

**The Center for Urban Pedagogy (CUP)** is a nonprofit organization that uses the power of design and art to increase meaningful civic engagement, particularly among historically underrepresented communities. To learn more about CUP, visit [welcometoCUP.org](http://welcometoCUP.org)

**City Studies** are CUP's project-based in-class and afterschool programs that use design and art as tools to research the city.

**CUP**

**Teaching Artist:** Aubrey Murdock

**Project Lead:** Jenn Anne Williams

**Project Support:** Christy Herbes

**The Academy of Urban Planning (AUP)** is a public school in Bushwick with an urban planning theme-based curriculum. To learn more, visit [aupnyc.org](http://aupnyc.org)

**AUP**

**Classroom Teachers:** Aisha Haynes-Harrison & Yolanda Iglecias

**Students:**

Carlos Alvarez, Carlos Arias, Stephen Campbell, Alexis Chavez, Carlos Chiqui, Jean Colon, Cindy Garcia, Jennifer Herrera, Kayla Lora Paredes, Alyssa Medina, Katusca Mejia, Christopher Palacios, Nathaly Pallchizaca, Alexis Perez Filpo, Alex Ramos, Lasann Rodriguez, Yesica Rodriguez, Danirda Rodriguez-Nivar, Deybi Rubio Padilla, Litzy Tapia Guerrero, Ahmad Thomas, Jose Torres, Moises Torres, Nicole Vasquez

**Thanks to our interviewees:** Rachel Bland, Natasha Capers, Valerie Vu

**Special thanks to:** Cassie Ang, Pema Domingo-Barker, Jorge Sandoval

This project was made possible by the Bay and Paul Foundations, the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.



© the Center for Urban Pedagogy, 2015

fold & staple here

fold & staple here

# NEW SCHOOL on the BLOCK





In the Fall of 2015, CUP collaborated with teaching artist Aubrey Murdock and Aisha Haynes-Harrison's 10th grade English class at the Academy of Urban Planning (AUP) in Bushwick, Brooklyn to figure out what it means to be labeled a "Renewal School."

To investigate, students brainstormed ways they noticed the school had changed over the year, then interviewed a panel of experts from the school's own administration, a representative of the New York Coalition for Educational Justice (NYCEJ), and a Community School Coordinator. This booklet is a guide to what they discovered.

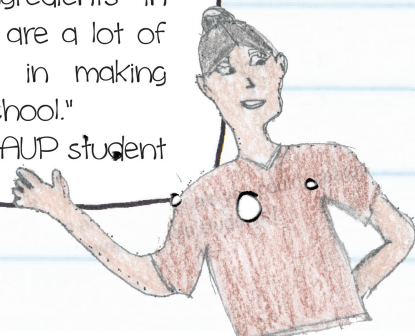
### Who's involved in Renewal Schools?

- community members
- teachers
- students
- parents
- community school teams
- community school coordinators



"Like all the different ingredients in the soup sancocho, there are a lot of different people involved in making decisions about a school."

- AUP student

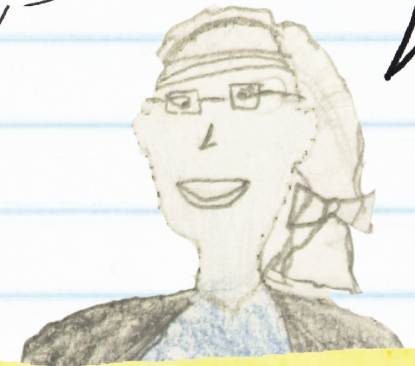
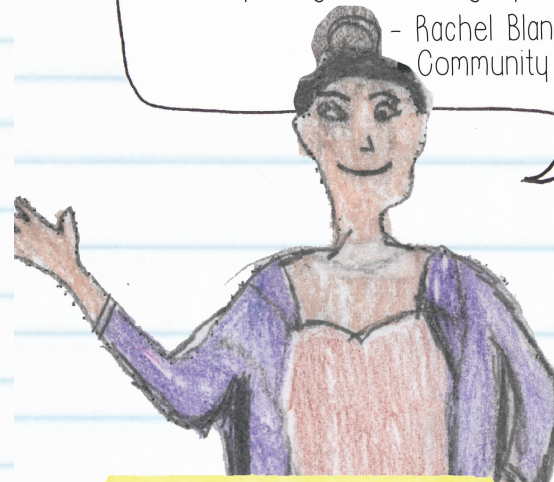


"The school definitely wants the parents to come in. We have all kinds of events and celebrations for families to get involved in."

- Valerie Vu  
AUP Administration

"The key thing is showing up and being engaged."

- Rachel Bland  
Community School Coordinator



"The community and the parents are the greatest resource."

