

Mann **UCLA**
Community School

◀ HORACE MANN ▶

**2023 YOUTH PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH (YPAR)
CONFERENCE AT MANN UCLA COMMUNITY SCHOOL**

**FREEDOM
DREAMERS
BUILDING BLACK &
BROWN FUTURES**

SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2023

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

8:30AM - 9:00AM:
C Quad **REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST**

9:00AM - 9:45AM:
Auditorium **OPENING PERFORMANCE
& KEYNOTE**

10:00AM - 10:45AM:
Pages 6-7 **WORKSHOP SESSION 1**

11:00AM - 11:45AM:
Pages 8-9 **WORKSHOP SESSION 2
& POSTER PRESENTATIONS**

11:45AM - 12:45PM:
C Quad **LUNCH & RESOURCE FAIR**

1:00PM - 1:45PM:
Pages 12-13 **WORKSHOP SESSION 3
& POSTER PRESENTATIONS**

2:00PM - 2:45PM:
Pages 14-15 **WORKSHOP SESSION 4**

3:00PM - 3:45PM:
Auditorium **CLOSING PERFORMANCE
& REMARKS**

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

About the Conference

This conference has been a dream of ours--six years in the making. A group of starry-eyed teachers had a vision of students uplifting their community by using skills crafted in their English, Math, Science, and History classes. Through the power of research, teachers and students have found a way to pursue topics that they find meaningful and relevant to their lives here and now. This conference is a platform for our students to demonstrate their intellect and passion all in one place.

The title, "Freedom Dreamers," borrowed from Robin D.G. Kelley, comes from the idea that our young people will build on the long legacy of Black and Brown people who have dreamt of and enacted their freedom. With that, we welcome you to our first ever YPAR Conference--may it be the first of many, and may you be inspired by our future generation of leaders and scholars.

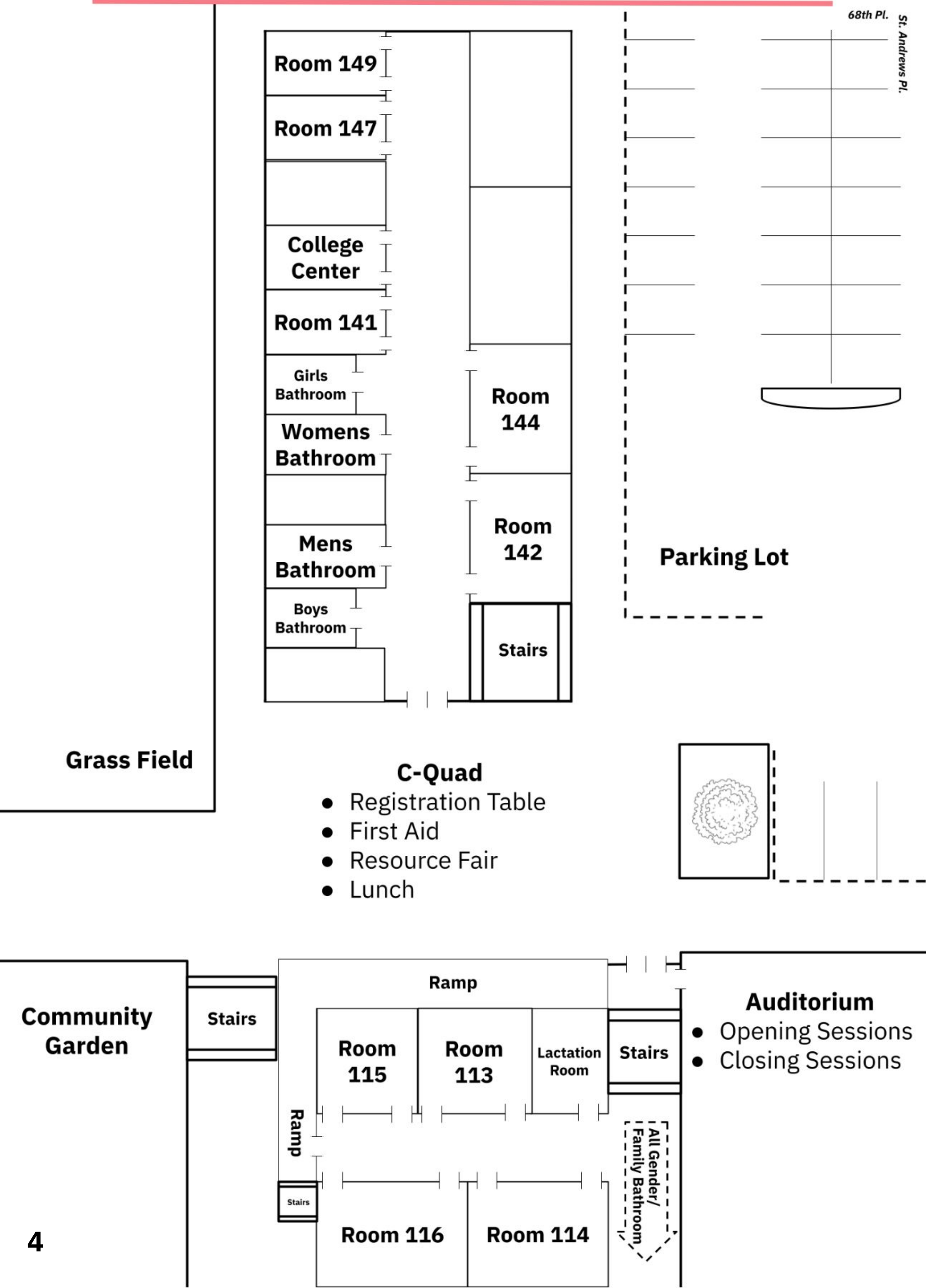
What is YPAR?

