

# PLANet YOUTH: NYC 2008

## Celebrating Youth Leadership in Planning

Brooklyn, NY April 3-6, 2008

- Are you a young person involved in a planning, policy or other action in your community?
- Are you an adult ally to young people engaged in planning, policy or community building activities?
- Do you want to meet youth from across the country who are making an impact in their communities?
- Do you want to join national efforts to advocate for youth involvement in planning and policy making?
- Do you have ideas, strategies and success stories you would like to share with your peers?
- Do you want to learn how you can get involved in the Young Planners Network?

The Young Planners Network invites you to submit your presentation proposals for our second annual conference!

### What is the Young Planners Network?

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Young people possess an innate curiosity to explore, asking questions and imagining possibilities. Just by traveling from home to school, biking to the park, or hanging with friends on the block, they become expert evaluators of neighborhood spaces. Still, they are often left out of public processes where decisions are made about the future of the spaces they use. We think that engaging youth in the practice of planning will not only help to create better places, but also deepen their understanding of the power and importance of civic involvement at any age.

The Young Planners Network (YPN) consists of Young Planners and Adult Allies all over the U.S. who are working to 'create a place at the table' for youth in planning processes, by both incorporating planning content into K-12 education and by advocating for change in planning practice. YPN was formed to connect those of us involved in this work so that we can support efforts to increase authentic youth participation in the field of urban planning, and to celebrate the contributions youth have made to successful planning in their communities.

A Young Planner is a young person engaged in urban planning, policy or action in his or her community, either through a school project, internship, afterschool program or community organization. Young Planners play an important role in shaping how the places they live will grow and change over time. Adult Allies are teachers, mentors, employers, and community members that support and work with Young Planners.

Currently, YPN has chapters in New York, New Orleans, Chicago and the San Francisco Bay Area, and members from each will be in attendance at the conference! This conference will connect you - Young Planners and Adult Allies - to others locally and nationwide, providing resources to support your work, and hopefully inspiring you with new strategies and ideas!

### A Call for Participation

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We want you to be a part of YPN 2008! We are expecting over 100 participants from at least four states! Here are a few guidelines to think about as you design a presentation to share your work with conference attendees. Please comment on the following two areas in your submission:

1. Topic area or theme: Does your work fall into a specific area within planning? This will help us group your presentation with others into a track.

- Participatory planning with youth
- Youth in government and policy-making
- Community improvement through service or service-learning
- Environmental issues/sustainability
- Social justice issues in the community
- Urban Planning in K-12 curriculum
- Arts and community development
- ...Or offer your own category!

2. Type of Presentation: We encourage you to be creative in the design of your presentation! Remember that your audience will include both Young Planners and Adult Allies!

- Panel Session – Assemble your own panel of presenters around a common theme
- Individual Presentation – Present your work or project
- Interactive Workshop – Engage audience in discussion or skill-building activities
- Poster Presentation – Create a poster that describes your project, ideas or vision
- Mobile Workshop – Design a tour for participants, organize a site visit, etc.
- Creative Expression – Submit a poem, piece of artwork or short film.
- .... Or suggest your own presentation format!

Proposal Submissions must include:

1. Contact information for each presenter (Name, title, address, telephone, email)
2. Main topic area or theme, and the preferred presentation format
3. Session title and summary (300 words or less)
4. Audio-visual requirements
5. Length of the presentation (time required/requested)
6. Any other special requirements if applicable (transportation, materials, etc.)

Proposal Evaluation:

The conference planning committee may create panels from individual proposals based on topic areas. We enthusiastically encourage presentations designed and led by youth, or by youth in partnership with adult allies! You will be notified in early February 2008 if your proposal is selected. Please submit proposals in PDF or Microsoft Word format as an attachment to: [YPN-NYC@googlegroups.com](mailto:YPN-NYC@googlegroups.com).

**Proposals must be received no later than January 15, 2008!**

Conference Schedule (tentative)	
Thursday, 4/3	Early evening poster session and networking event hosted by a local environmental organization.
Friday 4/4	Welcome and opening session at the Academy of Urban Planning before departing for interactive mobile workshops all over the city. A social event in the evening will include poetry, film and music by youth!
Saturday 4/5	Keynote speaker followed by a day of panels, presentations and interactive workshops.
Sunday 4/6	Annual Young Planners Network meeting in the morning.

Visit [www.aupnyc.org/ypn](http://www.aupnyc.org/ypn) for additional information on PLANet Youth: NYC 2008 Email [Meredith.urbanplanning@gmail.com](mailto:Meredith.urbanplanning@gmail.com) with questions.