

# Cultivating Global Citizens Prepared to Tackle Climate Change through the Y-PLAN Civic Learning Methodology

## Y-PLAN New York City mY-PLANet

### Project Question:

How can we create a culture of sustainability at school?

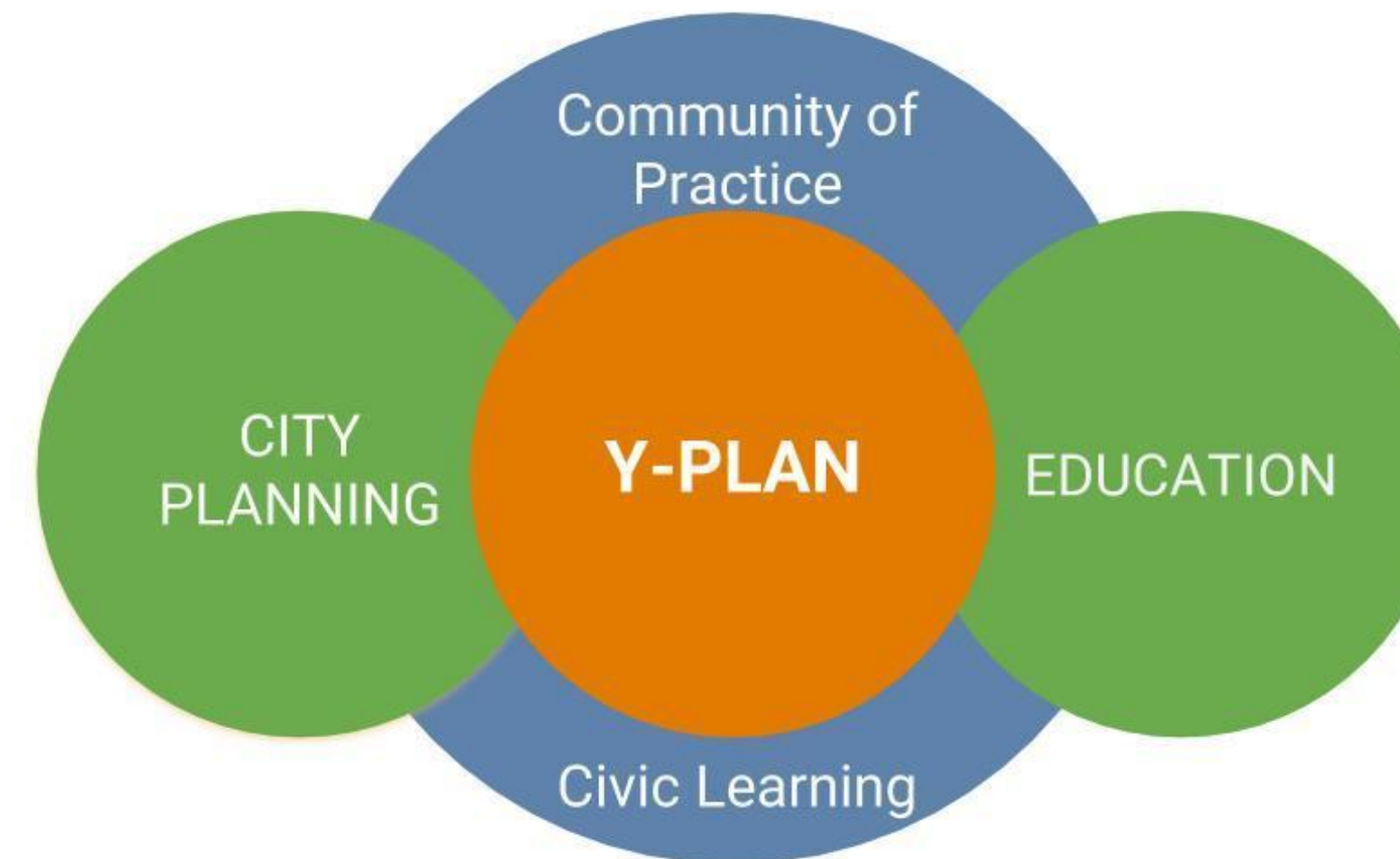
### Community of Practice:

Williamsburg High School for Architecture + Design

- 60 12th grade students over 2 years
- High School Principal & NYC Department of Education



"So many creatures live in those wetlands already. We can't steal that. They were there first. Taking that land would be doing to them what we feel like is unfairly being done to us."  
-Y-PLAN Student



"Many of the youth experienced some of these challenges in our communities first hand, so they bring such great insights and knowledge to how we need to address some of these bigger climate challenges we have before us."  
-Y-PLAN Civic Client

"The gentrification that's happening in this neighborhood is real and you can see it every single day everywhere you look. It's an issue facing my students. Actually being able to address it in class in a productive way, versus a 'this sucks there's nothing we can do' type of way [is] really meaningful."  
-Y-PLAN Teacher

## Y-PLAN San Francisco Bay Area Resilient by Design

### Project Question:

How can we make our communities more resilient to climate change? Emphasis was on the interconnectedness of land, water, infrastructure and the quality of life—with local specificity and ownership.

