



ADVANCEMENT PROJECT

CLOSING THE OPPORTUNITY GAP

2012 Report to Our Community

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Dear friends,

As California struggles economically, it is more difficult for working families to achieve equity and justice, which lie at the core of Advancement Project's values. Yet, through a combination of advocacy, data-driven solutions, partnerships, and other strategies, Advancement Project is proud to successfully help make significant gains.

We are pleased to provide you a snapshot of our work and, more importantly, the impact it has in California. These stories bring to life our newly adopted mission statement:

Advancement Project is a next generation, multi-racial civil rights organization. Rooted in the great human rights struggles for equality and justice, we exist to fulfill America's promise of a caring, inclusive and just democracy. We use innovative tools and strategies to strengthen social movements and achieve high impact policy change.

I hope you enjoy learning more about these projects and the impact they have had throughout California. Our work is dependent on strong relationships with community-based, academic and policy partners. Of course, none of it would be possible without the support from our committed donors and funders.

Thank you,

John Kim
Co-Director

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Impact Area: **ADVOCACY**

It's Working! Five Years of Comprehensive Gang Violence Reduction Strategies



In 2007 Advancement Project released [A Call to Action: A Case for a Comprehensive Solution to L.A.'s Gang Violence Epidemic](#), which explained why Los Angeles' 30-year "war on gangs" was failing to quell gangs and gang violence. Since then, Los Angeles has been on an unprecedented quest – an extraordinary experiment to find out what it takes to keep kids safe in the worst gang zones.

Our [Urban Peace program](#) is releasing a report in November to look back at the five years of work propelled by *A Call to Action*. The report will highlight progress the City has made, and how to build on these successes to achieve the final stages of public safety in places where children are still exposed to trauma and violence.

Despite amazing gains in violence reduction for the City of Los Angeles as a whole, there is still much left to do. We are not yet fully cured of this complex epidemic – the conditions that spawn and sustain gang violence remain largely unchanged in L.A.'s most vulnerable communities. We continue to advocate for systemic solutions.

As the mayoral election looms in 2013, a key question is whether the new mayor will visibly back a comprehensive public safety approach. To ensure this happens, we are holding a [Mayoral Candidates Forum on Public Safety](#) on December 13 to give candidates the chance to state their commitment to continuing the strategies that have proven to work. Los Angeles cannot rest until every family and every single child enjoy the first of all civil rights – safety – and the first of all freedoms – freedom from violence.

Preserving Early Education and Minimizing Cuts at LAUSD

In 2012, the LAUSD Board of Education proposed funding cuts, which would eliminate access to early education for nearly 25,000 children in L.A. If passed, the school district would shut down all 388 *School Readiness Language Development Program* (SRLDP) classrooms and each of the 108 existing Early Education Centers across the District. In response, Advancement Project and its partners engaged in successful advocacy efforts to ensure that these programs only sustained minor funding cuts.

LAUSD's finalized 2013 budget cut only 10% of existing SRLDP classrooms, and Early Education Centers faced only a 3% reduction. As a result of our budget advocacy, we protected approximately 22,000 low-income children's educational opportunities.

The Summer Night Lights Program Makes Parks Safe



In *A Call to Action*, we recommended implementation of the [Summer Night Lights \(SNL\) Program](#), now in its 5th year. SNL is succeeding at decreasing the number of homicides (by 57%) and violent crime (18%) in areas around the parks that are located in gang violence hot zones.

By turning parks that had reputations for being hotbeds of drug-deals, prostitution, gang activity and murder into centers of communal recreation, residents can enjoy outdoors activities that more affluent neighborhoods take for granted. SNL relies on individuals who are highly trained in community-based policing, conflict resolution, and tactics to keep the peace in their neighborhoods.

Legislative Wins in Sacramento



For the two-year 2011-12 California Legislative Session, our government relations team traced 139 pieces of legislation and of these bills, took positions on 60. Some highlights of bills we supported that became law include:

- AB 1436, allowing same day voter registration
- Several bills to reduce the number of youth tracked into the criminal justice system,
- A cluster of bills to protect the rights and

- future success of foster children, and
- Budget advocacy for early childhood and K-12 education in California.

Click here for a full list of [Advancement Project legislative wins](#).

Urban Peace Testimony to Congress About The Power of Intervention

Connie Rice, founder of Advancement Project, spoke to the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security about the need for constitutional policing and the power of utilizing gang violence interventionists to keep peace on the streets. [Read coverage of the testimony](#).

Investing in Education



Over the past decade, Advancement Project has been committed to improving California's education system. And we have learned that our system needs further investment to more successfully educate our kids. Since 2008, California's school budgets have been cut by \$20 billion and more than 40,000 educators have been laid off.