- Natasha Capers  
NYCEJ

- To find and speak with the head of your school, visit <http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolSearch/Maps.aspx>
- Tell Chancellor Carmen Fariña your opinion on the School Renewal Plan at <http://schools.nyc.gov/ContactDOE/ChancellorMessage.htm>
- To become a community partner with a school, contact the Office of School Programs and Partnerships at [partners@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:partners@schools.nyc.gov)
- For other questions about the DOE, call 311

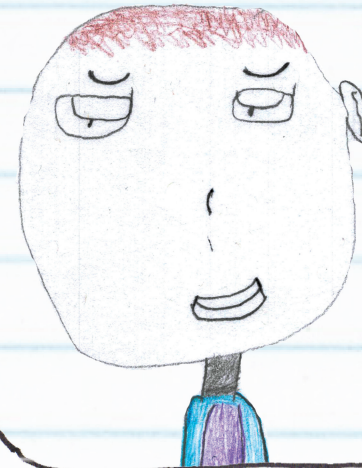


# HOW CAN YOU BE INVOLVED?

What do YOU think about the Renewal School Program?



Students, parents, and community members can take part in open conversations about how they feel about their schools. What things do you want to stay the same or to change?



← AUP STUDENT

“Have you been hearing about Renewal Schools? It's alright, our school is a Renewal School and we can teach you all about it. You will notice changes you may not agree with, like longer school hours. Another thing added is a class that prepares you for college. Renewal Schools can also have more parent meetings and involvement. Some things you'll expect to find in this booklet include why a school becomes part of the Renewal School Program, what Renewal Schools and Community Schools are, images of some of the things we'd like to include in our school, and statements from interviews with people who work in Renewal Schools and Community Schools.”

- Jose Torres  
QUP Student

What different ingredients make up your school?



# WHAT IS A RENEWAL SCHOOL?

In November of 2014, Mayor Bill de Blasio released a School Renewal Program for 94 of the city's lowest performing schools. The Academy of Urban Planning was one of those schools.

A RENEWAL SCHOOL meets all 3 criteria:

- ✓ the bottom 5% of lowest-performing schools or bottom 10% in school progress
- ✓ low academic achievement from 2012 to 2014
- ✓ poor review in school quality

The School Renewal Program works to help schools by offering lots of extra support.



Address Low School Performance

with →

- ✓ ⌚ Extended School Hours
- ✓ 🗣️ Guidance Counselors
- ✓ 📖 Teacher Training

# RENEWED AND IMPROVED?

"We didn't think that so many schools would be becoming Community Schools in such a short amount of time. It's going to be hard because it's a lot to take on. It's a lot to get schools ready for such an undertaking when resources are limited." - Natasha Capers NYCEJ



Some parents are concerned that the Renewal School Program is not dealing with the issue of class size.

More community supports for schools can be a major positive but can this plan increase academic performance?

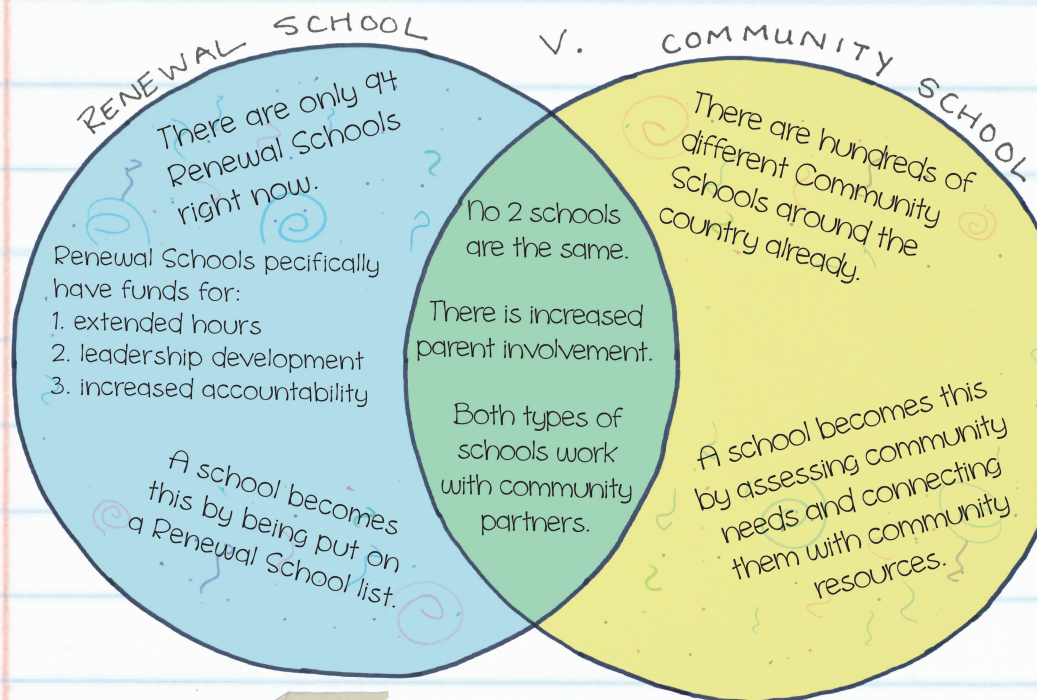
Where will the funding come from after the 3 year program ends?





