

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 dedicated to supporting City High School and to promoting professional development and community dialogue that foster smaller and more equitable learning communities for all students. TSSP is an Arizona nonprofit corporation with 501(c)3 status.

TSSP Board of Directors

Eric Dhruv

Suzanne Dhruv

Mary Jo Ghory

Anne-Marie Hall

Nancy Linnon

Ann Modica

Leslie Cho Newman

Diana Olivares

Ted Ranney

Students Spend Time Exploring the Real World Internships Offer Skills, Mentors and a Sense of the Future

A number of City High School students kept busy this summer trying their hand at new skills and checking out the “real world” through internships and jobs. The following profiles feature three students who secured competitive internships at the completion of their ninth grade year.

IVY BLANCHARD

Describe your internship:

I got a job with TPAC (Tucson Pima Arts Council). My title was Artist’s Apprentice. I helped create a mural for the bridge at 29th and Columbus.

How did you find out about it?

My art teacher Camellia (Cosgray) told me about it.

The coolest thing you learned:

How to cut metal and weld.

Who were your mentors?

My 2 bosses, Albert Gonzales and Will Wilson. They taught me everything I needed to know in the job.

ANDRE VALENZUELA

Describe your internship:

My internship was at the University of Arizona’s Flandrau Science Center. I helped the instructor set up lessons and I made ice cream with liquid nitrogen for young children.

How did you find out about it?

I learned about it from my City Works



Rachelle Barr at the County Court (above); André Valenzuela and Ivy Blanchard in front of school (below).

teacher, Kate Goldman.

The coolest thing you learned:

That my zodiac sign is the largest constellation in the night sky.

Who was your mentor?

A young woman who did an internship like me at 16 and then she got a job.

How did your experience influence the way you think about the future?

I realize I’m really good with children and that someday I can be a teacher.

RACHELLE BARR

Describe your internship:

I got a summer internship through the “Courts Are Us” program, and I was placed at the Superior Court.

The coolest thing you learned:

How to prepare files. It was awesome, because I would prepare a file and then get to see it in court.

Who were your mentors?

Judge Dardis and Bernice Sandoval were great influences. Also, Richard Oseran—he’s a lawyer who owns Hotel Congress—I enjoyed talking with him.

What did your mentor(s) teach you?

That I can do anything and that my future is what I make it.

Elliott Lax Experiences “Service Learning” in Rural Vermont

During the first week in August I had the opportunity to travel to northern Vermont to attend a conference on Service Learning. Besides enjoying relief from the heat of Tucson and being able to walk along the shores of Lake Champlain, I spent time with educators from around the U.S. who are practicing service learning in their classrooms. I was struck by the fact that the City Works program at City High was a unique model for service learning; in fact, many of the participants of the conference were amazed that we had such a program.

Most of you are probably familiar with community service, such things as trail building, donating your time in a soup kitchen, or volunteering at a senior citizen home, but what is “service learning”? As one of the faculty at the conference said, “Service learning should be thought of as a tool that one can use to transfer a skill or piece of knowledge.” So imagine that you wanted students to get involved with a local nursing home; rather than just visiting with a class for a day of service, you might design curriculum to learn about nursing homes, have students conduct oral histories of the

elderly residents, and then develop a book of the residents’ stories that the students celebrate with the nursing home community.

So how does this connect with City High School? City High School is dedicated to “place-based education,” education that explores the urban community of Tucson and the surrounding Sonoran Desert. The City Works program builds on this notion of place-based education by adding a service learning component. The courses are taught in partnership with community organizations and have authentic projects as goals, projects which address community needs. City Works classes this year involve relationships with Tucson Audubon Society, PanLeft Productions, Arizona-Sonoran Desert Museum, VisionMark Foundation, and Flandrau Science Center.

To learn more about other service learning and place-based education projects around the country, check out www.vermontcommunityworks.org and www.ruraledu.org.

~Elliott Lax, City Works Lead Teacher

Tucson Small School Project Hosts Critical Friends Group Training

Eleven Arizona educators spent a week together at City High School this summer participating in the sixth annual Tucson-area Critical Friends Group Institute. Co-sponsored by the Southern Arizona Writing Project at the University of Arizona and the National School Reform Faculty (based in Bloomington, IN), the five-day training focused on how to create and facilitate collaborative professional study groups in schools, called Critical Friends Group (CFGs).

Critical Friends Groups have proven to be an effective professional development model that brings teachers together to examine student work and data, discuss professional literature, and share teaching methods for feedback – all with the end goal to improve student learning.

