

# *An Exploration of Lasting Creative Partnerships Within Diverse Social Environments*

UC Links Conference 2018

Whittier Fifth Dimension

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# A Glimpse

## ★ Boys and Girls Club Whittier

- Main Clubhouse
- Population: approx. 120
- Structure
  - Wiz Hour
  - 2 sessions
  - Hangouts

## ★ Evergreen

- Whittier Youth Network and Think Together
- Population: approx. 70
- Structure
  - 1 session
  - Hangouts
  - Community Meeting



# What is a Partnership?

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- ★ Dialectical relationship between two or more organizations.
  - Compromise
  - Communication
  - Adaptation
  - Collaboration
- ★ Boys and Girls Club of Whittier- Main Clubhouse
- ★ Evergreen Elementary- Think Together and WYN (Whittier Youth Network)



# BGCW- MCH

## A Lasting Community Partnership

- ★ Curious about changes within BGCW
  - Technology
    - Access to computers and technology
- ★ Elevated the quality of interaction between club members and Staff/wA
- ★ A setting to create intimate partnerships with family of citizens
- ★ Kids get individualized attention





# BGCW- Continued

- ★ In the beginning...
  - Disconnect between BGCW Staff and Fifth Dimension WAs
  - Free choice throughout the club
- ★ over the past 10 years...
  - A more cohesive culture between Staff and WAs
  - Added rotations



# Our question:

How do connections to the community contribute to a lasting partnership?

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¿Cómo contribuyen las conexiones a la comunidad a una asociación duradera?

# Exploring Connections to the Community

1. Connection to citizens and families
2. Connection between team members



1. Conexión con ciudadanos y familias.
2. Conexión entre los miembros del equipo.





# Connection #1

## Citizens and Families



# BGCW – Developing a Connection with Citizens

- Sessions
  - 1 on 1 sessions
  - Citizens help citizens
- Wiz Hour
  - Everyone floats
  - Gets to know everyone
- Community Meeting
  - Co-construct ideas for events





# Developing Connections with Families at Both Sites

- ★ Field Trips
- ★ End of the Year
- ★ Carne Asada
- ★ Movie Night
- ★ Friends and Family Night





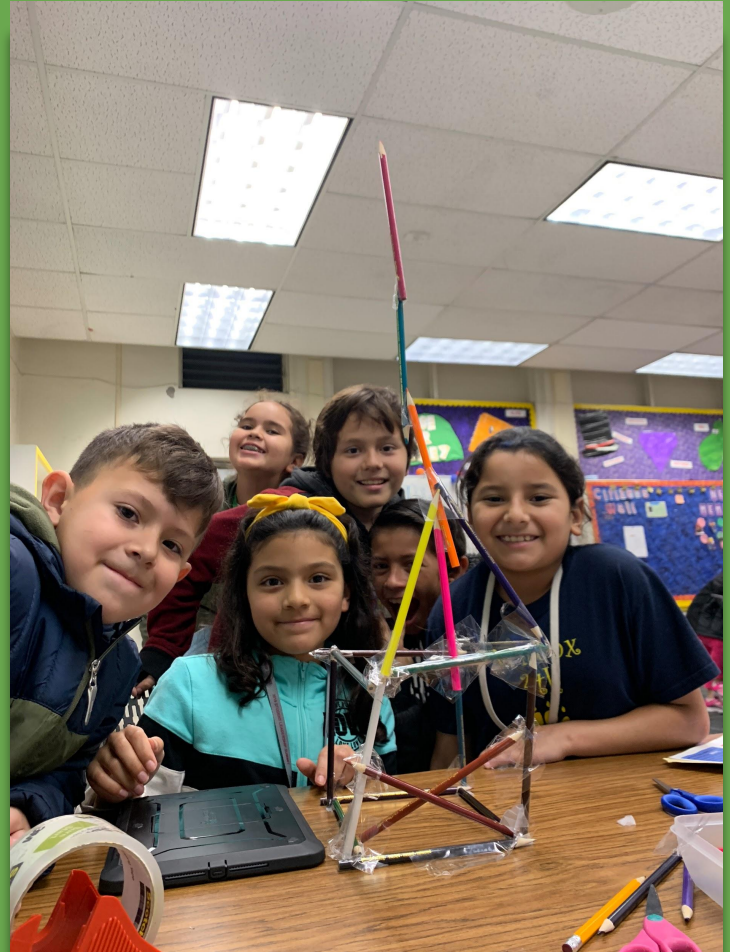
# Applying and Seeing Connection #1 at Evergreen Elementary



# Evergreen-

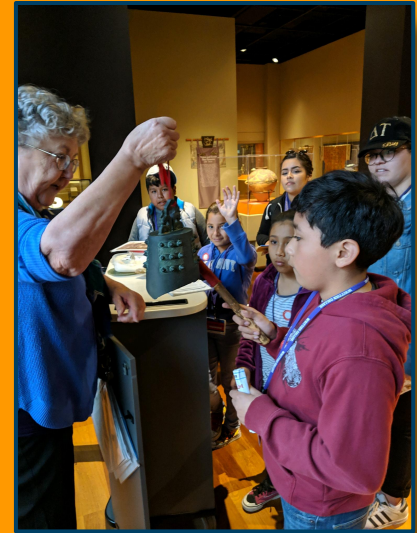
## Co-Constructing a lasting partnership

- In the beginning stages
- Think Together
  - Adjusting number of hangouts when outside programs visited
- WYN (Whittier Youth Network)
  - Added in 2018-2019
- Citizens played on their own or with other citizens



# Evergreen –Developing a Connection with Citizens

- ★ we had given everyone a role of a coordinator
  - There weren't many w.A's there
  - wanted more kids to have sessions
  - Didn't want to limit them by the amount of staff
  - This inadvertently took away from the benefits that one-on-one sessions offer
- ★ To adjust we have taken the session setup from BGLW to continue to develop a connection
  - wA Pods
  - Coordinator with hangouts





# Evergreen – Cont'd

- ★ Original Community Meetings
  - Goal is to discuss the journey and better understand the maze and their journey
  - Fills in any gaps from it not being one-on-one
- ★ Community Meetings re-vamped
  - More options
    - Reading
    - write to wiz
    - Community Meeting
    - Prompts
    - Speech



# Evergreen - Developing Connections with Families

- ★ Friends and Family Night
- ★ Tried to replicate and maintain similar structure to MCH
- ★ After hearing feedback from families we came up with ideas to adjust for next year





# Connection #2 Between Team Members





# Team Component – Both Sites

- ★ 13 wizard Assistants and 1 Director
- ★ Fluid role of learner and student between team members
- ★ Retreats and Bondings maintain a healthy relationship between team members to benefit the citizens
- ★ Team keeps same roles and responsibilities
  - Helps the sites run smoothly
  - Keeps to the principles that make up the 5th Dimension



# Team Component – Differences

- ★ Evergreen Elementary
  - Co-Construction
  - Mini committees
    - Speech tree
    - Hangout options
    - Newsletters
- ★ Boys and Girls Club-MCH
  - Collaboration
  - Co-construction is present but subtle





# Looking Ahead



# How do connections to the community contribute to a lasting partnership?

- ★ Continue to foster the two main connections
- ★ Through remembering the components of partnership we will be able to adapt to the changes that we face
- ★ Continue to collaborate with citizens and their parents
- ★ Make Evergreen as lasting as the one at BGCW
  - applying research to stay aware of how important these collaborations are for our community

