Youth Commission
- Youth First / Scotlan Youth & Family Center
- Youth Impact Hub
- Youth Radio
- Youth SEED (social entrepreneurship) - Youth Impact Hub
- Youth Speaks
- Youth Together

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

Y-PLAN is the Center for Cities + Schools' (CC+S) award-winning educational strategy to engage young people and schools in city planning and policy making. Y-PLAN builds students' knowledge and skills for college, career, and citizenship while creating healthy, sustainable, and joyful communities. The process involves five steps of inquiry, problem-solving and reflection that introduce students to planning and more generally to project management, and can be completed over the course of one semester or one hour.