We support [Proposition 38](#) to restore cuts to improve student learning and to ensure that local schools get the funding they need to help our children. Proposition 38 provides a stable base of education revenue and a fair way to invest in our children's futures.

Impact Area: **DATA, ANALYSIS AND MAPPING**

A Not-So-Golden State for California's Children



During the Great Recession of 2008–2011, California cut funding for early care and education programs by \$1.2 billion and eliminated these services for over 100,000 children, according to a report from our [Healthy City](#) and [Educational Equity](#) programs.

[*Shrinking Investments Yield Smaller Returns: Mapping the Loss of Early Childhood Education Investment and Infrastructure in LA County During the 2008-2011 Great Recession*](#) includes maps that provide a concrete view of where and how our state has chosen to invest – and divest – in its children, its working families and its workforce, and how it might re-deploy those resources in the future.

We have just launched [SaveMySeatLA.org](#), a website that includes data from the cuts in 2008-2011, shows the significant cuts since then and the dire consequences any future cuts might have. For example, a 10% budget cut may seem minimal but for childcare providers this may eliminate 59% of seats for low income families.

Community Safety Scorecard: City of Los Angeles 2011



The *Scorecard* simulates a report card with letter grades from A to F for each ZIP code in the City of Los Angeles. It pinpoints the safest and most unsafe ZIP codes, and where recent reductions in crime have not been enough to deliver adequate safety.

Our report is the first to offer data at the ZIP code level, and the first to offer data by categorizing both protective and risk factors for violence, and school conditions.

Informing Advocacy for California's Infants and Toddlers

Recommendations from the Infant-Toddler Workgroup of the statewide Water Cooler network that address policy problems facing early care and education services for California's infants and toddlers. Read the report, *Informing Advocacy for Children Birth to Five: California Infant and Toddler Early Learning Policy Recommendations*, published in May 2012.

Santa Cruz County Ranks High Among California Counties, But Poor Concentrated in South



A recent analysis done by our [Healthy City](#) researchers finds that Santa Cruz County does well in ratings for Financial, Health, Safety and Education needs. But where you live within the county has an impact on your socio-economic status and your quality of life, with people in the south – Watsonville – hardest hit.

Working with a diverse coalition of funders, community-based organizations and government agencies, Healthy City created the [Community Data Mapping Project](#), which allows community leaders to access a comprehensive countywide data pool online and a detailed analysis of community needs.

Impact Area: **PARTNERSHIPS AND CONVENINGS**

500 Early Education Advocates Join Forces



Each year in early spring, the [Educational Equity](#) team at Advancement Project organizes a two-day conference that attracts nearly 500 early education advocates, teachers, administrators and policymakers.

The goal of the [Water Cooler conference](#) is to ensure that advocates are sharing ideas and strategies and mobilizing in support of a cohesive strategy for California's youngest and most vulnerable – children 0-5. [First 5](#)

[California](#) is our partner in hosting the conference.

Community Safety Partnership in Housing Developments



Urban Peace helped convene the LAPD and the Housing Authority of the County of L.A. to create a historic Community Safety Partnership. This agreement allows the LAPD to implement community policing strategies as well as ensuring that previously silent Latino immigrant community leaders will collaborate with long standing African American residents.

Since our involvement in Watts, crime levels have been reduced by an astounding 43% in the three Watts housing developments.

Impact Area: **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING**

Good Data = Good Decision-Making for Philanthropy



In these severe economic times, foundations are faced with shrinking funding portfolios and skyrocketing needs in the communities they serve. To better meet this need, [Healthy City](#) has strategically partnered with funders to transform their philanthropy using mapping and data tools, and innovative research methods.

[Good Data = Good Decision-Making](#) shares case studies to show how Healthy City has strategically partnered with funders to transform their philanthropy. We also explore best practices we developed in using multi-disciplinary expertise,

tools, and methods to support philanthropic efforts.

Community Research Lab Toolkits

A Short Guide to Community Based Participatory Action Research



A
COMMUNITY
RESEARCH
LAB
GUIDE

Healthy City launched the [Community Research Lab](#), a program that helps advocates gather data from their communities, match this data with existing data sources and best utilize it to support their advocacy campaigns. We soon realized that only a small fraction of California's many social change and civil rights organizations could attend such a training.