According to UC Berkeley's YPAR Hub, "Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR) is a cyclical process of learning and action - research is done not just for the sake of it but to inform solutions to problems that young people themselves care about." The goal of Mann UCLA Community School's YPAR Conference is for the young people in our community to practice rigorous, qualitative and quantitative research strategies and to develop youth-led solutions about the issues that they care about the most.

Land Acknowledgement

The Mann UCLA Community School acknowledges our presence on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Gabrielino/Tongva peoples. We pay our respects to the Honuukvetam (Ancestors), 'Ahihirom (Elders) and 'Eyoohiinkem (our relatives/relations) past, present and emerging. We know that youth justice on stolen land is impossible, and we remain committed to Native sovereignty.

EVENT MAP



OPENING SESSION

9:00AM - 9:45AM

Opening Performance

KALPULLI TLALTEKUHTLI

We are a Danza Mexica collective from East Los Angeles, based in City Terrace Park. With respect to the First Peoples of this land, Tovangaar, and the indigenous people of Los Angeles, the Tongva and Gabrielino peoples, our mission is to preserve and protect Mexican indigenous traditions through ceremony and sacred spaces in Los Angeles. We focus on family and youth engagement.

Keynote Speakers

ELIJAH BLACK

Elijah Black attended Mann UCLA Community School from sixth grade until his graduation two years ago. While at Mann, Elijah was a part of the drum line and founded the Gaming Club which evolved into the Esports Club. Now, Elijah continues to give back to the Mann Community as best as he can by coaching kids in Esports during his breaks from Benedict College.



GALEB JORDAN

Caleb Jordan is currently majoring in Sports Management and minoring in Esports at Benedict College. Caleb had been a student at Mann since the 6th grade and was a member of the first graduating class in 2021. Caleb believes that YPAR is important because of its emphasis on helping the students and families that he made at Mann. Caleb is always happy to come back to the school and help in any way he can.



SESSION ONE

10:00AM - 10:45AM

Student Workshops

SUPPORTING LGBTQIA+ STUDENTS AT SCHOOL

Room 142

By **Syniah Simpkins & Jocelyn Isidro**

Our project is about how to help students be comfortable with who they are at school.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO PREVENT HOMELESSNESS IN CALIFORNIA?

Room 144

By **Meron Asmelash**

How homelessness can be eradicated in the near future in California? What efforts can be made to do so?

