



2010 HOPE SF Youth Leadership Academy Program Description

Purpose

The HOPE SF Youth Leadership Academy (the “Academy”) actively involves youth who live in public housing in the revitalization process and real planning decisions that will impact their communities. It is a signature program of the HOPE SF Initiative, which seeks to transform San Francisco’s most distressed public housing sites into vibrant, thriving communities. Every public housing unit will be rebuilt within mixed-income developments that include new affordable and market-rate homes, as well as parks and other public amenities for residents and neighbors alike.

Approach and Activities

The Academy is an after school enrichment and leadership program for youth 14 – 16 who are enrolled in school or a GED program. The Academy matches 5 youth with the adults responsible for the revitalization process in each of the first four HOPE SF sites in San Francisco (Hunters View, Potrero, Sunnydale, and Westside Courts).

Committing 10 hours per month, the youth and adults will work together in neighborhood-based teams to tackle real planning issues:

- How should a park be designed?
- What programs should be offered at the community center?
- How do we engage more youth in helping us make the right choices in this process?

Once a month, youth and adults from all four sites will come together in “Academy Saturdays” to do citywide learning, team building, and learn about community development career opportunities. Modeled after a successful program for adult residents, youth interns will gain valuable leadership skills, be exposed to community development as a career, and influence the planning decisions of their community, all while earning a stipend. Interns will attend workshops, advise the development teams and the Housing Authority of community needs. Interns will receive a stipend of up to \$75.00 per month for successful participation.



Aligned with the school year, the Academy intends to offer three sessions in 2010. These are:

- **Spring Session: Learning and Mapping from 3/1 – 6/19.** Through a series of activities and events, participants will gain knowledge about HOPE SF and community development generally; map assets in their community; and engage other youth in addressing a key site based question or issue identified by the development teams. The Spring Session will culminate in a 1.5 day HOPE SF SUMMIT of participating youth and adult allies hosted at UC Berkeley by the Center for Cities & Schools. The Summit will offer a range of youth only, adult only, and blended sessions to build skills and result in site based youth action plans for each HOPE SF development. The Summit will culminate in presentation of action plans to SFHA and HOPE SF leaders; and the creation of a road map for future youth engagement. The planned capacity for the Summit is 40 youth. This includes all 20 interns from the Spring Semester and up to an additional 20 youth who be may be identified through the activities of the Spring session.
- **Summer Session: Into Action 6/20 – 8/10.** The Academy will grow significantly in the summer when many youth have more time available for enrichment and employment. The summer session will afford internship opportunities for up to 10 youth per site able to commit 10 hours a month to Academy Activities. In addition, through the Academy, development teams will select 2 new, part time youth employees to assist with the revitalization process. The combined team of interns and employees will be focused on successful implementation of neighborhood action plans created in the Spring Session.
- **Fall Session: Our Community Tomorrow – 9/13 – 12/7.** The Academy will reconvene for a fall session for both continuing and new interns. The fall semester will dig deeper into the revitalization process in their own community and participants will gain knowledge about career paths and leaders in the community development field, engaging in a forward looking planning question with development teams, and engage a larger group of youth in addressing a key site based question.



Additional phases of the Academy will be planned based on the success of the first 12 months. Growth areas include creation of Academy internships with city agencies and the professional firms contracted in the revitalization process.

Goals & Objectives

The overall goal of the Academy is to improve the quality of the HOPE SF revitalization plans and process through involving youth.

- Increase the number of youth knowledgeable and informed about the HOPE SF revitalization plans and process in their communities.
- Increase the number of youth participating in master planning, community facilities planning and/or community revitalization process and events.
- Increase opportunities for youth to learn about careers in community development and urban planning and to hold meaningful leadership roles in their communities.
- Increase youth's workforce abilities to include developing strong communication and presentation skills.

To ensure the Academy meets its objectives, the program is overseen by a Steering Committee with diverse representatives including youth, developers, funders and program partners.

Partners

The impetus for the Academy came from the HOPE SF initiative leaders – the Mayor's Office of Housing and the San Francisco Housing Authority – who desired to create a strong youth component for their important initiative. San Francisco's Department of Children, Youth & Their Families is a lead funder of the program through the Youth Empowerment Fund. Additional funders and partners include: Citibank Foundation, Enterprise Community Partners, Inc., Interagency Council, Japanese Community Youth Council, the San Francisco Youth Commission, UC Berkeley's Center for Cities & Schools, and each of the participating development teams including: Bridge Housing Corporation, EM Johnson Interest, Mercy Housing California, and The John Stewart Company.



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Learn More

To learn more about the HOPE SF Youth Leadership Academy please contact Maurita Dunphy, Program Coordinator: maurita.dunphy@sfgov.org or 415-701-5563. Applications are available on line at: <http://www.dcyf.org/> and are due February 22nd, 2010 by 5pm.