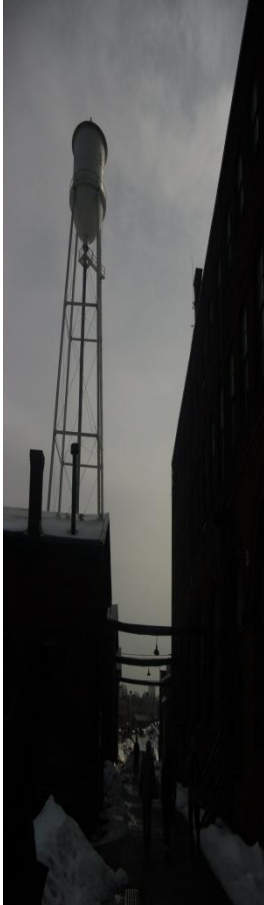


University of Orange's First Jan Term

January 5th -19th 2011
Orange, NJ



By: Khemani Gibson, U of O Student

Introduction

This January the University of Orange held its first Jan Term session. In order to receive full credit for Jan Term, students had to take the Youth Urbanism Seminar led by Dr. Mindy Fullilove, do a food blog post on i8inOrange, and help plan for the Heart of Orange's third annual Placemaking event. The seminar met three times for two hours each to discuss and examine examples of youth urbanism. For the seminar portion, students were given three examples of youth urbanism: CLIMB summer program, ORNG Ink, and Soundbox Banditz, and asked to analyze how they were examples of youth urbanism in a scientific poster. By the end of the seminar students were supposed to be able to: define youth urbanism, list ways in which youth urbanism can make a special contribution to community revitalization, compare and contrast the ways in which several different youth urbanism projects have worked, describe the challenges one faces in getting youth involved and adults to accept youth leadership, and to propose a youth urbanism effort for improving the Orange Train Station.

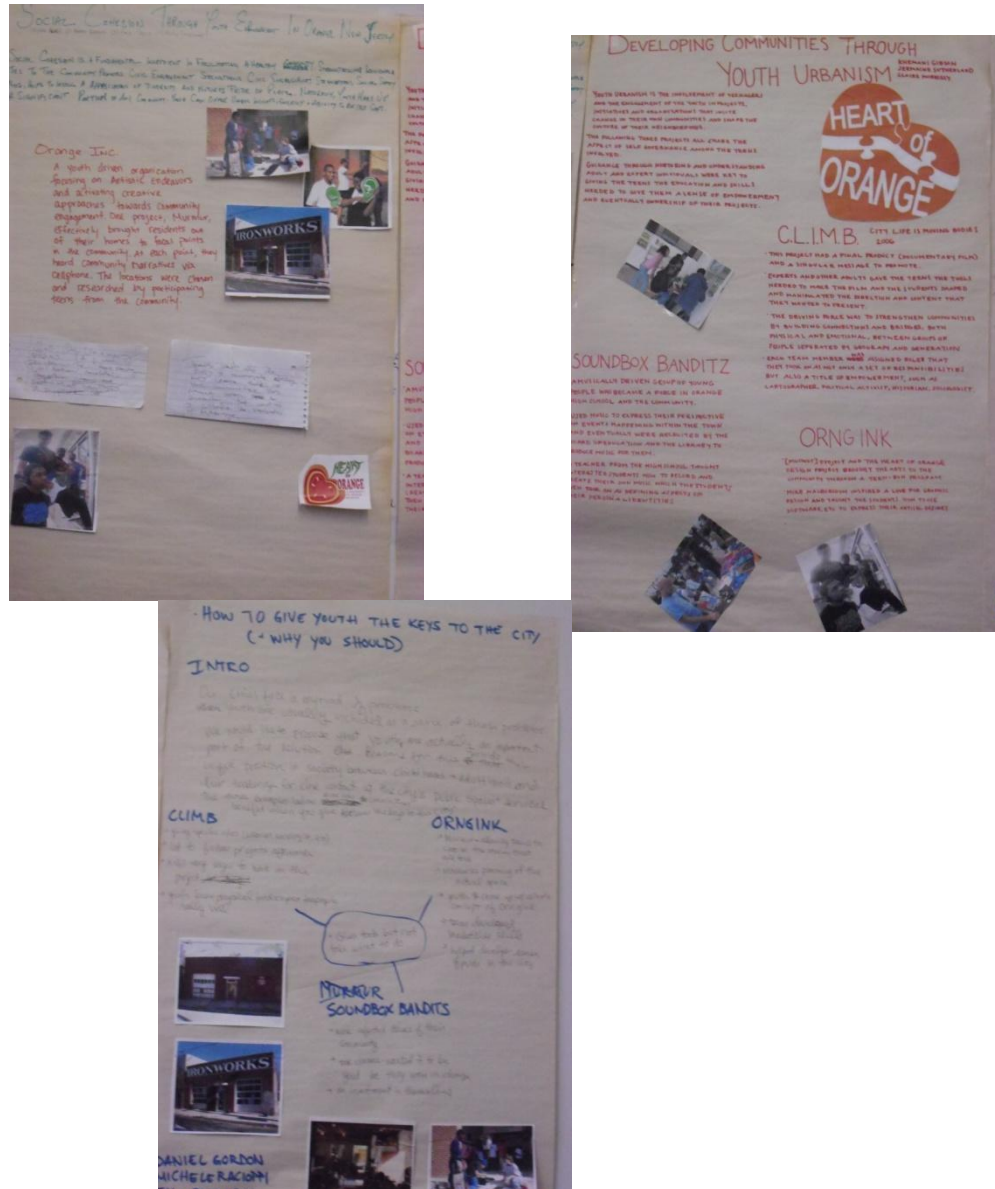


January 5, 2011

On the first day of class, the youth urbanism seminar began with the students introducing themselves. Dr. Fullilove began the class by asking the students to define youth urbanism. There was a variety of different views on what youth urbanism was that sparked much discussion. Dr. Fullilove brought up how cities are formed with the example of Timbuktu forming at a crossroad near the bend of the Niger River. Karen Wells discussed the reasons people settled in Orange during the 1800s. The class then broke into small groups so the students could examine the class's learning objectives. The groups then brainstormed ways to approach the objectives.

