

December 10, 2003

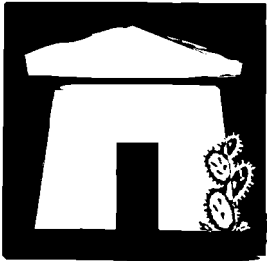
Volume 1, Issue 1

cityscape

the monthly newsletter of CITY HIGH SCHOOL

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CITY
HIGH SCHOOL



learning. working.
creating. connecting.

MISSION

City High School strives to be a community of learners in which all members use their minds well and care about one another. 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.

A New School for the Tucson Community

Welcome to the first issue of CityScape, a monthly newsletter designed to chronicle the progress of City High School as we grow from the ground up. City High School is a new charter school located in downtown Tucson that will open with ninth and tenth grades in the fall of 2004, and grow to include grades nine through twelve by 2006.

City High School started as a dream among a group of educators and other community members almost five years ago. In the past two years it has shifted from the "dream state" into a real project. The nonprofit organization, Tucson Small School Project (TSSP), was founded in May 2002 to shepherd the new school into existence. TSSP

submitted the comprehensive charter school application to the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools a year ago, the week of December 10, 2002. The Board later approved the proposal for the new school on March 10, 2003, following a presentation by two of the authors of the charter, Carrie Brennan and Eve Rifkin.

The founders of City High School are applying the best of what is happening in school reform around the country and tailoring it to the Tucson community. Their goal is to create a new educational opportunity for Tucson's teens and families: a small high school that engages, challenges, and supports all students.

New Downtown Location on Pennington Street

City High School has finalized negotiations for office and school space in an historic downtown location. On behalf of City High School and Tucson Small School Project, Carrie Brennan signed a lease on November 26 with Four Peterson, LLC for 48 East Pennington Street.

The distinctive building is best known as the original Cele Peterson dress shop. The large storefront windows and glass doors once welcomed shoppers from the bustling sidewalks into an elegant display of the latest fashions in women's

clothing. The open floor plan and downtown location are both ideal for the new school.

City High School is sharing the building with their educational partners, Voices, Inc., publishers of *110° Magazine—Tucson's Teens Tell Tucson's Stories*. Youth writers and adult mentors from the Voices program are busy working in the new space. City High School offices will move to Pennington Street this month. Come visit!

See photo on page 2.

Thank You!

Many people in the community have helped out City High School thus far. A special thanks to the following local businesses that have donated or discounted food and drink for community events.

- BROOKLYN PIZZA**
- PLAZA LIQUORS**
- ROMA IMPORTS**

Community Information Sessions for Parents and Teens

Learn about City High School at information sessions scheduled in December and January. City High School educators and board members will present the comprehensive educational program, including graduation requirements, the proposed school schedule, City Works electives, and more. The presentations are geared towards prospective families and students, and there will be plenty of time for questions from the audience.

Wednesday, December 17

5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

at MUSE - Tucson's Home for the Arts
 516 North 5th Avenue
 corner of 6th Street & 5th Avenue
 parking lot on southside of building

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**Monday, January 5**

**6:00 – 7:30 p.m.**

at Tucson-Pima Public Library  
 101 North Stone Avenue  
 parking available in garage below library, enter from Alameda



Visit City High School at our new location – 48 Pennington Street in downtown Tucson.

Check out our school website:

[cityhighschool.org](http://cityhighschool.org)

Thanks to graphic designer **Katherine Roberts** and web-master **Mark Taylor** for the getting the site off the ground.

**Tucson Small School Project Receives Federal Grant**

Tucson Small School Project (TSSP), the nonprofit organization overseeing the start-up efforts of City High School, received a three-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education to help fund the school planning and implementation process.

Written by TSSP's founding educators, Carrie Brennan, Brett Goble, and Eve Rifkin, the grant application described the vision for the school and outlined projected financial needs in a

five-year budget.

