

Y-PLAN “Double Bottom Line”

Summary of Emerging Outcomes for Students & Communities

Y-PLAN is a classroom-based educational strategy that uses the community as a text for core learning to authentically engage young people in city planning and policy making. Grounded in over a decade of research, Y-PLAN’s 5-step solution-oriented methodology demonstrates a “double bottom line” of positive outcomes for students and communities, summarized below.



Community Outcomes: *Building Healthy, Sustainable and Joyful Communities*

Y-PLAN is a reciprocal strategy that builds the capacity of young people to effectively contribute youth-driven data and insight, and of civic leaders to value and use youth insight to create better plans, policies, and more healthy, sustainable, and joyful places for everyone.

Participants: Y-PLAN changes the way professionals and civic leaders think	Process: Y-PLAN changes the process of city planning and policy making	Place + Policy: Y-PLAN changes the way places are planned, designed, and built
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change in attitudes and perceptions of young people as legitimate community contributors Challenges assumptions, and disrupts negative stereotypes of marginalized young people Develop an appreciation and ability to use youth insight as important “local knowledge” to inform decisions Re-inspired about the potential and value of diverse, “fresh,” community-wide engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New strategy for sustained, informed, solution-oriented community engagement Youth-driven participation diversifies the community engagement process, bringing low-income parents and other community members of color to the planning and policy-making table Catalyst for cross-sector collaboration. Mutually beneficial partnerships are developed as cities and schools recognize their “shared clients” - schools are recognized as key institutions for city planning and development Trust is built between traditionally disenfranchised or marginalized communities and civic institutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth-driven data and insight highlights critical community issues and moves the needle on policy discussion Plans and design of the built environment incorporate youth insight, considering diverse users of space Planning <i>with</i> and designing space <i>for</i> young people inculcates sense of ownership, and stewardship, and use of space, resulting in savings on maintenance costs “Simple yet powerful” insight results in “good to great” improvements in the built environment that can be implemented on a small budget and brief time span



Student Outcomes: College, Career, and Community Readiness*

The Y-PLAN strategy builds the capacity of young people to effectively contribute youth-driven data and insight to the planning and policy-making process, focuses on core learning and the development of youth voice, leadership and career and college readiness skills. Key student outcomes:

Collaborators

- Work with peers to recognize individual and group strengths, delegate roles, set clear goals and deadlines to produce a high quality project for a real client, on a real deadline
- Participate in collaborative discussions with diverse partners and issues - responding thoughtfully to diverse perspectives, summarizing points of agreement and disagreement, and justifying views with evidence and reasoning
- Use technology, including the internet, to collaborate with others

Community Contributors

- Increase civic efficacy, and “student voice,” to influence their own learning and communities
- Work with peers promote civil, democratic discussions and decision-making
- Transfer and apply the Y-PLAN method of community development to additional contexts and issues to affect positive community and school change
- Work-based learning provides relevant skills and opportunities in preparation for internship and employment

Critical Thinkers and Problem Solvers

- Conduct community research to identify and analyze a critical community issue, and support recommendations with logical reasoning, textual evidence from primary and secondary sources such as plans, historical documents, and youth-driven data such as mapping, interviews, and surveys.
- Distinguish between fact and opinion, and evaluate author/speaker’s point of view and use of evidence
- Link critical reflection to action, and move from micro to macro analysis of critical community issues of equity and opportunity as they develop proposals for change

Creators, Designers and Innovators

- Construct explanations and design evidence-based solutions to a real community problem
- Create maps and illustrations to spatially represent observations and findings
- Use digital media (text, graphics, audio, visual, interactive) in presentations to add interest and help the audience understand findings, reasoning, and evidence

Communicators

- Build reciprocal communication skills, learning to listen and incorporate diverse opinions while building capacity and confidence to advocate their own ideas and opinions
- Develop public speaking and presentation skills, presenting information, findings, and evidence clearly and logically so that listeners can follow the line of reasoning
- Accurately apply a range of academic and domain-specific vocabulary in verbal presentations, and through informative, argumentative, and explanatory writing

*Y-PLAN is designed to support the attainment of Common Core and other aligned frameworks including 21st Century Skills.