SCHOOL FOOD

Room 147

By **Koree Riley, Jesse Preciado, Kevin Mira, & Taylor Rogers**

We will be talking about school food and how nasty it got over the years. Another thing would be the fact of how people have to go all day without eating due to the fact of the food being bad.

YOUTH & EDUCATION

Room 149

By **Gisela Flores, Belen Hernandez, Fidel Braswell, & Lovely De La Rosa**

We will be talking about the school funding and where the money goes (for our school mainly and others). We will be talking about how students feel about the education here.

SESSION ONE

10:00AM - 10:45AM

BUILDING BRIDGES: CONNECTING STUDENTS TO COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Room 141

By **Hannah Mitchell Sherman, Laura Duran, Isabel Pedroz-Flores, Jaylen Flowers, Natalia Alvarez, & Daniela Mira Constanza**

Los Angeles is home to many nonprofit organizations that take care of the people in our community. Connecting with some of these organizations is one way that we can ensure that our community members are getting what they need. For this year's YPAR project our eleventh grade students spent time learning about how various nonprofit organizations (Black Women for Wellness, Los Angeles Animal Services, Los Angeles Regional Food Bank, & Las Fotos Project) are working to improve Los Angeles and provide for those who live in South Central.

During our presentations you will learn about how you can also connect and contribute to our community by partnering with an organization near you.

Community Workshops

THE POWER OF LEGACY & PLACE KEEPING

Room 114

By **Hank's Mini Market**

Hank's Mini Market is a family owned business that has served the Hyde Park community of South Central LA for 25 years. It's evolved from your classic corner store to a curated market that now provides access to art, healthy food options, and safe spaces. Through our shopping experience and community activations we are using art and food to uplift and inspire our community.

SESSION TWO

11:00AM - 11:45AM

Student Workshops

HOMELESSNESS / YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH Room 144

By **Michael Castro / Carmen Hernandez**

This project is about how the lack of affordable housing affects low-income people in California and what are the consequences of living on the streets.

THE MONEY THAT LEADS TO OUR SUCCESSFUL FUTURE Room 141

By **Fatima Banegas & Minmei Trujillo**

What we'll be talking about is why students don't have a say in school funding, and we will both share opinion and experiences around the school.

DRUG ABUSE Room 142

By **Anabelle Navarro**

I will be talking about reasons why teens use drugs or why they feel the need to use them. I will also be talking about/asking if people think drug abuse is something that happens in our school.

SESSION TWO

11:00AM - 11:45AM

Community Workshops

YOUTH ORGANIZING AS THE SOLUTION Room 113

By **Community Coalition**

We will walk youth & family members through the ways young people have historically and can continue to make change in their school & community.

BECOMING A COMPETITIVE COLLEGE APPLICANT Room 115

By **UCLA Early Academic Outreach Program (EAOP)**

Come learn what colleges mean by "holistic review" of applicants (i.e. what makes an applicant well-rounded) and how to boost your chances of getting into top colleges.

Poster Presentations

9TH GRADE SUPERHERO COMICS College Center

Students use comic strips to discuss issues in their community and become superheroes to advocate for their community.

Abraham M., Andy M., Alexandra A., Alexandra F., Carlton S., Caterin R., Emonie P., Esdras B., Jose C., Kathy G., Rayshad L., Rodolfo M., Julieann N., Zakyla C., Nathan H., Jay M., Maya O., Warenn T., and Myla T.

11TH GRADE POSTERS College Center

Students reimagine their school and community through Youth Participatory Action Research. Using Transformational Resistance as a framework, students analyze the systems of oppression in order to reclaim their community and school.

Kassandra A., Alicia A., Samantha A., Joseph B., Betsinie C., Diana C., Luis C., Malcolm C., Laura D., Byron E. Magdalena G., Ashley H., Emily H., John H., Chevalier I., Kyle J., Nevah L., Jason M., Jocey N., Maryah P., Isabel P., Michelle S. Joshua T., Christina T., Cedrick T., Yair V., Micah W., Natalia A., Londyn B., Marcus C., Jaylen F., Kevin H., Andre H., Martin H., Aniya J., Gemora K., Roberto M., Hanna M., Jazmine O., Marlyn R., Kamaree S.

