

June-July, 2004
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cityscape

the monthly newsletter for City High School & Tucson Small School Project

City High School strives to be a community of learners in which all members 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.

Tucson Small School Project (TSSP) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to founding City High School and to fostering smaller, more equitable learning communities for all students. An Arizona corporation since 2002, TSSP received 501(c)3 status in March 2004.

TSSP Board of Directors

Eric Dhruv

Suzanne Dhruv

Brett Goble

Anne-Marie Hall

Nancy Linnon

Ann Modica

Leslie Cho Newman

Diana Olivares

Ted Ranney

Eve Rifkin

City High School Team Travels to San Diego

Seven faculty members attended High Tech High's annual summer institute June 20-23. The institute brings together educators from all of High Tech High network schools to share practices and learn from each other's experiences. The three days were spent on the campus of High Tech High in Point Loma, San Diego.

The institute provided a range of workshop options and City High School took full advantage. Topics covered included digital portfolios, assessing project-based learning, working with community and parents, and teaching math in a mixed-ability

classroom setting. In addition to attending sessions, City High School staff shared the school's plans to teach and develop habits of heart and mind through the advisory program.

The team came back inspired by their learning and ready for a productive summer and an exciting first year.

~ Eve Rifkin



City High School staff visit High Tech High in San Diego: hard at work planning for the upcoming school year (above); relaxing over dinner (left).

National Charter School Community Convenes

Biennial conference sponsored by U.S. Dept. of Education

On June 16 and 17, Brett Goble and Diann Bellaranti, TSSP's financial consultant, attended the National Charter Schools Conference in Miami Beach, Florida. Held every other summer, the conference connects charter schools and supporting institutions in an effort to strengthen the charter school movement and increase the number of highly effective charter schools in the U.S.

The event was an opportunity to network with other charter schools across the country. A number of

workshops focused on innovative solutions developing for facilities financing, the number one challenge for charter schools nationwide.

In October 2002, TSSP was awarded a three-year planning and implementation grant from the Department of Education's Office of Innovation and Improvement, the same office that sponsors the charter school conference. The grant helps fund key start-up costs, such as staff development and technology.

~ Brett Goble



Photos gathered and taken during the Sense of Place Institute: then and now images of Jerry's Lee Ho Market (top and bottom); patron, Alberto Amado, and owners, Jerry Lee and Lee Ho c.1935 (middle).

State Museum Sponsors “Sense of Place” Institute

In early June, City High School faculty members, Eve Rifkin, Brett Goble, Jennifer Rosenthal, and Camellia Cosgray, participated in the *Sense of Place* Teacher Institute organized by the Arizona State Museum. The institute introduced educators from a variety of schools in Tucson to place-based education focusing on how students can effectively learn from, interact with, and contribute to the local community.

Participants took part in discussions and workshops designed to educate teachers on how to plan, conduct, present, and assess ethnographic studies with students. The Institute led to some exciting curriculum planning for City High School. It also provided

connections to local and national experts on folklore and heritage projects.

As part of the institute, City High School staffers embarked on our own place-based project focusing on the historic Jerry's Lee Ho Market in Barrio Viejo. We examined how people's shopping habits have evolved and how neighborhood markets like this one have responded to cultural and economic changes over time. We searched archives at the Arizona Historical Society and interviewed former patrons of Jerry's Lee Ho Market. We also talked with those who have recently purchased the property with the hopes of restoring and developing the site for future use.

~ Jennifer Rosenthal

Place-Based Education Resources

A handful of the many local and national organizations that offer publications and model programs for educators and youth looking to strengthen the connections between school and community:

Community Works in Burlington, VT
www.vermontcommunityworks.org

Cultural Arts Resources for Teachers & Students (CARTS) in New York, NY; www.carts.org

Montana Heritage Project in St. Ignatius, MT; www.edheritage.org

The Rural School and Community Trust in Washington, DC;
www.ruraledu.org

Voices: Community Stories Past and Present in Tucson, AZ;
www.voicesinc.org

*Starting a new school is an enormous undertaking that requires the help of many hands. This month we owe a special **THANK YOU** to ...*

Mary Jo Ghory for her generous contribution of collateral to help us leverage the financing needed to fund classroom renovations (see story, next page).

