

2017

Community Partnerships Magazine Volume XI

Alfredo Gutierrez
Connecticut College

Isis Torrez
Connecticut College

Tracee Reiser
Connecticut College

Alek Chandra
Connecticut College

Hadiya Alexander
Connecticut College

See next page for additional authors

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.conncoll.edu/cplitmags>

Recommended Citation

Gutierrez, Alfredo; Torrez, Isis; Reiser, Tracee; Chandra, Alek; Alexander, Hadiya; Lundblad, Mattias; Soares, Christopher; and Sanchez, Kimberly, "Community Partnerships Magazine Volume XI" (2017). *Community Partnerships Literary Magazines*. 2.
<https://digitalcommons.conncoll.edu/cplitmags/2>

This Magazine is brought to you for free and open access by the Community Partnerships at Digital Commons @ Connecticut College. It has been accepted for inclusion in Community Partnerships Literary Magazines by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Connecticut College. For more information, please contact bpancier@conncoll.edu.

The views expressed in this paper are solely those of the author.

Authors

Alfredo Gutierrez, Isis Torrez, Tracee Reiser, Alek Chandra, Hadiya Alexander, Mattias Lundblad, Christopher Soares, and Kimberly Sanchez



CONNECTICUT
COLLEGE

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Magazine

Volume XI



Commpartnerscc



CC Community
Partnerships



@CCCommPrtnrshps



THANK YOU

to all of our community partners for working to improve the quality of life in our community and partnering with Connecticut College to educate students to put the liberal arts into action in a global society.



Communities are built from
Partnerships.

CONTENTS

6

**Alfredo Gutierrez's
Experiences with CP &
New London Landmarks**

8

**Hispanic Alliance
Noche de Gala Scholarship
Celebration**

10

**NL Mayor Declares
Tracee Reiser Day**

Contributors:
Alfredo Gutierrez '17,
Isis Torres '20,
Tracee Reiser,
Alek Chandra '16,
Hadiya Alexander, &
BDJMS 8th Grade students

12

**'16-'17 VISTA Year
& Beyond with
Alek & Hadiya**

10/16/68
BLACK
Rights

14

**Bennie Dover Jackson
Middle School
8th Grade History Project**

Photo Credits:

Mattias Lundblad
New London Landmarks
Connecticut College

16

**Thames River
Innovation Place
(TRIP)**

Editors:

Christopher Soares &
Kimberly Sanchez

I AM NOT GOING
TO STAND UP TO
SHOW PRIDE IN
A FLAG FOR A
COUNTRY THAT



Alfredo's Experiences with Community Partnerships & New London Landmarks



Alfredo Gutierrez '17

Community Partnerships and Unity House have been my two homes away from home. I have been involved with Community Partnerships since my first year when it was called the Office of Volunteer and Community Services. The summers before college and the first few during college, I was instructing art classes and in sports in a low-income, Mexican-American community. Working with youth pushes me to do the best I possibly can because everything I do will affect the development of the future generation.

When I first arrived at Connecticut College, I knew I wanted to continue working with children and teens. I started out volunteering as a mentor in programs such as Enrichment at Jennings and REACH, but

knew that I could take more of a leadership role and help develop and establish different programs that could create a larger impact on the youth and the community.

This past semester I was a workshop leader co-facilitating art classes with *Brynne Rardin '17* for the ENRICH program. The activities have varied from drawing and coloring to more complex crafts such as working with clay and stenciling. During the last week of the ENRICH program of the Spring 2017 semester, we explored stenciling with an 8th grade group. One student was a bit shy and lacked interest the first day, but on the second day he asked me if he could create a second stencil after finishing his first. This moment confirmed that all the work I have been putting in this semester was worth it and felt really rewarding.

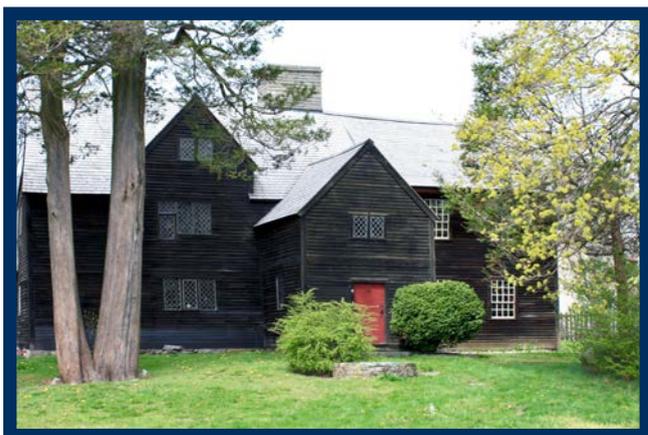
Aside from volunteering with ENRICH, I have been interning at New London Landmarks (NLL) a few times a week. New London Landmarks is a non-profit organization that focuses on historic preservation and the archiving of the New London community. At NLL, I combined my educational and architectural interests and created a walking tour catered towards middle school students, specifically the students of Bennie Dover Jackson Middle School. BDJMS is a school with low-income students of color like myself. It is because of this similarity I felt like it was important to combat the oversaturation of white history. I created the tour with a main emphasis on the Historical District of Hempstead, which is New London's first African American community and has been home to many important African American social organizations, one of which is the Shiloh Baptist Church. The walking tour, which took place on the week of May 10th, 2017, is designed for students to learn about the history of New London and to create a connection between their family's history with their own community.



