#### Partnerships for Child & Youth Friendly Cities Sustainable Structures for Participatory Design & Planning

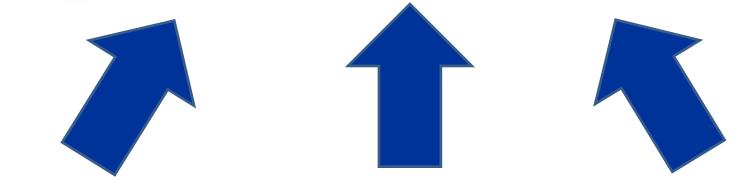


photo courtesy Lynn M. Lickteig

Louise Chawla \* Cities and Kids \* Boston University \* 3/23/17







UNESCOUNICEFUN HABITATGrowing Up in CitiesChild Friendly Cities Initiative

advocacy planning participatory action research children's rights Convention on the Rights of the Child Habitat Agenda



# Growing Up Boulder

Vision: To make Boulder an exemplary child and youth friendly city

**Mission:** To empower Boulder's young people with opportunities for inclusion, influence and deliberation on local issues that affect their lives

www.growingupboulder.org

Building a **Child Friendly City** is the process of implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) by local government.

The United States is the only member of the United Nations that has not ratified the CRC—but local governments and other institutions of civil society may choose to adhere to its principles.



# childfriendlycities.org

# Child Friendly Cities respect children's rights to:

#### **Protection:**

#### For example

- Protection from exploitation, violence and abuse
- An unpolluted environment
- Safe streets and neighborhoods

#### **Provision of basic needs:**

- Safe water and proper sanitation
- Basic services such as health care, education and shelter
- Places to meet friends for play and leisure
- Green spaces for plants and animals
- Independent movement through walking biking, mass transit

#### **Participation:**

- In family, community and social life
- In cultural and social events
- By expressing their views about the city they want
- By influencing decisions about their city

#### **Equal realization of rights:**

 Opportunities to be an equal citizen of their city with access to every service, regardless of ethnic origin, religion, income, gender or disability In a Child and Youth Friendly City, children's rights are reflected in local policies, laws, programs, budgets, and the physical structure of the city.

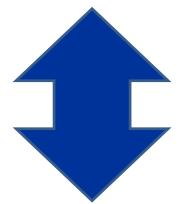
#### **City of Boulder**

Community Planning, Housing and Sustainability \* Transportation \* Parks and Recreation \* Open Space & Mountain Parks \* Boulder Housing Partners \* Arts Commission \* Resilient Cities Program

#### **Boulder Valley School District**



University of Colorado --CEDaR –Community Engagement, Design and Research Center



YMCA \* I Have a Dream \* Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art \* Youth Services Initiative \* Youth Opportunities Advisory Board \* Boulder Journey School \* Head Start \* other groups as they share interests

### creating sustainable structures

meeting 2X/year Executive Committee (representatives of major partners: City – School District – University)

two paid part-time program coordinators



meeting 5-6X/year Steering Committee (representatives of major partners and other community groups who are implementing projects)

### creating sustainable structures

- Bring together strategic partners
- Partners make funding a line item in their budget
- Fund a project coordinator
- Build top-down / bottom-up alliances
- Go where youth are use existing groups
- Connect young people's ideas to goals and missions of partner organizations
- Educate about children's rights but emphasize locally persuasive talking points

#### creating sustainable structures



Integrate activities with university classes, internships, service learning, & graduate research

handicapped accessible playground design

# walk audits







# photovoice

Civic Area Redevelopment 2012-2014





# photo by Lynn Lickteig

# bioblitz and place-based studies



Burke Park master plan

# model making





# public presentations



how a CYFC process is beneficial to a city

- Permits a broader range and a larger number of youth to share their opinions than with only "youth councils"
- City staff are enthusiastic because the process creates more meaningful, participatory engagement
- Citizens and city councilors appreciate youth voice
- Serves as a coordinating node for organizations, maximizing resources by finding synergies among them

# Growing Up in an Urbanising World

LOUISE CHAWLA, Editor

# Creating Better Cities with Children and Youth

#### A MANUAL FOR PARTICIPATION

David Driskell in collaboration with members of the Growing Up in Cities project team

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