The diverse group of educators at this summer’s training brought a variety of perspectives to the table as they worked together throughout the week. The participants included three elementary school teachers, two middle school teachers, five high school teachers, and one university instructor. They came from Vail and Sunnyside School Districts, Window Rock School District in northern Arizona, the University of Arizona, and two charter schools – City High School and Paolo Freire Freedom School. The CFG Institute was facilitated by Carrie Brennan, Principal of City High School.



Participants in the CFG training included (clockwise from left) Aimee Rogers, Carrie Brennan, Jenise Porter, Chris Voorhees, Mike Wilson, Gareth Maksum, Geri Peshlakai, Sarah Bromer, Michael Herzog, and Norman Barnes.

To learn more about collaborative professional development and Critical Friends Groups, contact the National School Reform Faculty, www.nsrffharmony.org. To learn more about the Southern Arizona Writing Project and their teacher professional development programs, visit www.sawp.web.arizona.edu.

Year One Wraps Up with Community Events Students Put Their Talents and Hard Work on Display

Student Art Show at Dinnerware Contemporary Arts – April 15

The Studio Art City Works class, in cooperation with Dinnerware Contemporary Arts, held an opening exclusively featuring student work. Eighteen students made, framed, hung, and, in some cases, sold their artwork. Friends and family were treated to cupcakes, apple cider, and artistic brilliance. "It was cool because I felt like I got a whole bunch of experience," said student Serena Rios of the evening. The opening was a resounding success, and City High School looks forward to continued collaboration with Dinnerware and other local art venues.

~ Camellia Cosgray, Art Teacher

Photo (below right): Emily Moe's piece, "The Sunshine Days," sold a few days after the opening.



Glassblowing Open House at Sonoran Arts Foundation – May 27

City High School students who studied glassblowing during the fall semester went back into the hot shop to demonstrate their skills at a celebration of the inaugural year of the high school glassblowing program. Families and friends, as well as supporters of Sonoran Glass Art Academy, were invited to watch the artists work with hot glass, forming it into vases, bowls, plates, and paperweights. Observers marveled at the confidence and command that the students showed in the shop and watched with rapt attention as they pulled glass out of the 2000° furnace on the end of a blow pipe.

~ David Morden, Sonoran Arts Foundation

Photo (above left): James Cirritto in the glass studio.

City Highlights

Spring Fundraiser – April 30

Students played a key role in the success of the first annual spring fundraiser. They volunteered to help with all aspects of the event – selling raffle tickets, decorating the school, welcoming guests, and serving food. Some donated their own artwork, including paintings, glass art, and photography, for the silent auction. Others served as guides for the "city highlights" tours that were part of the fundraiser. The karate and drama classes performed for guests.

~ Jen Rosenthal, Development Coordinator

Photo (below): Students turn out to help with – and enjoy – the spring fundraiser held at the school.



City Works Showcase – June 1

Parents, siblings, friends, and community partners turned out in high numbers for the City Works Showcase, and the event packed the house. Organized like a conference, the evening opened with a panel of students and a welcome from Debbie Colodner, Education Director of the Flandrau Science Center, and then broke into smaller concurrent sessions. Students and teachers engaged audiences in presentations about their City Works projects. The event closed with an awards ceremony.

Photo (above): Students, teachers, and audience members gather for the opening panel.

CITY
HIGH SCHOOL



TUCSON SMALL
SCHOOL PROJECT

48 E. Pennington St.
Tucson, AZ 85701

PHONE:
520.623.7223

FAX:
520.547.0680

WEBSITE:
www.cityhighschool.org

CITY HIGH SCHOOL WISHLIST

If you have any items that are no longer being used in your home or business that are in good condition and could be used by students and staff at City High School, please call Business Manager Kate Goldman, 623-7223 x202 to arrange drop-off or pick-up. Tucson Small School Project is a 501c3 nonprofit organization and donations to the school are tax-deductible.

The following are some of the **items requested for fall semester:**

- **Couches and reading chairs** for student lounge and library
- **Small refrigerator ("dorm size")** for front office and nurse area
- **Cot** for nurse area
- **Large and medium-sized plant containers** (pots or boxes) for alley garden
- **Outdoor benches** for alley
- **School supplies** to share with students who need financial assistance
- **Graphing calculators (TI-83s and 84s)** for math classes
- **Sports equipment**, e.g. basketballs, frisbees, soccer balls
- **Art books, fiction, and book shelves** for the library

***It's not too early ... TAX CREDIT DONATIONS ARE BEING ACCEPTED
THROUGHOUT THE FALL SEMESTER.***

Arizona residents can donate up to \$250 to a school of their choice and receive a dollar for dollar credit on their state taxes. For more information or to choose City High School for your tax credit donation, contact Principal Carrie Brennan, 623-7223, carrie@cityhighschool.org.



48 E. Pennington St.
Tucson, Arizona 85701

Nonprofit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
Tucson, AZ
Permit No. 541