LUNCH

11:45AM - 12:45PM

Food Provided By



Lupita's Bakery Inc., was established on October of 1985 by their owners, two enthusiastic hard workers who were able to witness progress and finally see their dreams come true.

The family feels very proud to have seen their dreams come true. This proves that when you have a spirit of willingness, determination, love and enthusiasm, your dreams become a reality, with rewarding results. Lupita's Bakery Inc., deeply appreciates those who made it possible for Lupita's Bakery Inc., to become one of the best bakeries in Los Angeles.

Performance

SIAM JEM

Siam Jem is a dream-rock project fronted by singer-songwriter Michaela Rabina. With fuzzy guitar tones and ethereal synth pop tendencies, Siam Jem is the perfect combination of upbeat indie rock and dreamy shoegaze thanks to inspirations like The Strokes and My Bloody Valentine.



Michaela and her band have spent the last year writing and recording their debut full-length record and playing shows across the west coast - locally in SoCal and all the way up to Seattle. In the past year Siam Jem has shared the stage with up-and-coming artists like Sir Chloe, Levitation Room, and Winona Forever.

Siam Jem is Michaela Rabina on vocals/rythm guitar, Lauren Pena on lead guitar, Minli Flynn on bass, Elias Perez on synth, and Shep on drums.

COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIR



Community Coalition works to help transform the social and economic conditions in South LA that foster addiction, crime, violence and poverty by building a community institution that involves thousands in creating, influencing and changing public policy.



CADRE works to create the conditions for parents to redefine South LA public schools and reinvent what it means to be a South LA parent.



HANK'S
MINI MARKET

Hank's Mini Market is a family-owned business based in South Los Angeles. For 20 years, the small mart, located in the Hyde Park area of South L.A., has offered customers a combination of art and food in an effort to inspire and uplift the community.



#STUDENTSDESERVE
Making Black Lives Matter In Schools

Students Deserve is working towards Making Black Lives Matter in Schools. We are students, teachers, and parents working for justice in and beyond schools. We are in schools all over the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), which is the second largest school district in the U.S.



CAT-911 is building a Southern California-wide network of Community Action Teams (CAT) which can operate as resources for responding to community needs as alternatives to 911



children's institute

Children's Institute, Inc. supports children and families in healing from traumatic experiences. CII offers high-quality early education and youth programs, counseling services, parenting supports, workforce and community leadership development, and advocacy for community investment where it is needed most.



The mission of **Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services** is to save and transform the lives of children, adults and families through world-class, whole-person mental health care and suicide prevention, including where discrimination and injustice limit access.



The **Mann Crochet Club** offers a space for students to express their creativity and be in community with one another through crochet.



Jacqueline y Hannibal are **Ninoska Arte**. These LA artists create calaverita inspired artwork, stickers, prints and more, inspired by nostalgia, amor y escapism. Available at several shops in L.A.: *Celebrating 14 Years*



The **South Central Writers Guild** provides training in multimedia and journalism to inner city youth and youth adults who live in South Central Los Angeles.

For even more community resources and updates on the latest community events happening around Mann UCLA Community School, please visit the **Community Resources** page on our school's website:



<https://manncs.gseis.ucla.edu/community-resources>

SESSION THREE

1:00PM - 1:45PM

Student Workshops

THE INEQUALITIES OF SCHOOL FUNDING

Room 141

By **Elijah James, Jayah Tellis, Jazmine Martinez, & Yudith Gomez**

We will be talking about how schools have different funding, how school funding works, and how it's unfair.

HOW DOES SOCIAL MEDIA INFLUENCE TEENAGE GIRLS?

Room 142

By **Shania Washington & Kayla Jenkins**

We will be talking about how to love yourself. Yeah, you might wanna look like another girl on the media or wish you had something like her body shape, but we should all have confidence in ourselves.

GANG VIOLENCE

Room 144

By **MaHari Jamon, Derrick Boston, & Zyaire Richard**

We will be talking about how to reduce gang violence and reduce youth from joining gangs.

