

# Y-PLAN NYC Civic Challenge Project Snapshots

*Y-PLAN Engages Young People as Authentic Stakeholders in Transforming our Cities!*



## Queens

### Grover Cleveland High School

*Digital Apps for Safer Streets!*

**Project Question:** How can young people create apps that will transform New York City's streets into safer networks in order to reach Mayor de Blasio's goal of reducing traffic fatalities to zero?

**Instructors:** Andrew Woodbridge

**Academic Fit:** 12th Grade Digital Apps

**Client:** NYC Department of Transportation

**Community Partner:** Transportation Alternatives

Over 300 New Yorkers are killed and 70,000 injured in traffic each year. Last year, Mayor Bill de Blasio released the NYC Vision Zero Action Plan with the goal of reducing traffic fatalities to zero. This Spring, students at Grover Cleveland High School have partnered with the New York City Department of Transportation and Transportation Alternatives to apply technology skills to creating apps to raise awareness around Vision Zero and create recommendations improving transportation safety around their community.

## Manhattan

### Manhattan Bridges High School

*Advocating for Tenants' rights in Harlem*

**Project Question:** What are the critical issues around tenants rights in New York City? How can we educate tenants in New York City around their rights as residents and connect them to existing resources?

**Instructors:** Marangelitza Rivera, Pedro Placido

**Academic Fit:** 10th Grade Engineering + Technology

**Client:** PA'LANTE Harlem

Technology students from Manhattan Bridges High School have partnered with Pa'Lante Harlem, an advocacy organization around tenants' rights to find strategies to increase renters' knowledge of their rights and resources in their home communities. Students have developed a survey to administer to neighbors and family members to gain an understanding of knowledge in the community around tenants rights and the resources that are available to them. From there, students will develop proposals on how to increase knowledge of tenants rights and resources that they will present to their client later this month.

### The Center for Cities + Schools and The NYC Department of Education Launch the Y-PLAN Civic Challenge!

Over the past semester, 150 students and ten teachers across five NYC Academies of Engineering and Information Technology will work as collaborative teams to develop innovative projects that address the needs of their community.

The Y-PLAN New York City Civic Challenge is an exciting model of scaling Y-PLAN across the district. To build and sustain Y-PLAN, The Center for Cities + Schools has partnered with NYC Department of Education to implement a 3-pronged strategy: hands-on professional development with teachers and civic partners, resource and curriculum support via digital tools, and research and documentation of student and community outcomes.

In October, CC+S, and NYC DOE hosted a Civic Partner Roundtable in partnership with LISC. The roundtable brought together community organizations, civic and education leaders, and Y-PLAN teachers to discuss opportunities to authentically engage young people in community development projects this spring. In fall 2014, instructors and students rolled out pilot projects to practice core Y-PLAN milestones including community mapping and this spring have engaged in projects ranging from safe transportation, affordable housing, and restorative justice.



## Brooklyn

### City Polytechnic High School of Engineering, Architecture + Technology

#### *Engineering Strategies for Safer Streets*

**Project Question:** How can we redesign existing intersections to make the streets of Brooklyn safer for our community?

**Instructor:** Steve Coyle

**Academic Fit:** 11th Grade Engineering + Design

**Client:** New York City Department of Transportation, Vision Zero

Students in Steve Coyle's 11th Grade Engineering and Design class are working with Omar Barrios from NYC DOT to work on engineering solutions to safer streets to help achieve NYC DOT Vision's Zero's Goals of eliminating traffic fatalities to zero by 2020. Students have been focusing on a particular intersection near the Tech Triangle that has experienced an unusually high amount of traffic deaths. Students have mapped and surveyed pedestrians along this intersection to inform their proposals. Proposals include new signage, speed bumps, and rumble strips around high priority intersections, increased enforcement of existing traffic codes, and youth outreach to promote community awareness.

## The Academy of Innovative Technology (AoIT)

#### *Addressing root causes of Suspension on campus*

**Project Question:** To what extent can restorative justice effectively amend the traditional suspension system that disproportionately impacts young men and boys of color?

**Instructors:** Ms. Brown and Mr. Viola

**Academic Fit:** 9th grade literature + 12th Grade Engineering

**Client:** Future of Tomorrow

**Community Partner:** Cypress Hills Development Corporation



Students at AoIT are working with Futures of Tomorrow (FOT) to address the root causes of suspensions at their school. They will examine how factors from their findings along with restorative justice techniques will break the cycle of suspension that disproportionately impacts young men and boys of color. Possible deliverables include a handbook on restorative justice techniques for the campus.

In the fall, 9th and 12th graders participated in a robust Pilot Roadtest focused on addressing the truancy issue at their school. The students honed in on the security scanners at the campus entrance as a main factor to tardiness, focusing on the project question: How does scanning slow down the education process? Students administered surveys and analyzed the data. Last, they wrote a letter to their principal with solutions including purchasing more scanners to decrease congestion.

## The Bronx

### Academy for Language + Technology (ALT)

#### *Creating a Housing Strategy for Survivors of Domestic Violence*

**Project Question:** What are the top issues of concern for residents in the Morris Heights Neighborhood? How can the The City of New York create an affordable and safe housing strategy for survivors of domestic violence?

**Instructors:** Kate Roberts and Michael Seltzer

**Academic Fit:** 12th Grade English + After school Academic Group

**Client:** New York City Housing Authority

**Community Partner:** Violence Intervention Program (VIP), LISC



This past fall, Y-PLAN students at The Academy of Language and Technology launched their third year of Y-PLAN with youth-driven community action research. Students created, distributed, and analyzed over 200 surveys to identify critical issues in the Morris Heights neighborhood. With this data, students learned that safe and affordable housing for victims of domestic violence is a real concern for residents. This Spring, students partnered with the Violence Intervention Program to learn more about the issue, and hope to work with NYCHA to identify policies and solutions to allocate city resources to provide safe and affordable housing for survivors of domestic violence.

Y-PLAN (Youth - Plan, Learn, Act, Now) is an educational strategy to build healthy, sustainable and joyful communities: <http://y-plan.berkeley.edu>