Last school year the grant provided seed money of \$15,000 to help fund the charter application process and establish the TSSP office. This school year the award was increased to \$150,000, providing an important revenue source for curriculum development, marketing materials, educational technology, library books, and other needs.

## ***Tucson Small School Project Board Hits the One-Year Mark, Looks to Expand***

Tucson Small School Project incorporated as an Arizona nonprofit in November 2002 with three founding board members: Carrie Brennan, Brett Goble, and Eve Rifkin. The board soon expanded in order to involve more people in the community and include more perspectives and areas of expertise.

The current eight-member board, listed in the column on the right, includes public school educators, business leaders, and university professors. Board members are involved in all aspects of planning City High School. They meet monthly to discuss fiscal issues, fundraising plans, marketing strategies and enrollment process, building issues, and curriculum design.

With a strong interest in board development, TSSP held its first board retreat in early June on Mt. Lemmon. The two-day retreat, held at a board member's cabin, focused on a range of

issues including the school name, the mission statement, and the planning timeline for the 2003-2004 school year.

As we enter our second year as an organization and the start date for City High School gets closer, Tucson Small School Project is looking to expand its board. We need individuals with a variety of skills and perspectives. Perhaps you might be interested.

- ❖ *Do you have a commitment to the young people of Tucson?*
- ❖ *Could you bring a perspective that reflects the diversity of our community?*
- ❖ *Do you have experience in marketing, fundraising, working in the city or county, board leadership, legal issues?*
- ❖ *Are you interested in helping to guide a new school in its early stages?*

If you or someone you know might be interested in joining the TSSP board, please contact Carrie Brennan, 250-5201.

### TSSP BOARD

Carrie Brennan

Brett Goble

Tom Groh

Anne-Marie Hall

Nancy Linnon

Ann Modica

Ted Ranney

Eve Rifkin

## ***Curriculum Design Meetings Bring Together Educators***

City High School has begun holding curriculum design meetings to share our work and to get input from others. A diverse group of 15 educators from the Tucson area joined us in our efforts to focus on place-based learning and habits of heart and mind at meetings this fall.

City High School's curriculum design team represents a broad cross section of disciplinary strengths and a wide variety of educational experiences. The team includes community educators from Voices, Inc.; teachers from a range of educational institutions; City High School board members and founding faculty; and students currently enrolled in local public high schools and the University of Arizona.

The first meeting on November 6<sup>th</sup> focused on sharing the school's educational program, philosophy, and mission statement with the group. Several

important questions were posed regarding how to motivate all kids, the relationship between the school's core curriculum and its unique CityWorks program, and the role of arts in the program, to name a few. All of these questions served to inspire further discussion and planning among the City High School faculty.

Meeting #2 allowed City High School to share new insights regarding issues raised at the first meeting and continued sharing and planning with a particular emphasis on habits of heart and mind. This dialogue was inspired by several models of these habits including Ted Sizer's original list from Horace's School, as well as current lists of habits from Wildwood School in Los Angeles, Frances Parker School in Massachusetts, and Central Park East Secondary School in New York City.

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*HABITS of HEART & MIND  
at Wildwood School  
in Los Angeles*

*habit of perspective  
habit of evidence  
habit of connection  
habit of convention  
habit of collaboration  
habit of service  
habit of ethical behavior*

*[www.wildwood.org](http://www.wildwood.org)*

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## LOCATION:

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## WEBSITE:

[www.cityhighschool.org](http://www.cityhighschool.org).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### December

- 12/1 Move to 48 East Pennington Street
- 12/3 Curriculum Design Meeting #2
- 12/9 City High School underwriting spots on KXCI begin
- 12/12-14 Booth at Fourth Avenue Street Fair
- 12/17 Community Information Session
- 12/18 December Board Meeting

### January ~ February

- 1/4 Parent Gathering
- 1/5 Community Information Session
- 1/11 TPAC Family Arts Festival
- 1/15 January Board Meeting
- 2/6 Open House @ 48 E. Pennington St.

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