66 Franklin Street



For more information on New London Landmarks, visit their website at NewLondonLandmarks.org

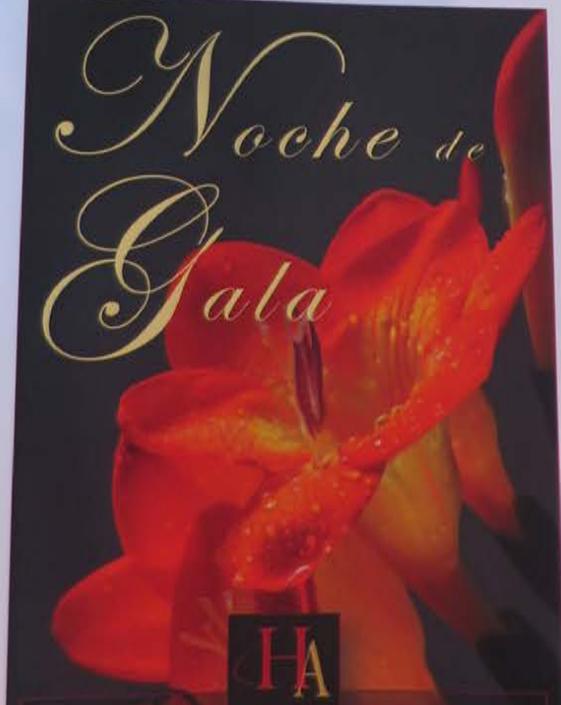


Hempstead House

Overall, Community Partnerships has allowed me to pursue my passions of working with youth and creating the spaces for them to grow. Whenever I proposed a new idea, the staff of CP always found a way to turn that into a reality. Participating in various programs with Community Partnerships throughout my four years at Connecticut College has solidified the important value of community to me. No matter where life takes me post-graduation, it is important for me to understand the steps I am taking to ultimately better my own communities and myself. •



Noche de Gala



HA

17TH ANNUAL
SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS CELEBRATION
HISPANIC ALLIANCE OF SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT

JUNE 2, 2017

Noche de Gala

The Crocker House Ballroom hosted the 17th annual Hispanic Alliance Noche de Gala Scholarship Awards Celebration on June 2, 2017. The stage was set for the young dancers who began the evening performing a traditional dance from Peru called *Huayno* (pictured to the right). After the exceptional cultural performance, Alejandro Melendez-Cooper, President of the Board of Directors of Hispanic Alliance, provided a warm welcome for the guests. Followed by brief introductions, the scholarship recipients formally accepted their awards. Two Connecticut College students were award winners: Christina Cruz and Isis Torres. Shortly after the celebration, I was able to speak with Isis Torres and learn more about her through the dialogue posted below:

Christopher Soares: What is your name, year, and major?

Isis Torres: My name is Isis Torres (pronounced E-seas) and I am a rising sophomore intending to major in Biochemistry, Cellular, and Molecular Biology.

CS: Where were you raised & how did you hear about the Hispanic Alliance scholarship opportunity?

IS: I have spent some of my years living in the Dominican Republic and in Boston, but since I was seven years old I have resided in the beautiful whaling city of New London, CT. I heard about the Hispanic Alliance scholarship through a college counseling program in New London known as Higher Edge. The Higher Edge team works beyond limits to assure that their students get the best support for getting into and through college. As I'm sure everyone is aware of: that includes economic stability. Higher Edge encourages us to apply to a number of scholarships, one of which includes the Hispanic Alliance scholarship.

CS: How will receiving this scholarship impact your experience at Conn?

IS: This scholarship allows me to achieve my goals and aspirations of becoming a Hispanic woman in the world of science and medicine with a disadvantaged socioeconomic background. Conn's tuition is rather expensive and without the help and support of organizations such as the Hispanic Alliance, it wouldn't be possible for me to be on this campus. I am beyond grateful to have the Hispanic Alliance scholarship committee recognize my hard work. Organizations like this really make a difference in a scholar's life. It's important for people to recognize [Hispanic Alliance's] work and assistance in helping individuals further their education. It's important for people to donate, support, volunteer, and get involved so that they can be a part of that change in a scholar's life.

CS: What are your career goals/aspirations?

IS: I'm not 100% certain what my plan is after I graduate. Maybe attend medical school right after I graduate from Connecticut College. I see myself exploring areas of neurology or pediatrics as a physician. However, I still have some time on deciding whether I want to take some gap years before attending med school, maybe doing research. The only thing that is unquestionable and definite is that I will attend medical school. •



Isis Torres '20



Alejandro Melendez-Cooper, President of the Board of Directors of Hispanic Alliance

New London Mayor Michael Passero Declares June 8th as Tracee Reiser Day

Tracee Reiser

On June 8, 2017, a celebration to honor Tracee Reiser, who completed 25 ½ years of service to the College and within the New London community on June 30, 2017, was held in the 1962 Room in the College Center. Campus and community members joined in the festivities which included a performance by the New London Public Schools dance group, Tiger Eye. The following are words Dean Reiser shared at the event: “Thank you all for joining today to celebrate. A special thanks to the Jennings and Bennie Dover Jackson middle school students for making my retirement gathering unforgettable. Now that I am retiring perhaps I can attend some of your practice sessions to keep in shape! It is important to make time and space to gather together in joy and gratitude. I am feeling some joy, some sadness and a whole lot of gratitude. It has been an honor to build community and make change over the past 25 years at Connecticut College and in New London with extraordinary students, staff, faculty and community members. Just as the College was founded in partnership with the people of New London, we have continued to work in partnership to advance student development and build a healthier more just community. The students, staff, faculty and community partners pursued our passions and created some awesome programs, research and partnerships. We have won local, state and national awards and so many alumni have gone on to impact our world in so many positive ways.