Nancy Rochman for sharing a career's worth of knowledge and wisdom in human resources and management.

Kathy Williams and The Poster Service for helping to post City High School information session flyers on community bulletin boards all over Tucson.

Deron Beal and RISE for keeping an eye out for just-like-new recycled freebies, ranging from office supplies to classroom furniture.

Classroom Renovations Underway

School receives generous support from guarantors

City High School's offices on the main floor of 48 East Pennington are a bit dustier and louder these days, but the distractions are welcome ones. The demolition and construction taking place upstairs will yield seven new classrooms, two smaller meeting rooms, and teacher offices for City High School and the school's partner organization, Voices, Inc.

Yarborough Development is the general contractor overseeing the renovations and putting into place the innovative floor plan envisioned by G&F Architects. The fast-paced project is scheduled for completion in time for the school's early September start date.

The financing for the tenant improvements comes largely from a construction loan from the Bank of Tucson. Mary Jo Ghory, a local supporter of City High School, and the Washington, D.C.-based Charter Schools Development Corporation (CSDC) provided the majority of the collateral needed to leverage the loan. CSDC is a nonprofit that uses federal grant money to provide credit enhancement for charter schools.

The current construction is part of a longer-term plan as City High School and Voices grow into the historic downtown building.

~ Carrie Brennan



The top floor of 48 E. Pennington St. opens up with higher ceilings, more natural light, exposed brick, and new flooring as it transforms into classroom space for City High School and Voices.

TSSP Board Seeks Support for New School in Annual Fundraising Campaign

The start-up costs involved in launching a new high school are significant. Tucson Small School Project, the nonprofit organization that founded City High School, has been hard at work for two years writing grants to raise funds for the new school. With its first annual fundraising campaign, "Spring for Fall", we are turning to another source of support to help strengthen the success of the school's first years: the widespread network of City High School friends that has developed over the past twelve months. If each individual or family rooting for City High School's success contributes to the campaign, we'll be well on our way to meeting the campaign goal of \$50,000.

Please detach and return this form to City High School, PO Box 2608, Tucson, AZ 85702, attn: Brett Goble

_____ Yes, I want to contribute to the **Spring for Fall** fundraising campaign to support **City High School**.

Enclosed is a tax-deductible **donation** for

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$500 \$1000 other _____

_____ I would like this donation to be added to the **general budget** to help fund areas of greatest need.

OR

_____ I would like this donation to fund one or more of the following **identified area(s)** of need:

_____ state-of-the-art technology resources to support innovative teaching and learning

_____ library collection _____ classroom renovations

_____ City Works program (to cover costs such as field trips, mentoring by community partners, etc.)

Please make checks payable to Tucson Small School Project or TSSP/City High School. Tucson Small School Project (TSSP) is an Arizona nonprofit corporation with 501(c)3 tax-exempt status whose primary purpose is to start and sustain City High School. All funds donated to TSSP during this campaign are fully tax-deductible and will be used to support City High School, a public school chartered through the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools.

CITY HIGH SCHOOL



learning. working.
creating. connecting.

LOCATION:

48 E. Pennington St.
Tucson, AZ 85701

MAILING ADDRESS:

P.O. Box 2608
Tucson, Arizona 85702

PHONE:

520.623.7223

FAX:

520.624.4766

WEBSITE:

www.cityhighschool.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY

7/15 5:30-7:30 p.m. TSSP Board Meeting

7/19-7/23 Week of teacher planning

7/20 6:00-7:00 p.m. City High School Information Session for prospective students and parents

7/21 5:30-7:00 p.m. Meet the Teachers evening for all enrolled students and parents

7/27 6:00-7:00 p.m. City High School Information Session

AUGUST

8/2-8/6 Tucson-area Critical Friends Group Training

8/12 3:00-7:00 p.m. Student Registration Day #1

8/16 3:00-7:00 p.m. Student Registration Day #2

8/23-9/1 Teacher planning days

8/26 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Student Registration Day #3

8/30 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Student Registration Day #4

SEPTEMBER

9/2 School year begins for City High School students

9/2-3 Whole School Retreat

9/6 Labor Day holiday – school closed

9/7 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Classes begin at 48 E. Pennington St.

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