

Children and Youth as Catalysts in Greening Cities & Neighborhoods

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Wellness through Nature Connection
across the Lifespan

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www.ucdenver.edu/cye

Presenter Disclosures

Louise Chawla

The following personal financial relationships with commercial interests relevant to this presentation existed during the following 12 months:

no relationships to disclose

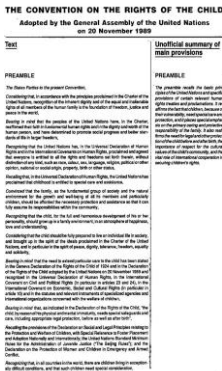


Growing Up in Cities
UNESCO



Child Friendly Cities
UNICEF

rights-based initiatives that integrate child and youth participation into city planning



United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (ratified by UN in 1989)

Its principles have been integrated into Agenda 21 and the Habitat Agenda of the United Nations.

According to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Rights of the Child, this entails guaranteeing the rights of every young citizen to:

Protection:

- For example
 - Protection from exploitation, violence and abuse
 - An unpolluted environment

Provision of basic needs:

- Safe water and proper sanitation
- Basic services such as health care, education and shelter

“Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.”

Constitution of the **World Health Organization**, 1948

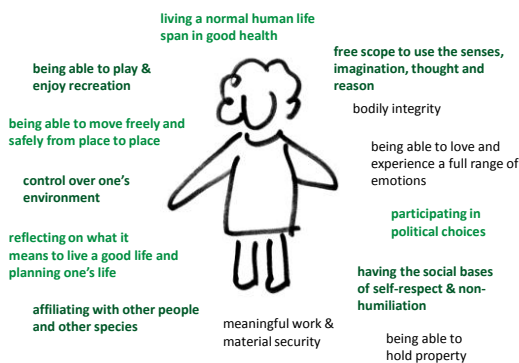
endorsed by the American Public Health Association

Participation:

- Participate in family, community and social life
- Participate in cultural and social events
- Have a voice in decisions that impact their lives, consistent with their developing capabilities

Capabilities Approach to Human Well-being

- Certain inherent universal capabilities constitute our nature as human beings
- The more fully we develop our constructive human capabilities, the more fully we flourish and find happiness and well-being

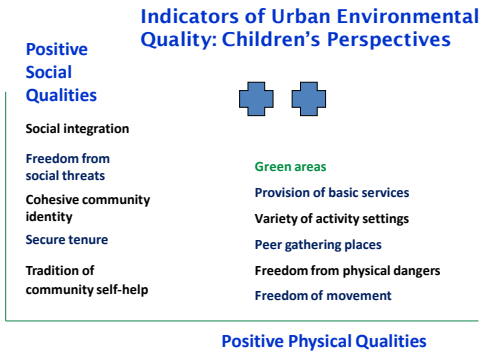


selected capabilities from Martha Nussbaum, *Women and Human Development*



Growing Up in Cities

A UNESCO project which uses participatory action-research to forge intergenerational partnerships to create child friendly cities and to integrate young people into civic action



Growing Up in New York City – a neighborhood tour to a favorite place. Wherever children find safe corners of nature, they are highly valued resources.

Building a **Child Friendly City** is the process of implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child led by local government, reflecting children's rights in local policies, laws, programs, budgets, and the physical structure of the city.



What do we do if we operate in the United States, which hasn't ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child?

A city that is friendly for children is friendly for all ages.

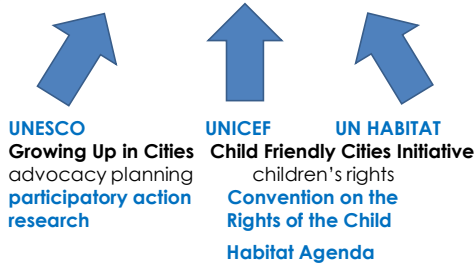
Growing Up Boulder is in the process of creating a **Child and Youth Bill of Rights** for adoption by the city council.



activities to review draft Bill of Rights, October 2011

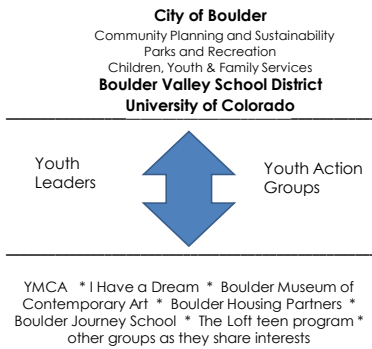


Growing Up Boulder



Boulder County (2010 census)

- 294,567 population
- Ethnic breakdown: 87% white, 14% Latino, 4% Asian, 1% Black/African American
- **23% of children under 18 are Latino**
- Education: 94% h.s. degree, 58% bachelors degree, 26% graduation degree
- **Boulder Valley School District four-year h.s. graduation rates: 90% white, 61% Latino**
- \$85,602 median family income
- **14% individual poverty rate, 13% child poverty rate, 23% poverty rate for children under 5**



Partner with groups that work with marginalized young people.

AVID high school classes * teen mothers class * vocational ed classes * I Have a Dream Foundation * Boulder Housing Partners * San Juan del Centro Family Learning Center



children's community garden at San Juan del Centro low-income housing development



Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan Update - January-May 2010



youth mapping and brainstorming



youth present to adults



GUB youth leaders summarize youth suggestions for the Comprehensive Plan to mayor and members of City Council.



The city consults young people on their ideas for areas targeted for redevelopment.



Boulder Civic Area Project - 2012 ongoing



Summer 2012

Elementary, middle and high school students and young people in I Have a Dream Foundation evaluate current civic area.



In 2010, all second year studios in the University of Colorado Environmental Design Program worked with Mesa Elementary School fifth graders to help them design a new school playground accessible to children with all abilities.



assessing the playground from a disabilities perspective



presenting models to other students & teachers, school playground committee, city planning & urban design staff, others

Since 2006, undergrad design students in classes taught by doctoral students and instructors have worked with students at Casey Middle School on participatory design projects.



design students and Casey Middle School students construct the school garden that they planned together.



Burke Park, Boulder 2012 ongoing

Department of Parks & Recreation seeks to make this park between the Frasier Meadows Seniors Center and Horizons K- 8 School a model for participatory approaches to park design and maintenance involving children, youth, the elderly and other community members.



nature play area designed by Department of Parks and grade 4/5 students

for more information

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- www.childfriendlycities.org
- www.unesco.org/most/guic
- www.growingupboulder.org
- explorationsinburkepark.weebly.com

also recommended:
www.participationworks.org.uk