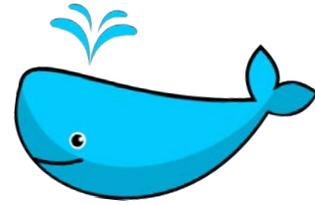
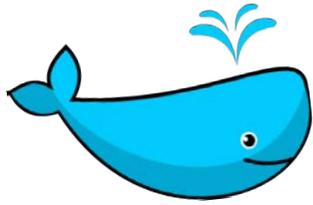


NL Mayor Michael Passero with Tracee Reiser



*NL Mayor Michael Passero & CC President Katherine Bergeron
with Tracee Reiser*

Thank you New London human service and health care professionals for teaching and learning with us about the critical issues facing our community. Thank you for providing opportunities for our students to contribute to building participatory democracy. Thank you principals, teachers, counselors and paras for partnering with College staff and faculty to guide our students to engage in advancing educational excellence and equity for all students. Thank you elected officials and municipal department professionals for providing opportunities for our students to make policy and best practice. Thank you New Londoners for building community together. Thank you to the Corporation for National and Community Service and Campus Compact for your leadership and expanding opportunities for recent graduates to strengthen communities and enhance the capacity of Connecticut College and New London to address pressing issues tied to poverty through AmeriCorps VISTA. Thank you to Connecticut College Advancement and the Office of Corporate and Foundation Giving for working with us to secure many generous gifts from foundations and donors who share our passion for engagement and strengthening communities. Special thanks to Carolyn and Jerry Holleran for extreme and sustained generosity and leadership. Thank you Conference & Events, Physical Plant, custodial and AV services for your collegiality and hard work which supports our partnership work. We hold dozens of events and extensive programming each and every year. You always assist with extensive set ups and complex arrangements to insure the best events and meetings. Thank you to Dining Services and catering for the outstanding collegiality and collaboration which make our programming delicious and nutritious. Gracias also for collaborating with English and Spanish classes. Thank you Athletic Center for collaborating and making possible swimming, wall climbing, skating, basketball, and so much more 12 months of the year. Thank you Library and IT services for your support of our programming and engaging youth in the wonders of the library and technology.



Thank you Printing Services for beautiful bookmarks, flyers, posters and handbooks. Thank you Communications for telling the stories with words, photos, and films. Thank you President's office for collaborating with Campus Compact and some major community initiatives. Thank you Office of the Dean of the College-especially Dean Singer, Student Life, Institutional Equity & Inclusion, CCSRE, Ammerman Center, Language Center, Global Commons and all the numerous offices and departments for collaborating. I learned so much along with others in so many of our memorable initiatives and events, large and small - Amy Goodman, Angela Davis, Peter Singer, Bryan Stevenson. Special thanks to Unity House and Leslie Williams for the many years of collaborations to advance inclusion and equity and the creation of the Center for the Comparative Study of Race & Ethnicity. Thank you to all of the school and college students whose passion and ideals made each year new and exciting. I love connecting and creating together and students are at the core of Community Partnerships.



Tiger Eye Dance Group from NLPS

Thank you to the alums who continue to be engaged in their communities throughout the world. Thank you Community Partnerships and Holleran Team, my heart. Kim, Patrick, Xia, Christopher, Hydia, and Alek. Jenny, Rebecca, Penny, Andie, and Angela. You are extraordinary colleagues, scholars, activists and change makers. We have had so many triumphs, some failures, many joys, some heartbreaks, some very trying times and so many fun times. At our holiday gatherings, I know we didn't always get the yankee swap gifts we were hoping for, but we managed to get over our disappointments and continue on as a team. Thank you for making the years so meaningful and often profound. I extend my congratulations to Kim Sanchez who will soon be the Director of Community Partnerships and to Patrick Lynch, class of 2012, who will be the Associate Director. We have worked together for many many years and I am so pleased you will be leading the next era of building community and making change. Family is my foundation. Members of my family grew up on this campus, hiding in the bookstore reading for free, getting tutored by some wonderful college students, and dancing at Dwali celebrations. I am blessed today to have with me my brother Lance, my daughter/niece Celena, Jason and Miles. And of course my beloved partner and husband Bob - we can do what we do because of our love. Thank you each and every one for contributing to my life well lived throughout the past 25 years as a member of the Connecticut College and New London community.” •



State Rep. Chris Soto with Tracee Reiser

'16 - '17 VISTA Year and



Alek Chandra '16

Hadiya Alexander

What was the most meaningful experience you had as a VISTA?

Hadiya Alexander: Being able to engage with the New London community. Being a VISTA gives you a unique leadership role and unique tasks to fulfill through your VAD (VISTA Assignment Description). For an entire year I was able to interact with community members and those who truly wanted to make New London a better place through meetings, fundraisers, galas, forums, and partnership programs. I got to witness students learning a new skill and Connecticut College students getting out of their comfort zones. I've been able to see so much growth within the community, my office, my school, my peers, and the amazing students of New London. Being here and being able to put in hard work which resulted in great outcomes was the best part for me.

Aleksandr Chandra: Collaborating with the New London community to create systemic change in K-12 school systems. As a VISTA at Connecticut College, I worked closely with students in New London on college-bound programming to address the opportunity inequities that persist in K-12 education and really enjoyed partnering with students and school administrators on various related projects.