SESSION THREE

1:00PM - 1:45PM

Community Workshops

BUILDING BLACK & BROWN PARENT POWER

Room 113

By **Community Asset Development Redefining Education (CADRE)**

Parents will gain an introduction to CADRE's model for transforming self, household, school and community through different CADRE tools and practices. Parents will learn what it means to be a CADRE empowered parent and hold schools' Decision Makers accountable.

SCHOOL TO PRISON PIPELINE

Room 115

By **Students Deserve**

Students Deserve is presenting a workshop on ending the school to prison pipeline! Come kick it with us to talk about how we can use school funding to invest in youth creating the change we want to see inside and outside of the community!

Poster Presentations

9TH GRADE SUPERHERO COMICS

College Center

Students use comic strips to discuss issues in their community and become superheroes to advocate for their community.

Abraham M., Andy M., Alexandra A., Alexandra F., Carlton S., Caterin R., Emonie P., Esdras B., Jose C., Kathy G., Rayshad L., Rodolfo M., Julieann N., Zakyla C., Nathan H., Jay M., Maya O., Warenn T., and Myla T.

11TH GRADE POSTERS

College Center

Students reimagine their school and community through Youth Participatory Action Research. Using Transformational Resistance as a framework, students analyze the systems of oppression in order to reclaim their community and school.

Kassandra A., Alicia A., Samantha A., Joseph B., Betsinie C., Diana C., Luis C., Malcolm C., Laura D., Byron E. Magdalena G., Ashley H., Emily H., John H., Chevalier I., Kyle J., Nevah L., Jason M., Jocey N., Maryah P., Isabel P., Michelle S. Joshua T., Christina T., Cedrick T., Yair V., Micah W., Natalia A., Londyn B., Marcus C., Jaylen F., Kevin H., Andre H., Martin H., Aniya J., Gemora K., Roberto M., Hanna M., Jazmine O., Marlyn R., Kamaree S.

SESSION FOUR

2:00PM - 2:45PM

Student Workshops

STRAIGHT UP TRASH!

Room 141

By **Joshua McElrath, Richardo Vazquez, Savion Irving, Alex Barrios, Jim Segura, & Chris Aguilar**

In this project we will be talking about getting trash off the street. Trash in the street has become an issue in the community and we hope to bring awareness to it, and eventually even make a new community standard for not littering.

HOW CAN WE STOP SEX TRAFFICKING IN OUR COMMUNITY

Room 142

By **Pablo Gonzalez, Christopher Cutzal, Justin Martinez, & Joseph Zarate**

We will be talking about what we know and how can we stop sex trafficking in our community.

THE PLAGUE OF DECREASED MENTAL HEALTH IN YOUTH

Room 144

By **Aaryn Blunt**

I'm talking about how the mental health is decreasing drastically in youth, and how we can help to resolve it.

YOUTH & SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Room 147

By **Edwin Perez Silvia Valladolid Abraham Usher**

We will talk about how young people do drugs. We will also talk about why peers our age are affected by substance abuse.

