

URBAN PLANNING TAKE-HOME KIT

NOTES FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

Welcome! There are two activities in this urban planning take-home kit:

1. Community Scavenger Hunt

GOAL: For kids to pay attention to and explore the urban environment around them as well as how people interact with that environment.

Let each box open up a conversation. For example, are many streets, parks, or plazas in your city named after historical figures or community members? Take the opportunity to talk about (or research) the identities, stories, or histories of those names.

2. Your First Urban Planning Project

GOAL: For kids to use art and creative thinking to wildly imagine city spaces.

Through this activity, kids can think about what makes a space desirable or undesirable. Additionally, they can begin to understand public spaces as places they can be a part of and care for.

WHY URBAN PLANNING?

The field of urban planning covers a lot of stuff, (city zoning codes, street widths, and transit routes to name a few) which is why it is especially important for kids to engage in this complex subject through art projects, hands on learning, and nonverbal forms of exploration and inquiry.

These activities aim to encourage children to be more aware of the urban spaces they navigate every day, to be curious about where they live, and to feel inspired by the places around them. By exploring their own communities (scavenger hunt) and seeing potential within a community space (planning project), kids learn to feel more confident, responsible, and empowered in their environment. Ok, let's jump in!

CONCEPTS INSPIRED BY:

APPELBAUM, ALEC (2017). "KINDLING CURIOSITY ON A LOW-TECH URBAN SCAVENGER HUNT" BLOOMBERG CITYLAB

ROJAS, JAMES & KAMP, JOHN (2021). "HOW DO YOU TEACH KIDS ABOUT URBAN PLANNING? LET THEM PLAY. COMMON EDGE