Our decade downtown.

December 2003 was a month of milestones for City High School. We held our first information session for interested families at the long-gone Muse building on 6th Street. We enrolled our first student for the 2004-2005 school year. And, we started settling into our new home – the historic Cele Peterson building on Pennington Street – with the ink still drying on the lease.

Ten years later, as 2013 draws to a close, we are surrounded by the routines of an established school wrapping up a semester of learning: students are busy with projects, exams, portfolios, and showcases. Beneath the daily hustle and bustle though are subtle signs of what the next decade will bring. No doubt we will look back and remember December 2013 as another month of milestones.

City High board members and staff gathered after school one afternoon recently to raise a glass (of sparkling cider, of course) and celebrate a major organizational accomplishment: building ownership!
Senior internships embed learning in sites around town.

City High Interns are all over Tucson this year, serving as interns in a wide variety of settings. Some are working with young children, helping them in class on their projects or teaching them the finer points of play. Others are working with their peers, directing them in drama productions, hanging out in cool new after-school lounges, or facilitating youth therapy sessions. Whatever the internship, a common experience runs throughout: the seniors are all working with incredible mentors, learning work-place skills that will help them succeed in college and in their careers.

Seniors reflect on the capstone of their City High experience.

Laken Vogel / Davis Elementary School
I am a classroom helper at Davis Elementary. The best part of my internship is learning Spanish. But, I’m also constantly surprised by these little kids! They can speak so well and catch on so fast, even if this is their first year of bilingual schooling. I never thought I’d love kids as much as I do. Watching them improve makes me smile! My mentor is first grade teacher Julian Barcelo. He encourages me so much. To have someone believe in you and want you to succeed, and remind you of it every time you see them, is very motivating.

Breeze Cantua / TEDxTucson
Interning at TEDxTucson has been a great experience. Switching back and forth from the two locations of Connect Beta and the Rialto, I’ve learned how to behave in a professional setting and assume different roles. My work has included stage design, research, establishing new community connections, and scouting out locations. I’ve taken the initiative to accomplish what needs to be done and learned the importance of being on time and meeting deadlines. I’m grateful for being a part of something as big as TED. I look at my mentor, Stephanie Bermudez, as a role model. She has multiple jobs, volunteers, and is a single mom, and she always keeps moving forward. I’d like to be like her one day.
Kyle Wilford / Xerocraft
Xerocraft is one of the hacker spaces downtown, where people come to learn new skills and work on whatever projects they want to. When I get to Xerocraft, I check the task list to see what I can help with, anything from sweeping floors to cutting stair handrails so they are up to fire code. When that’s done, I have time to work on my own projects. I’ve learned how to make and print 3D models using the Ultimaker, and how to weld material using a laser table. My mentor Josh Banno is funny and smart. We talk about ways I can do something better or who I can ask to help me with my next project.

Roberto Rojo / City HS IT Department
I help IT Director Mike Moore make sure everything is updated and ready for teachers. One key thing I am learning is that there are many approaches to troubleshooting a problem, be it hardware or software. When I enter a situation and don’t know what to fix or what part needs attention, remembering similar situations I’ve been in gives me a jump-start on finding a solution. I know my mentor is influencing me no matter what type of career I go into. He never complains or says he’ll get to it another day—no! He wants to make sure that everyone has the working technology they need every day.

Dakota Hall / Playformance
My internship is at Playformance where work is play. I coach the kids, and I learn aspects of the business, like how to treat employees. The coolest thing about my mentor Kevin [Nichols] is the way he communicates with the kids. He talks to them in their own language, on their level. He told me that to be a good coach, I need to look at the kids as my own and make them the center of my world - that, and have fun!

Sierra Lindsay / City HS Drama Department
I am interning in the City High Drama Department, and am directing and producing our winter show, The Crucible. My job includes stage adaptation, casting, music, and the overall role of being a flexible, positive force to bring the production to show day with as few hurdles as possible. I’ve learned how to simultaneously set expectations high and low and to find the happy medium: the sweet spot for all theatre productions. My mentor, Tom Moore, always makes time for me. He trusts me wholeheartedly to tackle issues to the best of my abilities.

Learn more: cityhighschool.org/community/internships

Since the first senior class of 2007, over 230 City High interns have worked in the Tucson community.
Our decade downtown - continued from page 1.

After three years of behind-the-scenes efforts, City High School is now the proud owner of two buildings on Pennington Street – the original Cele Peterson building where the school resides and the neighboring building to the west.

Next door in the long boarded-up building, affectionately known as “Shoe City,” workers are carefully stripping down the interior of the storefront display cases, preparing for a full façade renovation. The construction project is happening thanks to a façade renovation grant from the Downtown Tucson Partnership and matching funds from the Southwestern Foundation and other supporters. Soon the front of the building will have a new look, inspired by its original incarnation as Howard & Stofft Stationers in the 1940s.

Meanwhile, there are other changes afoot. Our partner school Paulo Freire Freedom School (PFFS) is expanding their highly successful middle school program to create a second site downtown – on the City High campus! Long in the works, this development is finally happening. A group of City High School and PFFS teachers meets regularly to work on curriculum design. Leaders from both schools convene each week to lead tours and to work on strategic planning and grant writing. And to remind us how real it all is, new classroom furniture and computers are starting to arrive for the middle schoolers and their teachers who will be joining us next year.