January 7, 2011

On the second day of class, students were presented with two of the three groups that they had to incorporate into their posters. The class began by watching the City Life is Moving Bodies (CLIMB) summer documentary. Dr. Fullilove explained a little about the process of CLIMB summer. Khemani Gibson then did a presentation on ORNG Ink discussing how ORNG Ink was created. He showed a video of the summer when ORNG Ink was founded and talked about how the students from ORNG Ink got involved in outside projects such developing the logo for The Heart of Orange, and being the workers behind the [murmur] project. Suggestions were discussed for anyone trying to get youth involved in a project. In the spirit of youth driven organizations, class concluded with pizza from Rock-it Pizza.

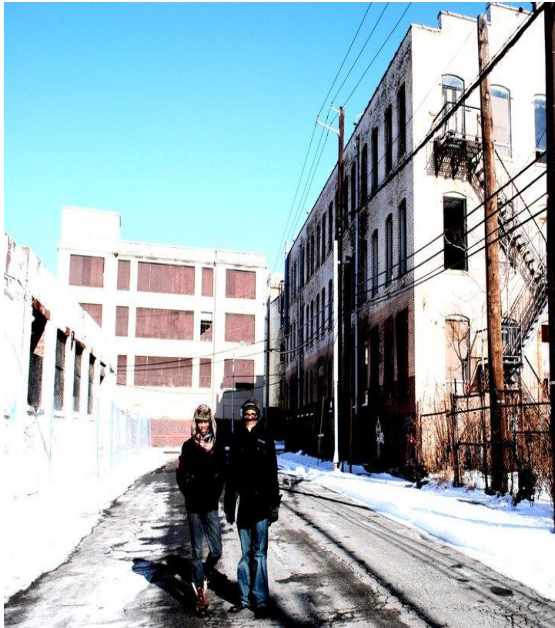


January 14, 2011 (rescheduled from January 12, 2011)

The final day of the seminar was rescheduled to January 14 due to a snow storm. Molly Rose Kaufman presented the third youth organization, Soundbox Banditz. A brief history was given and a few of their songs were played for the class. The class then proceeded to identify the differences between the three youth initiatives. Dr. Fullilove explained the two readings that were given out during the first day of class. The class then broke into three groups in order to make their posters. Each group chose to focus on different ways in which youth urbanism affects communities. One poster showed how youth urbanism correlates with a community's social cohesion, another examined how the three groups presented used youth urbanism to help develop their communities, and the last focused on how youth can be used as a solution to certain problems in a community.

Walking Tour

After the final class, a few students went on a walking tour of the Valley District of Orange listening to [murmur] stories and observing the sights of the valley. There was a lot of curiosity among the group and many of the sites inspired Brooke Hansson to take several pictures for us to remember the tour.



Trip to the Thomas Edison Museum



After the seminar had finished, a few students along with Dr. Fullilove took a trip to the Thomas Edison Museum in West Orange, New Jersey. The day was filled with much excitement as everyone learned about Edison's inventions. By the end of the trip everyone had come to appreciate Edison's genius for helping to shape our modern world. For lunch, we stopped at Olga & Juanita's deli in West Orange, which serves Peruvian Cuisine. Everyone had the opportunity to experience the biggest lunch ever according to an i8inOrange blog post. By the end of the day everyone left full from a very delicious lunch and had a better understanding about how Thomas Edison changed the world.



Conclusion: What did we learn? What Now?

Jan Term 2011 allowed students to explore how youth urbanism can impact a community for the good. Most of the youth initiatives arose from unmet needs in the community. ORNG Ink formed a place for youth to express themselves through art, CLIMB summer provided a plan for connecting neighborhoods in New York City, and Soundbox Banditz gave students the opportunity to gain valuable knowledge about recording and writing music. Students who participated in Jan Term have come to a realization of how vital youth are for the community since they are full of energy and bridge the gap between generations. Students also have seen the impact these organizations have had on their communities. With a better understanding of youth urbanism, it is possible that more youth initiatives can be created to use teenagers to solve some of our cities' problems. Based on the final posters, it can be seen that youth urbanism is a promising way in which communities can continue to develop socially and economically.

Thank you to All Jan Term Participants

Mindy Thompson Fullilove, MD – Professor
Molly Rose Kaufman
Khemani Gibson
Jermaine Sutherland
Michele Racioppi
Karen Wells
Beth MacDonald
Claire Morrissy
Daniel Gordon
Nupur Chaudhury
Brooke Hansson
Zach Greco
Leah Rainer
Josephine Karianjahi
Pat Morrissy
Jill Peterson
Iana Dikidjewa
Vassilina Dikidjewa
Nancy Molineiro