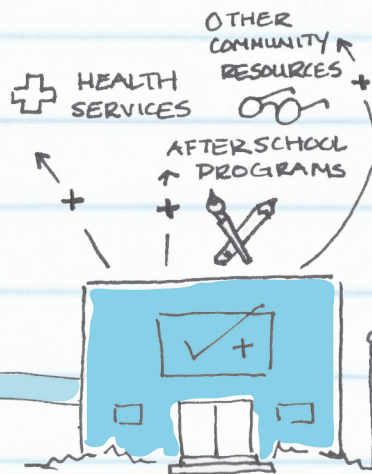
# WHAT'S NEXT?

Every successful Renewal School will become a Community School.  
What are similarities and differences between Renewal and Community Schools?



- Community Schools:
- ✓ partner with organizations in the community
  - ✓ meet social, emotional, and physical needs of students
  - ✓ become a center for families
  - ✓ take time, participation, and hard work

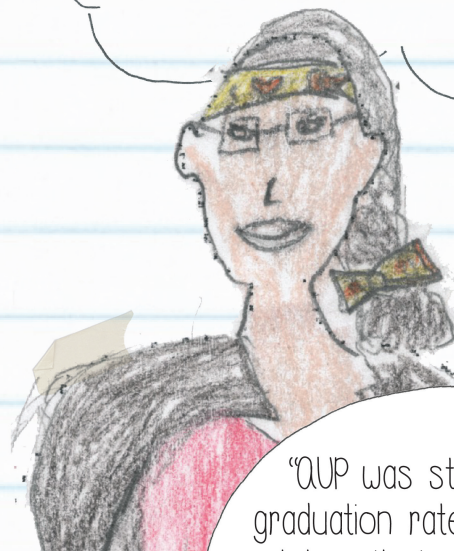
Community schools partner with community organizations



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT COMMUNITY SCHOOLS, VISIT [www.childrensaidsociety.org/community-schools](http://www.childrensaidsociety.org/community-schools)

"Being on a Renewal School list, there are certain benchmarks that need to get met."

- Natasha Capers  
NYCEJ



change happens at the speed of trust?

Teacher.

"QUP was struggling with our graduation rates and meeting the state criteria. They put us on a renewal school list in hopes that the support will bring us up."

- Valerie Vu  
QUP Administration





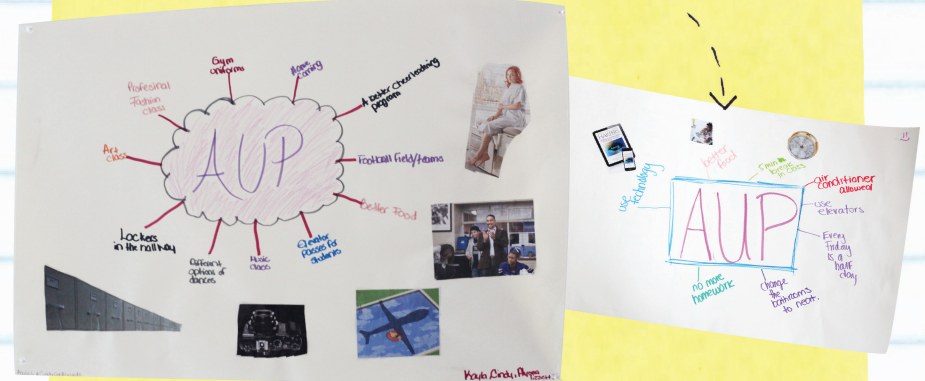
# WHAT'S THE PLAN?

Once a school is identified as a Renewal School, a step by step plan is made specifically for that school. No two schools are alike.

## Once identified as a Renewal School:

1. The Department of Education (DOE) identifies the school's needs through an assessment, like a survey.
2. Based on the school's needs, a school specific plan is created.
3. Community-based organizations partner with the school.
4. All schools increase the school day by 1 hour for extended learning time
5. Schools have 3 years to complete the plan, with school specific consequences if their goals are not met.

OUP students identified their wants and needs for their school. Students wanted better food and photography classes.



Students then brainstormed what resources in their neighborhood could meet those needs.

Could their favorite restaurants provide food for school events?  
Could local artists teach after-school programs?

What does your ideal school look like?  
What resources are in your neighborhood?