VISTA fact: VISTA members support programs that improve academic performance, expand job opportunities, develop financial assets, alleviate hunger, reduce homelessness, and improve health services.

If you could do something differently all over again from your year, what would it be?

HA: I would tell myself in August 2016 not to be so afraid - that everything will work out, that my ideas are great ideas, and you're going to have an amazing year. I was very afraid to start this opportunity. I had never done anything like this. I was in a new area, I had no friends so it was a very nerve wracking time. But it turned out beautifully; better than I had imagined.

AC: I would probably like to have worked with the other VISTA members in our cohort more often on collaborative state-wide projects.

What educational preparation would you recommend for someone who wants to advance in this field? And what characteristics are necessary to be successful?

HA: To be an AmeriCorps VISTA you have to have a bachelor's degree, but other than that, what's more important to me is your attitude and reason for doing this work. It's not glamorous. The pay is little, days can be long, and sometimes you get tired of looking at the VAD, but the work is important. Years after you leave someone will still be impacted because of the work you did today. So I would say be positive, flexible, compassionate, and build on your leadership skills.

AC: I believe that experience-related preparation would be needed more than educational preparation for someone who wants to advance in this field. There are some things a classroom-based experience cannot teach in order to advance successfully. For example: tenacity and grit, two characteristics that are absolutely necessary for someone to be successful not only in higher education but also in community-based work, are best learned by experience.

Beyond with Alek & Hadiya

Pictured from left to right:
Hadiya A.,
Alek C., and
Xia W.,
CP Administrative
Assistant



How has being a VISTA with Community Partnerships impacted your life?

HA: Being a VISTA, specifically at Connecticut College Community Partnerships, has made me more aware of who I am and what I stand for, more aware of the obstacles that people face, and more aware of who I'd like to be in the future. It has called my attention to issues I never thought about a day in my life until coming here. It has given me the space I need to learn about them and shown me how I can work with others to better the lives of those directly affected. It made me question my beliefs to create a strong foundation for myself and challenged me to think outside the box and color outside the lines. It made me more aware of my leadership style and how I like to work. It also allowed me to make some very good friends. I truly appreciated this opportunity.

AC: Being a VISTA with Community Partnerships has shaped my short-term and long-term professional goals. It gave me an opportunity to translate the academic into action by becoming a better scholar activist. My experience as a VISTA with Community Partnerships made me realize that I want to go to graduate school to produce more socially transformative scholarship. I want to collaborate with communities now through more innovative experimental exchanges. Being a VISTA with Community Partnerships has definitely made me a better leader and visionary.

What parts of being a VISTA did you find most challenging?

HA: The most challenging part of the job was juggling all the details and information of each partnership and each program. Each partnership is unique and has its own needs. Keeping up good communication

between partners was also a challenging task. Although it was difficult, it taught me a couple of things: never assume, always ask questions, be honest (with yourself and others), and always find out a person's preferred communication style. As the months went on, I learned how to tackle all the moving pieces. It got easier as time went by, but at first it was challenging.

AC: I definitely felt the growing pains this year transitioning from being a student to a staff member at my alma mater. Thus, aspects of the jobs that I found most challenging were probably the most fundamental (i.e., time management, prioritization, communication, flexibility, and adaptability). Being a VISTA with Community Partnerships really pushed me out of my comfort zone and into my stretch zone by strengthening my professional repertoire.

If you could do things all over again, would you choose the same path for yourself?

HA: Yes! Absolutely! I definitely saw growth from where I was when I started VISTA to now. I've picked up a lot of valuable skills along the way, met awesome people, and immersed myself in a new city – one I had never heard about before coming here. I am so happy that I dedicated a year in my life to get outside of my comfort zone and work with a community. When I decided to apply for VISTA, I didn't really know where it would take me. However, this year has truly given me the time I need to think about my values, goals, and future. So in short, no, I would not change a thing.

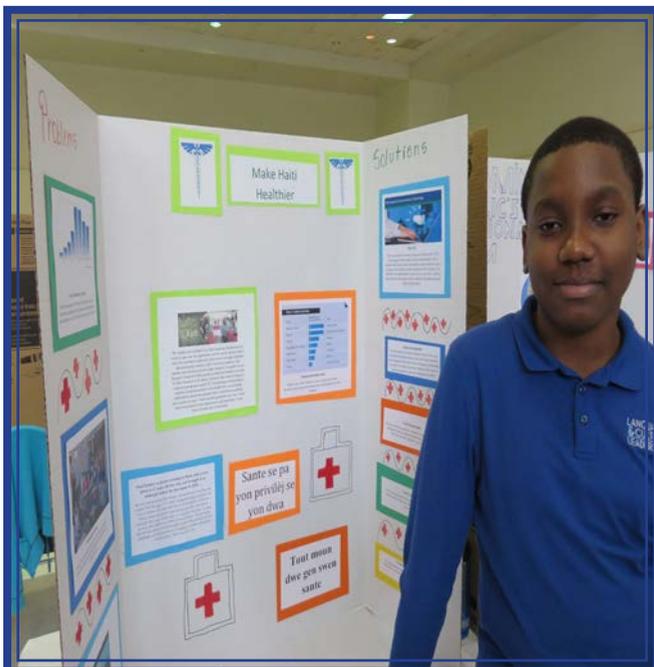
AC: I would absolutely choose the same path for myself if I could do things all over again. I was blessed to have gotten to know on a deeper level, the community outside of the college campus I was a part of for four years as a student. I left my year of service with no regrets whatsoever. •

