Living the arts.

City High School Mission: We strive to be a community of learners in which all members care about one another and use their minds well. We engage with challenging academics and the unique resources of our city and region in order to become active citizens and responsible stewards of our world.

While the word “art” does not appear in our mission statement, it is certainly one way we live our mission every day. The arts bring us together as a community. The arts are integrated into all academic subjects. The arts nurture in us a deeper sense of place and appreciation for the city we live in. To be a student at City High School is to be an artist.

The performing arts and visual arts are everywhere – in our weekly assembly, on our walls, in our curriculum, on stage, on the airwaves, in our storefront windows, at our annual block party. And the mediums are many: poetry, song, dance, spoken word, culinary, radio,
City High School & Paulo Freire Freedom School expand and connect our innovative programs – and create a campus to match.

City High School continues to deepen its partnership with Paulo Freire Freedom School (PFFS), a middle school with two sites in the heart of Tucson: one at the Historic Y on University Avenue and the other downtown, housed at City High School, as part of our growing “CITY campus.”

Both City High School and PFFS are known for their success in providing educational programs that feature:

1. Environments where young people are known as individuals, cared for, happy, and held to high expectations.
2. Project-based learning with real world connections, inspiring students to engage actively with material and think deeply.
3. Field experiences that allow students to learn from local experts and mentors.

The unique learning model of our schools requires a unique learning space that is flexible and multifunctional, adapting to the needs of students and staff on any given day.

**Dreaming big: CITY Innovation Lab.** We are dreaming big to renovate the old “Shoe City” building on Pennington Street to become the hub of our multi-site campus.

The building will become the CITY Innovation Lab, with plans that include: a commercial kitchen; rooftop and alley gardens; a design studio and fabrication workshop; spaces for quieter small group work; an observation deck; and, a community event space.
The plans for growing the CITY campus are not all in the future. 2014 was a busy year as we put in place a few key developments toward our vision.

**Façade renovation complete.** On February 6, we threw a party for the public to celebrate the completion of the façade renovation project for the 37 East Pennington Street building, originally built in 1941 as Howard & Stofft Stationers. Students, alumni, parents, board members, staff, and community supporters showed up for the Renovation Celebration. The day before, we proudly welcomed Mayor Rothschild; County Supervisor Richard Elias; Suzanne (Stofft) Nystrom, the daughter of the original building owner; and other community leaders to a press conference to mark the historic occasion. Long boarded up, the building has a fresh new look, with new windows, doors, and tile designed to match the original 1940s look – and a prominent lighted sign, spelling CI TY!

**New school year brings a new school!** On July 31, a new middle school opened its doors on the CITY campus, welcoming 50 6th and 7th graders as the inaugural class of Paulo Freire Freedom School–Downtown. Led by PFFS co-founder JoAnn Groh, the staff is engaging students in a fully integrated project-based curriculum.

**Happening now: Alley re-design.** Students and staff from City High School and PFFS collaborated throughout the fall semester on an exciting project with professors and students from the University of Arizona’s College of Architecture, Planning, and Landscape Architecture (CAPLA) to redesign the alley space between our Pennington Street buildings into a more livable and beautiful environment for learning, lounging, growing, eating, performing, and playing.

CAPLA students from Chris Trumble and Linda Samuels’ studio class met regularly with Efren Martinez’s sustainability class at City High throughout fall semester for design sessions. Once designs were in place, the undergrads shifted to the next hands-on component of their design-build class: the build phase! The architecture students provided most of the labor on the alley project, including demo on site and construction in the UA workshops.

Enormous thanks go to the foundations, grants, and partners that helped make these developments possible!

- Downtown Tucson Partnership
- The Southwestern Foundation for Education and Historical Preservation
- El Pueblo Integral – Teaching and Learning Collaborative
- Caylor Construction Company
- University of Arizona’s Green Fund Grant
- UA Sustainable City Project
theatre, canvas, radio, print, video – and more. This article highlights some of the ways we are exploring, learning, and showcasing the arts at City High School.

**Performing Arts.** Every Thursday our school gathers for a weekly assembly that has become an important venue to showcase student talent. Singing, poetry reading, scenes from upcoming plays, and band performances are all part of the agenda. Performing in front of an audience of 200 is no small feat, yet it is a routine part of our culture at City High School. Led by Tom Moore, the drama program had a busy year in 2014, producing three major shows – *The Crucible* in January, *Grease* in April, and *Our Town* in December – all at ZUZI! Theatre. The cast always has a packed show day, with a matinee for middle schoolers and two evening shows.

All students at City High – not just our talented actors – have been learning how to express themselves through performance this year with guest artists Paul Fisher and Rick Wamer of Arts Integration Solutions. Paul and Rick led staff workshops, giving teachers first-hand experience using their bodies to demonstrate concepts and taking the same risks students would take. The first residencies were in math and science classes, and now the collaboration has expanded to include all subjects. Students and staff are having fun and success with this very kinesthetic and creative approach to learning and demonstrating subject matter. We are also thrilled to welcome another performing arts partner this year – Lead Guitar, a program of UA Presents, is bringing classical guitar to City High School and adding a new dimension to our music program.