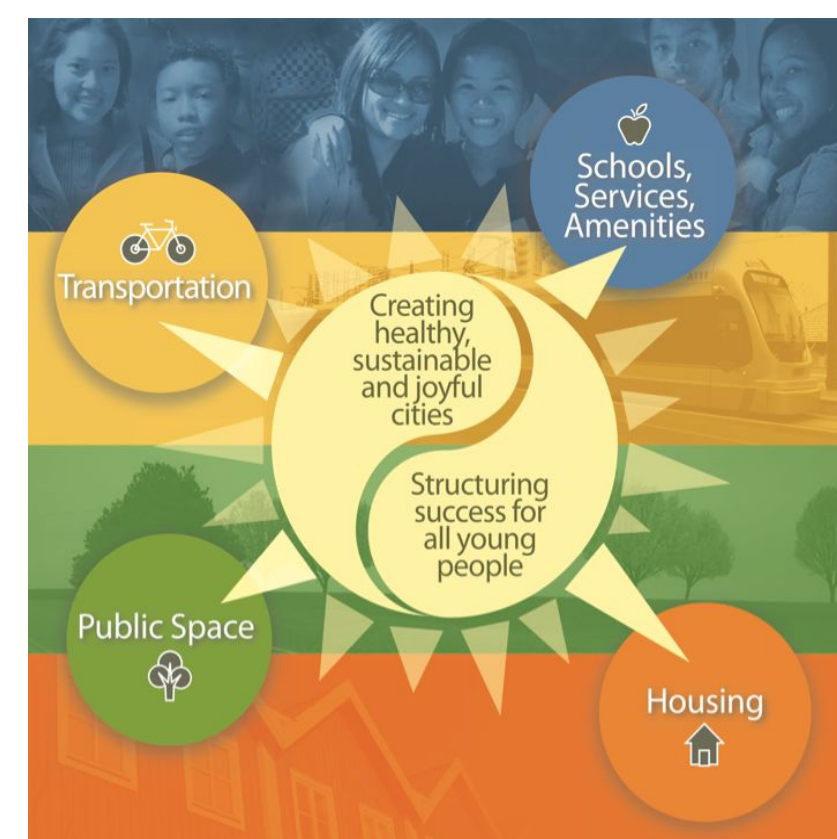
### Community of Practice:

- 850+ K-12 students across 5 Bay Area cities
- 100+ city and community leaders, planners, designers, architects, + engineers
- 25 UC Berkeley graduate & mentors



Y-PLAN is grounded in "**Communities of Practice**" (CoP), a critical social theory that bridges the fields of education and city planning (McKoy and Vincent 2004). As defined by Etienne Wenger, "communities of practice are groups of people who share a concern or a passion for something they do and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly." The concept of a CoP relies upon the notion that learning is human nature, it is innately social and participatory, and that education must engage learning communities to reach a larger impact.

By building "complex social relationships" between city planners and young people, around "meaningful activities" like planning a more resilient city, with "genuine practices" such as surveying and interviewing local residents and studying global best practices, that work becomes a shared directive, "the enterprise of a community," that elicits the best abilities of each member to improve the final better product together, to the benefit of everyone.



## Y-PLAN Japan Building a Resilient Tohoku

### Project Question:

How can young people of Tohoku, Japan build a resilient future for the earthquake ridden region?

### Community of Practice:

- 1,000 high school students from the tohoku region of Japan.
- Japan: the US Japan Council and Softbank Corp, and community partners.
- California: City leaders from Oakland Resilience Office and North Richmond



As young people develop their own sense of **global citizenship** through the Y-PLAN process, we have seen young people defy the existence of boundaries to problems and solutions. For example, in conversations about the environment and creating resilient cities necessary to combat climate change, young people refuse to be put in a box. While adults examine resilience in response to climate change impacts, such as sea level rise and climate change, Y-PLAN action research overwhelmingly demonstrates that **young people have an innate understanding of resilience**. As young people develop and embody an enhanced definition of global citizenship through Y-PLAN projects, it is essential to unpack, analyze and document these insights and outcomes for future research and policy.



**Further research** is needed to deepen and unpack the impact of the Y-PLAN methodology on preparing young people for global citizenship through civic learning experiences.