Bennie Dover Jackson Middle School 8th Grade History Project

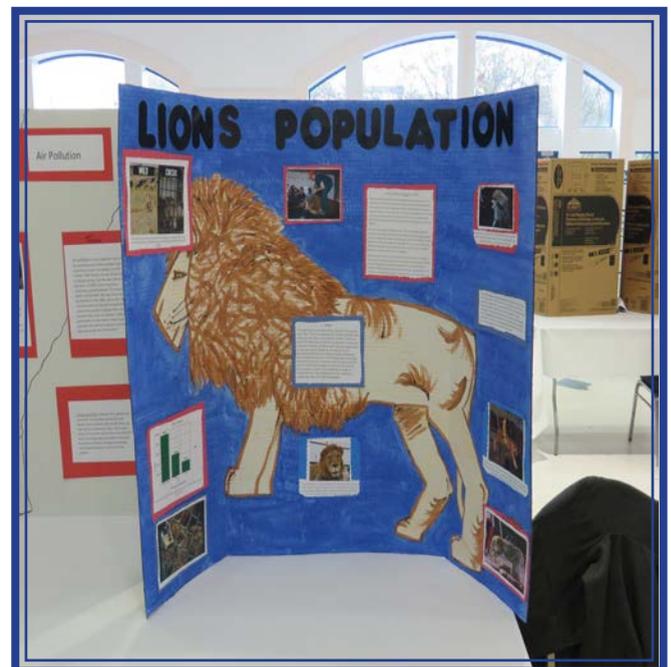


Students filled the 1962 room on May 5, 2017, eager to share the research they conducted in Ms. Howard's History class.

"Millions of dollars are being sent to Haiti but the healthcare is not improving the quality of life."

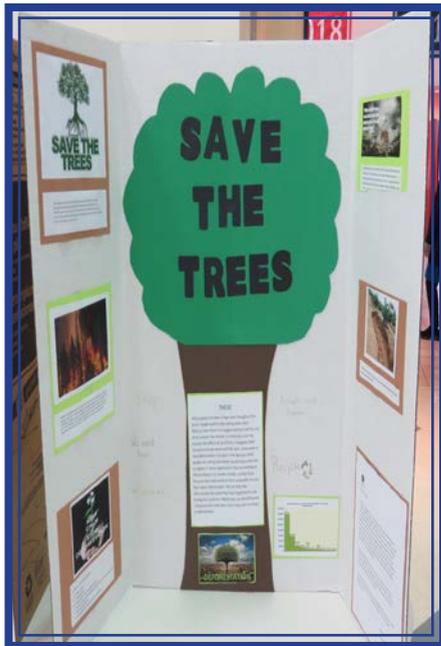


Lion's Population



Students spent nearly 4 months researching and taking a stance on topics that they independently chose in Ms. Howard's 8th grade History class. They researched issues that have a particular meaning to them, ranging from public health to environment sustainability to activist groups, and were confident and ready to defend their research on May 5, 2017. These students were dubbed by many as *Young Activists*. •

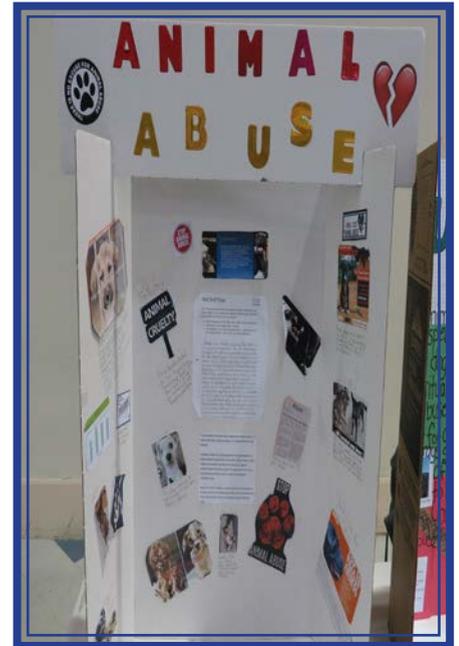
Save the Trees



Hunger in Somalia

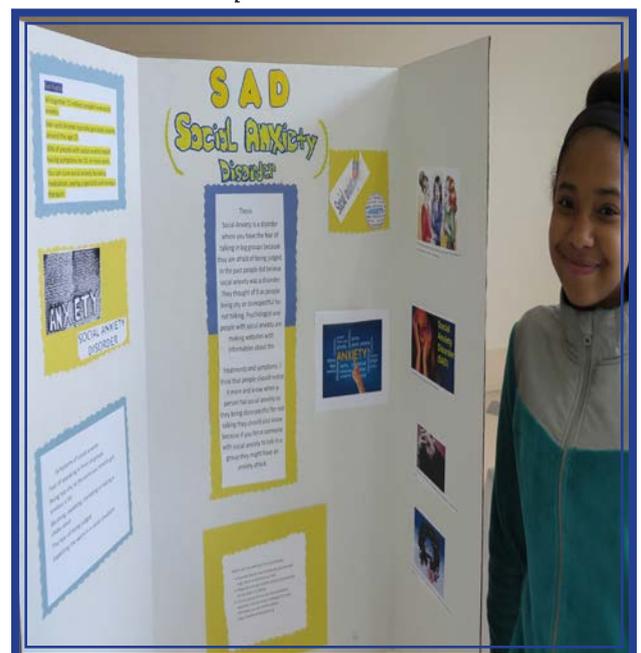


Animal Abuse



“Black Lives Matter is a movement that began after the wrongful killing of Trayvon Martin. They are also against police brutality. Police officers have gotten away with cold blooded murder.”

