

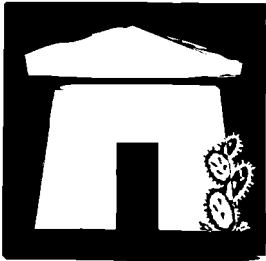
January 12, 2004  
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# cityscape

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

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CITY  
HIGH SCHOOL



learning. working.  
creating. connecting.

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.

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TUCSON SMALL SCHOOL PROJECT is an Arizona nonprofit with two primary purposes: to start and sustain a charter high school in downtown Tucson; and to provide professional development for educators by creating a model small school that can share successful school reform practices.

## Open Enrollment Period in Full Swing

City High School is now enrolling students for next school year. The open enrollment period runs from November 12, 2003 to March 12, 2004. During this time interested families are enrolling prospective 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students to be a part of the pioneer class at City High School.

The procedures for student enrollment in charter schools established by the legislature and the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools require that schools set an open enrollment period that ends with a lottery. Charter schools must advertise widely the dates of the enrollment period and lottery to the community to ensure that all families who want to have the opportunity to submit students' names.

As the enrollment period draws to a

close on Friday, March 12, City High School will hold its lottery and then confirm with all interested families which students were picked randomly for the 120 student spaces for the 2004-2005 school year. Following the lottery, a waiting list period begins for any available spaces. At that point, enrollment is on a first-come, first-served basis. The waiting list period runs from March 15 to June 1, 2003.

For more information about City High School and the enrollment process, please contact us at our new office number 623-7223. To learn more about the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools and the state requirements for charter schools in Arizona, call (602) 364-3080 or visit the Board's website: [www.asbcs.state.az.us](http://www.asbcs.state.az.us).

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## Parents and Teens Gather to Learn More about City High Families host living room get-togethers for neighbors, friends

City High School is teaming up with families around town to organize casual, personal, and informative "get togethers" for parents and teens to learn more about the school. The host family invites the guests and makes the coffee. City High School provides the informational materials and a City High School board member or educator to meet with guests, answer questions, and talk about the benefits of attending City High School. If you think you might like to host a gathering of this kind at your house, please give us a call at the office and we'll schedule one.

## Fourth Avenue Street Fair – A Happening Place To Be



City High School board members, Ann Modica and Eve Rifkin, talk with environmental educators, Eric and Suzanne Dhruv (above); (below) Eve and Voices founding board member, Bob Rodriguez, break down the booth on Sunday.



City High School teamed up with Voices, Inc. to create a dynamic duo booth at the annual holiday street fair December 12-14. For Voices it was an opportunity to sell over \$2000 worth of their popular youth-produced publications, including *Snapped on the Street* and back issues of *110° Magazine – Tucson's Teens Tell Tucson's Stories*. For City High School, the street fair was an excellent way to get the word out about our new school.

The event was very well attended, with thousands of shoppers strolling by for three full

days. Clad in newly printed school t-shirts, volunteers and board members from City High School talked with many interested community members, some of whom had heard about the school already and others who had not. The booth was stocked with brochures, information packets, newsletters, City High School pencils and t-shirts.

The many phone calls in the past month from prospective parents and interested teachers who first heard about us at the December event are ample evidence that the Street Fair was a happening place to be.

## Board Embarks on Short-Term Fundraising Drive

The Tucson Small School Project (TSSP) Board set a goal at its December meeting to raise \$14,000 by February 14. The short-term fundraising drive is to help cover expenses not included in the federal charter school planning grant, the main source of revenue this year for City High School.

City High School received a U.S. Department of Education grant totaling approximately \$300,000 over the course of three years. While the grant money is an enormous help for purchasing items like classroom technology, it cannot be used to cover some inevitable costs, such as those associated with our recent move. Phone service insurance policies, and file cabinets aren't the "sexy"

items people usually seek donations to cover. Nevertheless, such costs are necessary for getting the school ready to open its doors.

Four weeks into the mini fundraising drive, the TSSP Board is making progress. Numerous donations, ranging from \$50 to \$500, have already arrived.