SESSION FOUR

2:00PM - 2:45PM

Community Workshops

COLLAGING FOR THE FUTURE

Room 114

By **Hammer Museum**

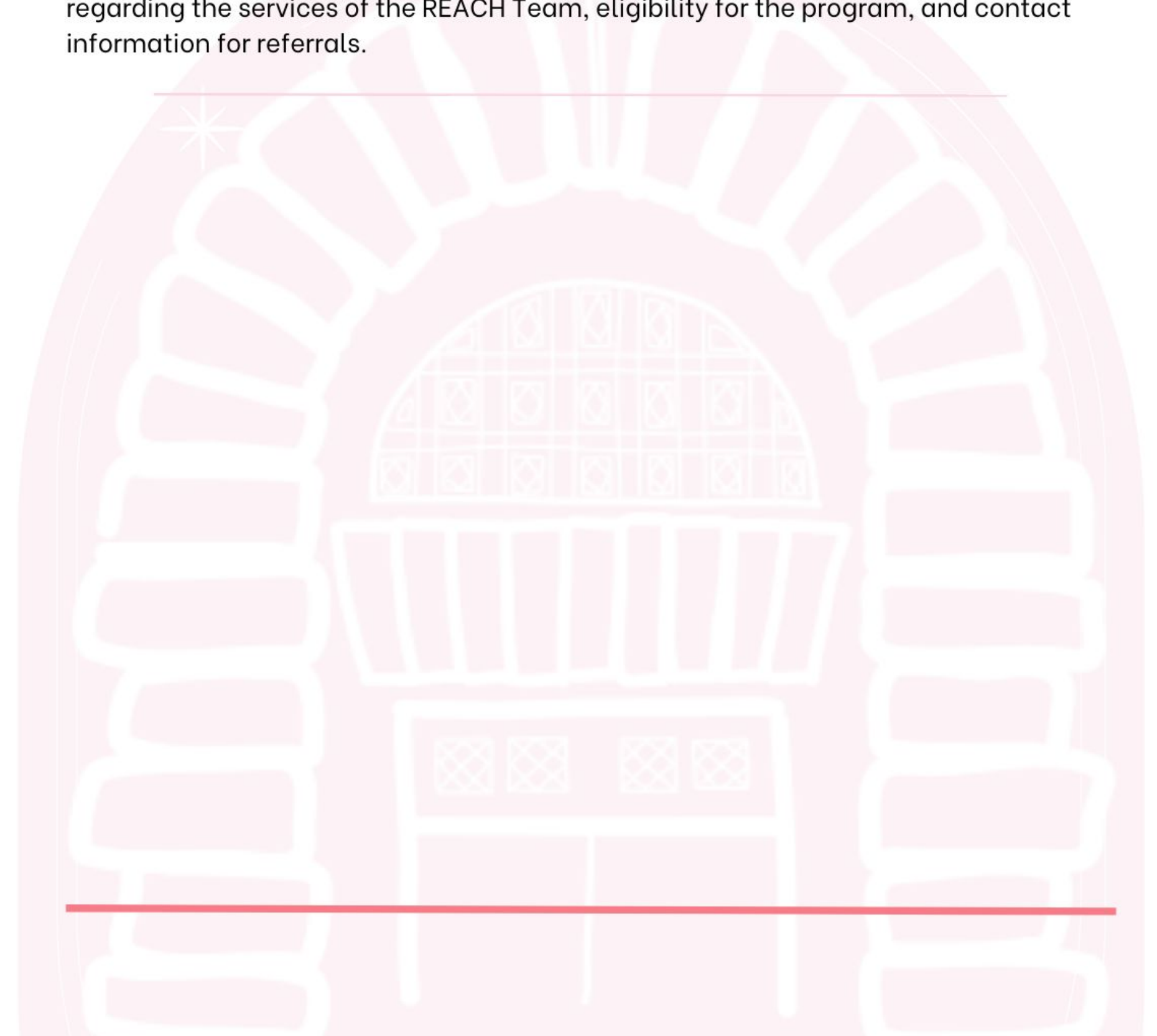
Create collage postcards that visualize the future. This workshop is facilitated by educators from the Hammer Museum.

GII'S CHILDREN EXPOSED TO VIOLENCE PROGRAM AND THE REACH TEAM

Room 116

By **Children's Institute, Inc.**

The REACH Team is part of the Children Exposed to Violence program of Children's Institute and provides free case management, care packages, and crisis counseling to children and adolescents who have been exposed to incidents of violence in Watts and other areas in South Los Angeles. This workshop will provide a brief overview regarding the services of the REACH Team, eligibility for the program, and contact information for referrals.



CLOSING SESSION

3:00PM - 3:45PM

Closing Performance

BLACK STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT PLAN (BSAP) DANCE TEAM

Promoting a Positive School Climate Through Dance

This program started as a way to fill the needs of students who were looking for a dance/cheer community to belong to at Mann. After receiving grant funding from BSAP we were able to make it happen. It's turned into a positive way for students to spend together while expressing themselves through dance.