“I used to suffer from Social Anxiety Disorder because of my past, but with treatment and help from my psychiatrist, I am a more confident person. Mental health issues need to be publicized more.”



Thames River Innovation Place (TRIP)

Tracee Reiser

The Thames River Innovation Place is a cutting edge collaboration among Connecticut College, SparkMaker Space, C.U.R.E. Innovation Commons, City of New London, Town and City of Groton, the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern CT and additional supporting entities. The collaboration applied for and received a \$50,000 planning grant from CT Next and the Department of Economic Development in 2016 to develop the plan for transforming our area into a center for entrepreneurship and innovation, a magnet for talent and launching points for growth-stage companies.

The collaboration completed extensive planning work, submitted a full application in the spring of 2017, and in June the CTNext and Dept. of Economic Development selected the TRIP collaboration as one of the four Innovation Places in Connecticut and it will receive up to \$900,000 for the first year of implementation. The designation includes the possibility of three year funding. This is a significant opportunity for the College and the local communities to work together to strengthen and thrive. The Thames River Innovation Place will focus innovative development and major proposed catalytic projects of TRIP include:

Cultivator Kitchen which will establish a large-scale commissary kitchen to serve as an employee/entrepreneur education and business development vehicle to create new restaurants to fill up vacant spaces in the Impact Areas of New London and Groton.

Ignite, a creative initiative to ignite and promote education, events and business development to connect people to spark new ideas and embrace innovation.

Community Concierge, to provide a comprehensive program to assist employers, with special consideration for Electric Boat, in the recruitment, relocation and retention of employees by making meaningful connections to local arts, culture, history, shopping, restaurants, schools, services and community involvement opportunities.

Lean Economic Development Assessment that includes UConn Extension Community & Economic Development staff who will build a dashboard for all TRIP projects for shared reporting and visibility as well as an evaluation strategy.

The impact areas of TRIP are both sides of the mouth of the Thames River and TRIP developed these projects based on the identity of the community - diverse, interesting, edgy. They build on emerging economic developments and partnerships.

The CTNext and Department of Economic Development were impressed with the TRIP and how it engaged in a research and planning process to identify underlying patterns evident in historically successful efforts in New London & Groton. This research generated the Design Principles which guide the improvement of new ideas and existing entities, including:

- Aim high and grow into it—by design.
- Hold true to who we are and what we have the potential to be.
- Create unlikely partnerships to produce outsized impacts.
- Pursue success by improving the greater system with reciprocity.
- Foster enlightened agency: the greatest “innovation” will be more and more people actively engaged in improving our place through enterprising efforts.

TRIP is an unprecedented alliance of public, private, and nonprofit sectors in New London and Groton. It will spur new business development, support existing entities as they seek to grow, and identify catalytic projects that make the Thames River region more attractive for people to live, work, and start businesses. TRIP will move our region towards becoming a hub for innovation, entrepreneurialism and growth. •

Thames River Innovation Place Asset Map

April 2017

Together New London and Groton are rich with economic and cultural features to leverage tremendous economic development and increased quality of life for current and future residents.

Innovation Organization

- 1 Spark Makerspace
- 2 CURE Innovation Commons
- 3 Garde Art Center
- 4 Hygenic Galleries
- 5 F.R.E.S.H. Community Gardens
- 6 Lawrence & Memorial Hospital
- 7 Pizer
- 8 Electric Boat General Dynamics
- 9 BioAd (BioEd Building)
- 10 UConn Avery Point Technology Incubator Program
- 11 US Coast Guard Research and Development Center
- 12 US Naval Submarine Base

Redevelopment Hot Spots

- 13 Downtown New London
- 14 Hodges Square with Old Town Mill and Riverside Park
- 15 Thames St./Bridge St.
- 16 Downtown Groton
- 17 Groton - New London Airport
- 18 Fort Trumbull Municipal Development Plan
- 19 Bridge Street

Leisure Highlights

- 20 Custom House Maritime Museum
- 21 Fort Trumbull State Park
- 22 National Submarine Memorial
- 23 Fort Griswold Battlefield State Park
- 24 New London Waterfront Park
- 25 Connecticut College Arboretum
- 26 Avery Copp House
- 27 Shennecossett Golf Course
- 28 Washington Park
- 29 Eastern Point Beach
- 30 Submarine Force Library & Museum and USS Nautilus
- 31 Ocean Beach Park