As we move into our second decade, we know that City High School is here to stay – in downtown Tucson where we’ve always been – connecting students and their families to the heart and history of the old pueblo and contributing to the momentum to make the city center livable, viable, bustling, and beautiful.

Carrie Brennan, Executive Director/Principal & City High School Co-Founder

Celebrate with us on Saturday, February 8.
Come by for an Open House between 3-7pm during 2nd Saturdays Downtown.
Check out the renovated façade and lighted sign.
Welcome Paulo Freire Freedom School to downtown.
Raise a toast to City High’s 10th!
CARRIE Brennan … We are still a long way away from renovating the inside of our second building, but the dreaming that we are doing about what the space could be one day is really inspiring and energizing. I hope to see that to fruition! Another thing I’m thinking about is all of our alumni. The oldest classes will be moving into their late 20s and early 30s during the school’s next decade. I want them to be a part of the City High community.

BRETT Goble … I am excited that City High School is playing a part in the latest phase of Tucson’s downtown revival. There is so much momentum right now. I’m also looking forward to City High’s deepening collaboration with Paulo Freire Freedom School staff and students. Looking back, one thing I am especially proud of is the amazing staff we have brought together over the years. We have an incredibly dedicated, creative, and compassionate group of educators who know their craft.

EVE Rifkin … The class of 2010 is in their final year of university this year. There are many 1st generation college students in that group. We gave them the challenges and supports they needed to get into college – and to stay the course – and I’m looking forward to their graduation next year. I am also looking forward to a very concrete milestone in year 10: the piles of college acceptance letters that will be arriving for our current seniors this spring!
The Outreach Center is an extension of our school and reflects our commitment to adult learning. It is part of the mission of our nonprofit organization to share what we know about teaching and learning with a larger audience of educators and others in the community; and to engage in the local, regional, and national conversations about how we can make our schools better for all children.

Recent focus on Systems Thinking. City High teachers have been working to integrate Systems Thinking into the curriculum since 2011. Systems Thinking is an approach to learning that helps students hone their critical thinking skills, using visual tools to facilitate problem solving. It was inspired by the work of Peter Senge, an MIT professor and author of The Fifth Discipline. The Outreach Center has hosted numerous visitors to City High School, including Mr. Senge himself, who want to observe how students use Systems Tools in their classes.

Presenting at Camp Snowball. For the past two summers, City High School has participated in the annual international conference hosted by Systems Thinking in Schools (watersfoundation.org) and SoEd Partnership (soledpartnership.org) that brings together educators, students, and business and community leaders in a week-long “camp” experience. The goal of Camp Snowball: to build capacity for schools to innovate and learn in the 21st century. This past summer Brett Goble traveled to North Carolina to feature the work of students using Systems Thinking to help them understand and evaluate complex, non-fiction texts, a key component of the new Common Core standards.

Spring Symposium 2013 – Creating Sustainable Learning Communities. Our own annual conference – the Spring Symposium – took place at City High School this year and featured Joe Brooks of the Community Works Institute as our keynote speaker and co-sponsor. Participants from around the state gathered to share strategies on how to bring more place-based education and service learning experiences into our classrooms, and, ultimately, how to design our schools to become more sustainable learning communities.

Join us. The Outreach Center will be busy in 2014! All are invited to upcoming events: Student-Led Conference Workshop January 9, Pennington Street Block Party April 11, Spring Symposium April 18, Gateway Workshop April 25, the CFG Coaches Institute in June. And looking ahead … we will co-host the School Reform Initiative’s annual Winter Meeting in Tucson, January 14-17, 2015!

Learn more: cityhighschool.org/tssp-outreach
Students take their learning beyond the classroom every year at City High School thanks to funds raised during our annual campaign. Help create these life-changing experiences. Direct your dollars straight to the programs you think matter most.

**Tax Credit FAQs** [for AZ Residents]

**Q:** Can I take advantage of the public school tax credit and the private school tax credit?

**A:** Yes. They are two different credits and 1 taxpayer can take advantage of both.

**Q:** Can I split my tax credit between two schools?

**A:** Yes. For example, an individual could give $100 to 2 different public schools.

**Q:** Can I give more than the tax credit amount to City High for the annual campaign?

**A:** You bet! We have donors who give over the $400 maximum each year, designating a portion as a tax credit and the remainder as a normal tax-deductible gift.

To give online, visit cityhighschool.org/support/tax-credit.
Why City High?

“For my senior year at City High, I am interning at MOCA, the Museum of Contemporary Art. I participate in lectures revolving around questions such as “Why Art?” and “Why are art museums important?” I also coordinate Next Minor Mutiny, a lounge where teens can hang out and make art or do homework. I am learning how a museum runs smoothly, why art is important to a community and to humanity as a whole, and how to express myself through any medium. My mentor, Liz Burke, is amazing at what she does. She is also a working artist, so I have regular opportunities to talk with her about art as a viewer and as a creator. It doesn’t get any better than this.”

12th Grader Oriah Lopez