The BSAP Dance Team is facilitated by Ms. Teresa McNair, Mann's BSAP Climate Coach, and includes Latrice Dismuke, Harmony Jones, Melody Jones, Taleima Watson, Jakai Wells, Aniya Wright, Skheigh Goffney, Shemiah Herbert, Cashmere Ross, Donna Faye Sears, Fred Leonard, Kailyn McDade, Da'Moni Scott, Takkorian Chandler, Kayla Jenkins, Shania Washington, Londyn Brownridge, Maryah Parker, Za'Rae Hester, Mahlon Culbert, & Jasmyne Simmons.

Conference Evaluation

Thank you for joining us for our first annual Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR) Conference at Mann UCLA Community School. Our vision is to continue to grow our impact, expand our reach, and amplify the voices of our students in the coming years.

Please help us by completing the conference evaluation by scanning the QR code to the right or visiting the following link:



<https://bit.ly/ypar2023>

THANK YOU

Special Thank You to Principal Litzsey, our amazing buildings & grounds team (Hugo, Haigi, Albert, Antoine, & Justin), the Mann UCLA CS teachers & staff, and our UCLA partners.

To the YPAR students: We are inspired by your work and research. It is clear that it was driven by a love of our South Los Angeles neighborhood. We are so proud.

To the Los Angeles community: We continue to invite you to share in our students' research around the injustices in South Central and to collectively work towards youth-centered solutions. Our community school is strengthened by the coming together of students, parents, siblings, families, teachers, faculty, community members, community projects and more.

YPAR TEAM



From left to right: Joanne Yi, Scott Aquiles, Adriane Nguyen, Michael Gomez, Joy Lin, Darlene Tieu
Not pictured: Brande Otis, Sunanda Kushon, Courtney Magala, Christine Liboon, Mariana Ramirez

LOCAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Looking for catering for your next event?
Consider one of the locally owned businesses below.
Each person is directly connected to our Mann UCLA Community.

Today's lunch provided by:



Lupita's Bakery is a favorite lunch spot of many Mann UCLA CS teachers. This family owned restaurant, bakery, and banquet hall specializes in Mexican comfort food that covers breakfast, lunch, dinner, and even dessert. They even make custom cakes!

Iris Oviedo PUPUSAS

Iris Oviedo is the mother of a student at Mann UCLA CS who makes delicious pupusas. Contact her at (213) 440-6208.



A pupusa is a thick griddle cake or flatbread from El Salvador and Honduras. It is stuffed with many delicious fillings such as *quesillo* (cheese), meats, and/or beans. Enjoy it topped with *curtido*, a tangy fermented cabbage slaw, and tomato salsa.

Saundra Dozzie MEAL PREP & CATERING

Saundra Dozzie is a mother of a middle school and high school student at Mann UCLA CS. She has always strongly supported our athletics program, from volunteering to sell snacks at games to cheering on our athletes on the sidelines.

She can cook a wide variety of delicious meals that always include a starter, main course, and dessert. Her specialties range across many cuisines: American, Jamaican, Mexican, Italian, and many more. Contact Saundra by texting (323) 253-0592. Instagram (@healthylifestyle_foreverlove)



Kelli Jackson's father Hank is community leader in Hyde Park. She took over the family business, and envisioned a space that blends healthy food, art, and community. Mann students and families directly benefit as healthy food is within walking distance and Kelli is a constant supporter of Mann UCLA CS students and the community.



NadiCakes DESSERT

NadiCakes is a locally owned dessert business run by Nadia Fellows, a mother of two of Mann UCLA's student athletes.

She bakes delicious cakes, cupcakes, cookies and more. Her specialty is creating custom decorated cakes. Email her at nadiafellows@hotmail.com or check her out on Facebook ([nadicakesla](https://www.facebook.com/nadicakesla)) or on Instagram (@_nadicakes)



Ana Aquina AGUAS FRESCAS

Aguas frescas are the best treats for a hot LA day. These light and refreshing drinks from México and Central America come in many flavors that are made from fresh fruits, flowers (such as hibiscus), herbs, grains (horchata), and more.



Ana Aquina is a grandmother of a student at Mann UCLA CS. Contact her at (323)719-8163.

NOTES

Handwritten notes area with horizontal lines and a large, faint watermark of the UCLA crest in the background.