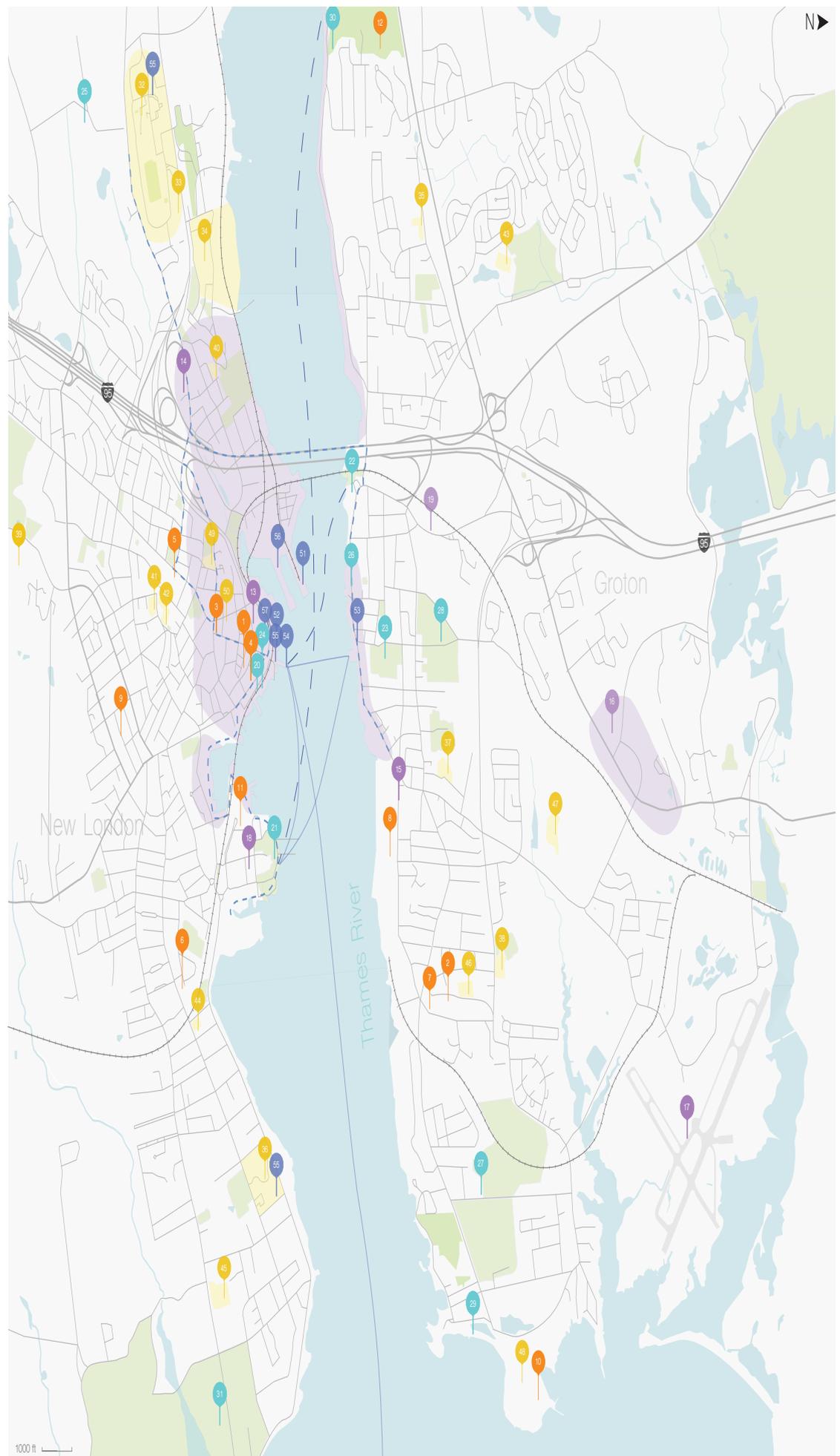
Education

- 32 Connecticut College
- 33 Williams School
- 34 U.S. Coast Guard Academy
- 35 Pleasant Valley Elementary
- 36 Mitchell College
- 37 Sacred Heart Middle School
- 38 West Side Middle School
- 39 New London High School and Science and Tech Magnet High School
- 40 Windrop STEM Magnet School
- 41 Bennie Dover Jackson Magnet School
- 42 Jennings School
- 43 Mary Morrison Elementary
- 44 Early Childhood Center at Harbor High School
- 45 Nathan Hale Arts Magnet School
- 46 Marine Science Magnet High School of Southeastern Connecticut
- 47 Catherine Kolnaski Magnet School
- 48 UConn Avery Point
- 49 Regional Multi Cultural Magnet School
- 50 Interdistrict School for Arts and Communication