If you or someone you know is interested in making a donation to help support City High School during its planning year, please give us a call or visit our website to get more information. Donations are made to Tucson Small School Project. TSSP incorporated as an Arizona nonprofit in November 2002 and is the organization spearheading the start-up of City High School.

**Thanks** to the many supportive community members who called in December to inquire about donating their \$250 **Arizona school tax credit** to City High School. We were not eligible for these funds in 2003, but we will during the 2004-2005 school year. Please **keep us in mind** next fall!

## Architects Work on Big Picture

Architects Ira Frazin and Blake Goble are hard at work designing ways classrooms, teens, computers, and teachers can all fit and flow in the new City High School location. The wide-open floor spaces of what was Cele Peterson's clothing shop from the 1930s through the 1980s provide plenty of possibilities.

In early January, the architects reviewed their initial plans with a diverse community group that included teachers, contractors, City High School students and parents, and TSSP board members. They got lots of feedback and new ideas to work with – especially from the students who had many specific suggestions about how to create a welcoming, creative, and functional school environment.

Come check out the architects' visions for the future at our Open House on Friday, February 6.

### OPEN HOUSE

Friday, February 6 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.  
48 East Pennington Street

*Join City High School and Voices, Inc. for an evening of food, drink, and entertainment.*



Interior photos of 48 E. Pennington St.: current office space on main floor (top); future classroom space on second floor (bottom).



## City Works – Connecting Kids to Community

At City High School students will engage with the unique resources of our city and region in order to become active citizens and responsible stewards of our world. This ambitious goal lies at the heart of our mission statement, but what will it look like day to day?

A special component of City High School's curriculum – the City Works program – will engage students in learning from and contributing to their community as a regular part of the school schedule. City Works takes its name from an award-winning program started at a high school in Cambridge, Massachusetts in the early 1990s, featured in the curriculum book, *City Works: Exploring Your Community*. Excited by the philosophical match and the obvious name connection, City High School educators borrowed the name and some of the core concepts of the original City Works in Massachusetts and hit the ground running.

At City High School, students will choose each semester from a range of City Works courses that are team-taught by the school's teachers and community partners. The courses are in the development stages at this point, and some exciting possibilities have begun to emerge.

The new Flandrau Science Center, slated to open downtown in 2008 as part of Rio Nuevo, is in its preliminary design stages. In their efforts to include a wide range of voices in the development of this project, the science center directors have invited City High School students to play a role in the planning process.

Educators at Flandrau and City High School are outlining a City Works course that will engage students in behind-the-scenes work of planning the center so that it becomes an expression of what's important to all stakeholders, including young people. Students might help to shape the new center by collecting and analyzing data regarding community needs and expectations, researching successful science centers around the country, and consulting with the project's architects on building design.

City Works courses provide a real-world context for students to apply and hone skills they learn in other classes, such as science, math, and humanities. Students will also gain new knowledge in these fields and others as they engage in authentic work for an authentic audience: the Tucson community.

# CITY HIGH SCHOOL



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creating. connecting.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### January

- 1/5 6:00-7:30 p.m. City High School **Information Session** at the Public Library – Downtown Branch
- 1/11 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Booth at TPAC's annual **Family Arts Festival** at the Tucson Convention Center
- 1/20 7:00-8:00 p.m. City High School presentation at the **Midtown Neighborhood** Association Meeting
- 1/22 5:30-7:30 p.m. Tucson Small School Project **Board Meeting**
- 1/26 7:00-8:00 p.m. City High School presentation at the **Dunbar Springs Neighborhood** Association meeting
- 1/29 6:00-7:00 p.m. City High School **Information Session** at the school location ~ 48 East Pennington Street

### February

- 2/6 5:00-8:00 p.m. **Open House** with Voices, Inc. at the school location ~ 48 East Pennington Street
- 2/12 6:00-7:00 p.m. City High School **Information Session** at the school location ~ 48 East Pennington Street
- 2/19 5:30-7:30 p.m. Tucson Small School Project **Board Meeting**
- 2/21-2/22 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Booth at Barrio Hollywood's **Fiesta Grande**

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