**Fine Arts, Media Arts, and More.** Students have many opportunities to engage with traditional two-dimensional fine art as well as multimedia design and production at City High School, with art teacher Jessica Melrose in the lead. Students in the fine arts studio are producing high-quality charcoal and pencil-and-ink drawings, prints of which are made to sell at the end of each semester. In newspaper, yearbook, and photography electives, students learn techniques of layout, design, editing and publication. The video class produces popular announcements aired weekly, documentaries about school projects, and public service announcements – including the award-winning anti-bullying campaign video “Let It Go” (featured in page 1 photo with balloons – to view the PSA, visit vimeo.com/90345618). City High students are fortunate to be able to explore their creativity in a variety of other settings as well, including the afterschool music and culinary arts workshops, the award-winning radio program, and the many hands-on arts projects woven throughout the curriculum.

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

Thank you to our arts partners and funders for 2014: 21st CCLC, AZ Commission on the Arts, Arts Integration Solutions, JP Morgan Chase, Lead Guitar, Made for Flight, MOCA, Sonoran Glass Art Academy, Tucson Museum of Art, ZUZI Theatre & more!
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 believe 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.
Sierra Lindsay  
Attending University of Arizona, majoring in creative writing with a minor in gender studies.

Sierra reports: My favorite class is Gender in Contemporary Society; it’s what made me want to pursue this topic as a minor. My advice for current City High students: Don’t take the opportunities you’re given for granted! Make good use of them and it will pay off in the long run. Some of my favorite memories are the times I was able to just hang out with my teachers and have conversations outside of the classroom.

Melissa Camacho  
Attending Pima Community College.

Melissa reports: At City High School I learned how to think for myself, and how to push my own limits and the ones that life gives us. The school also taught me innovation and vision. I think that I cannot be the best version of myself without these things. With them, I can achieve success and reach for my highest potential. My advice to current students: Never stop pushing through that wall. I’ve learned that when you stop doing that, you stop believing in yourself.

Jessina Emmert  
Attending University of Arizona.

Jessie reports: I started this semester in pre-nursing, but now I am thinking about going into teaching. I have always liked the idea of teaching but wasn’t sure what age group or subject. Now I realize I want to focus on high school students, maybe teaching English, here in the U.S. or in other countries.

Joshua Baehr  
Attending University of Arizona.

Josh reports: Time is very limited in college. Looking back, I had infinitely more time in high school than I do now, and wish I had used it to do work in the community, practice language skills, and take classes at Pima. City helped me refine my writing skills, access creativity, think critically, and consider the ‘big picture.’
Older alumni weigh in.

Andrea Maynard, Class of 2013
Attending University of Arizona, majoring in linguistics and German.
Andrea reports: I love all of my classes. I try to find something valuable in every course, even my ‘gen ed’ classes. You get as much out of college as you put in. When I think back on City, I always think fondly of the teachers. Their genuine love and support were really critical and helped me become the adult I am today. My advice: Never make decisions out of fear.

Hannah (Bell) Terpening, Class of 2010
Attending Pima Community College, majoring in graphic design.
Hannah reports: City High helped me explore and find my interests. You have to know what you want out of college before you attend or else it won’t go well. My advice for students at City is to listen to your heart and not to what others think.

Rose Earley, Class of 2013
Attending Hendrix College, majoring in religious studies with a minor in classics.
Rose reports: My advice to current students is to not take advantage of how accommodating the teachers are at City – of course, working with them is helpful, but do not use that as a security blanket. Not every professor in college will be forgiving; that said, if you are struggling, keep in contact with them. The more effort you show, the more professors will be inclined to take that extra step for you.

Andres Cano, Class of 2009
Graduated from Arizona State University. See profile, back cover.

Learn more about the college preparation program:
cityhighschool.org/academics/college

Alumni reflect back ...

Ways that CITY prepared us:
√ Time management skills
√ Writing skills
√ Internship experience
√ Diversity of the students
√ Asking good questions
√ Learning to be more open
√ So much independence our senior year
√ Realizing teachers are there to help & support us

Our best memories:
√ Overnight trips
√ My internship
√ The support of my teachers
√ Being in drama class
√ Hanging out downtown
√ The friends I made
√ Traveling to California
√ Visiting Rocky Point/CEDO
√ Junior trip to visit colleges
√ My time with the teachers
√ Bonding with my class
√ Everything! It was an amazing four years
Why City High?

City High School taught me the importance of being an engaged, informed student of the world. Place-based education allowed me to learn beyond the textbook. I came to understand how subjects like science and social studies were relevant to my learning by seeing them put into real life. One memorable example was my City Works class focused on the border; it was here, inside and outside of the classroom, where I learned about migration, social justice, and economic equity. My advice to current students: don’t stop learning, read every newspaper you come across daily, and get into the habit of volunteering.

Andres Cano, City High School Class of 2009, graduated cum laude from Arizona State University with a B.A. in Broadcast Journalism and Mass Communication. He is a political aide and community liaison to Pima County Board Supervisor Richard Elias, with whom he first worked during a City High internship.