Transportation and Development Assets

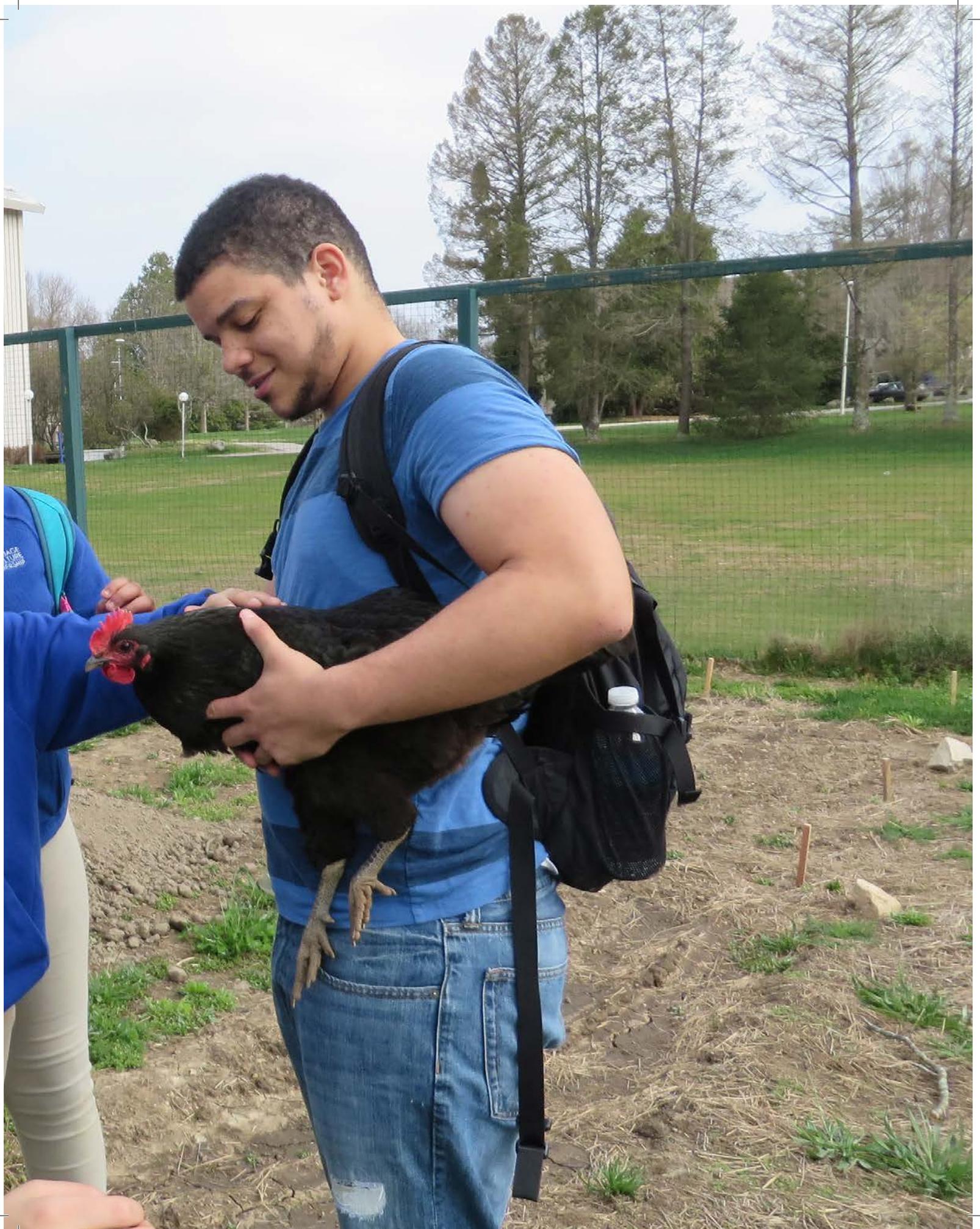
- 51 New London Ferry
- 52 New London Train Station
- 53 Fort Street Landing
- 54 Thames River Heritage Park Water Taxi
- 55 Zipcar
- 56 State Pier, featuring deep water port
- 57 Seat Bus

- Existing Water Transportation Routes
- Proposed Water Transportation Routes
- Proposed Green Multi-Modal Pathways
- Railroad



BDJMS students participating in the ENRICH after school program spent time with college mentors and chickens in the CC Sprout Garden.





Solution

Dear President Donald Trump,

Hello commander in chief! My name is Nicholas Tobey, I am a 10th grade student attending Benito Saez Jackson Middle School located in New York City. Where we are known for our many diversities & cultures. My 1st period social studies class, which consist of a variety of all grades were given a project to become an activist on a topic we feel strongly about. I chose the "Great Wall" because being, it has caused a divide amongst our American citizens. Not in though the wall will not do anything to stop illegal immigrants from entering our great nation.

Most undocumented workers come over to the United States to establish a better life for their families. Where's the harm in that? Wouldn't you do anything for your family's success?

Secondly our country was discovered & built by more immigrants than ever and years ago illegal immigrants have contributed a lot to our beautiful nation from landscaping to even being farm workers.

My last and final reason is money. Mexico has stated they will not bring any more for if the wall will? Why spend millions of dollars to construct a wall to keep people out when you can use half of that money to fix more schools, create or hire more security around the very border also would be to prevent?

With all that being said I think you should strongly consider our thoughts of the wall being built. They would be to experience the best of us for our families. Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to acknowledge our concerns.

Sincerely,
Nicholas Tobey



This picture shows how long they would have to build the wall and how high.



This picture shows how the government of the United States is building the wall.



This picture shows border patrol stopping over a dozen Mexico.



United States of America Flag



Mexico Flag



This picture shows the cities & countries surrounding the Mexican border.



This graph demonstrates the number of reported removal of illegal immigrants from the year 2000-2017. It also shows what president was in office at the time.

Historically, Native Americans used to cross between what is now the border between the United States of America and Mexico. Once the USA became a country, the government started to watch over who came and went across the border. With the recent election, there are a lot of bad feelings surrounding that border. Some people argue that immigrants who want to come to United States just want a new life, because they do not like how their life is in their country. They may feel rejected without anywhere to go. They want to come here to start new. Other people argue that we can't let in too many people, because it is more expensive to feed many people. Third, say often when they people from different places cannot get along and have very different beliefs about what America should look like. They may feel that it too many immigrants enter the country those immigrants could work for a leader that supports their culture. The current president Donald Trump has proposed to build a great wall along the border of the US and Mexico. Some, including myself, believe that this will be too expensive for what it is worth. Some should go to other more helpful things, and people could afford basic items like food, or having in addition, there are many ways to easily get around the wall like using airplanes, military vehicles, or boats to avoid the wall. Overall Americans should write to law makers and please let us stop building the wall. They should also vote for people who will stand up to President Trump against the wall.

The Great Wall

Background

Trump wants to build the wall to keep immigrants out of the United States of America. This was a major topic during Trump's 2016 campaign, which caused a lot of pain, division and arguments between the American people. It's being heavily talked about because it is one of the busiest borders in the world! 1 million people use it a day. Donald Trump claims that over 2.4 million people were deported under Obama's presidency.



President Donald Trump supporting the border wall construction.



This picture shows the border wall construction.