To extend our impact, we developed [The Community Research Lab Toolbox](#), a series of free toolkits and guides for community-based research and action. The toolkits take you step-by-step as you learn how to:

- Turn issues into research questions that will inform your strategy;
 - Use HealthyCity.org to collect and map knowledge from community members; and
 - Make data meaningful and relevant to your work and your community.
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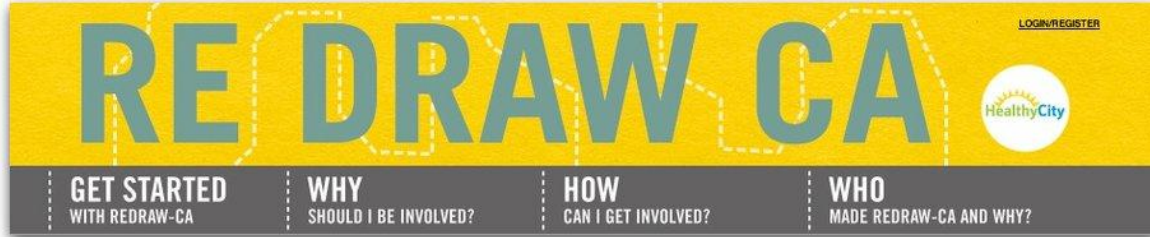
Urban Peace Academy Graduates Fifth and Sixth Class of Gang Interventionists



On June 23rd and December 4th, proud graduates marched to the podium and received certificates from dignitaries including L.A. City Mayor Villaraigosa and L.A. Police Chief Beck. The [Urban Peace Academy](#) has trained nearly 1,600 people to help keep peace in gang hot zones, most of them former gang members who have committed to making their communities safe. The graduates complete 140 hours of course work, focusing on post-traumatic stress disorder, mental health, public health, cease-fire tactics and law enforcement dynamics.

Impact Area: **TOOLS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE**

Helping Ensure Redistricting is Fair and Accountable

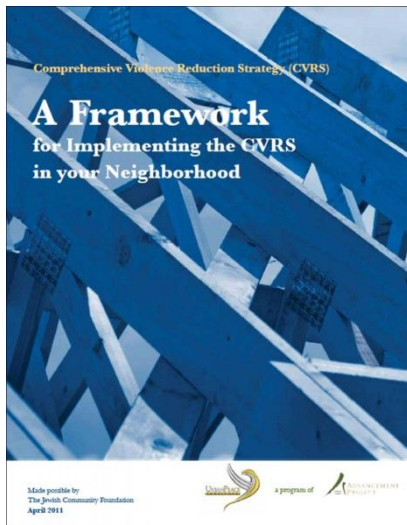


In the statewide redistricting process, there were many headlines about which political party “won” the race to get more seats. But that coverage overlooked a very important fact – that thousands of everyday Californians participated in a process that for decades has been conducted behind closed doors.

Our special website, ReDrawCA.org, was a big part of boosting participation by giving people an easy, online tool to share their own ideas and maps with the Citizen’s Redistricting Commission that drew the lines.

We adapted ReDrawCA.org to be useful to local efforts as well, specifically in Los Angeles (ReDrawLA.org), the City and County of San Francisco (ReDrawSF.org), and for the Los Angeles Unified School District (ReDrawLAUSD.org).

Comprehensive Violence Reduction Strategy (CVRS): A Framework for Implementing the CVRS in your Neighborhood



The [CVRS Framework](#) describes our unique violence reduction strategy and offers **concrete tools** to plan and build an effective public-private stakeholder network that can collectively **design a neighborhood driven action plan** to reduce violence.

The *Framework* details four modules that can be implemented in sequence with some overlap, or selected independently depending upon the groundwork already completed:

- Conduct a community assets and needs assessment,
- Build a collaborative of the necessary people and organizations,
- Develop a plan of action with aligned goals, and
- Implement a sustainable action plan.

FINANCIALS

Statement of Activity

	YR 2011		
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
Support & Revenue			
Contributions & Grants	1,612,816	1,527,105	3,139,921
Contract Revenue	1,961,243		1,961,243
In-Kind Contributions	226,252		226,252
Other Income	255		255
Net Assets released from restriction	1,591,694	(1,591,694)	0
Total Support & Revenue	5,392,260	(64,589)	5,327,671

	YR 2011		
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
Expenses			
Program Services	4,479,780		4,479,780
Management & General	421,267		421,267
Fundraising	436,476		436,476
Total Expenses	5,337,523		5,337,523
Change in Net Assets	54,737	(64,589)	(9,852)

Net Assets			
Beginning of YR 2011	1,348,709	902,548	2,251,257
End of YR 2011	1,433,079	837,959	2,271,038

Statement of Financial Position

	YR 2011
Assets	
Cash	95,897
Contributions and grants receivables	818,216
Prepaid expenses and other assets	1,088
Investments	357,389
Property and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation	160,489

	2011
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Liabilities – Accounts Payable and accrued expenses	614,115
Net Assets - Undesignated	(18,995)
Net Assets – Temporarily restricted	837,959

Net Assets Total 818,964

Total 1,433,079