



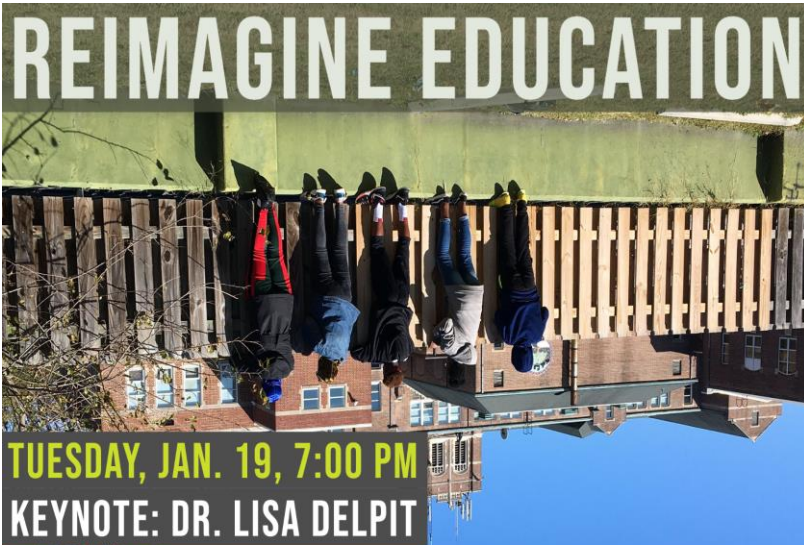
News From

THE CITY NEIGHBORS FOUNDATION

NOVEMBER 2020

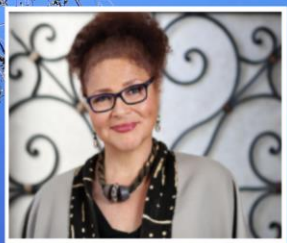
An update on the work of City Neighbors Foundation, our City Neighbors schools, and our work to impact public education everywhere

The 10th Annual Progressive Education Summit



Ten years ago, convinced we were not alone in our commitment to child-centered, democratic, humane, just, and authentic learning, City Neighbors Foundation sought to create an opportunity for educators and advocates to gather, learn, and network. We added inspirational keynote speakers, provided breakfast and lunch, and the first Progressive Education Summit was born. And we committed to provide all of it at no cost to the participants.

TUESDAY, JAN. 19, 7:00 PM
KEYNOTE: DR. LISA DELPIT



SATURDAY, JAN. 23, 9-12:00
POLYVOCAL KEYNOTE
DEEP DIVE WITH DR. CRYSTAL LAURA, DR. JAL MEHTA, AND DR. KALEB RASHAD



THURSDAY, JAN. 21, 5-8:00
WORKSHOP NIGHT
REIMAGINE TOGETHER!

Little did we know that, ten years later, this event would have grown to the level it has and that our world would be where it is today. In a national landscape layered with a global pandemic, racial reckoning, political strife, and economic instability, the call to reimagine schools rooted in democracy, social justice, and authentic engagement becomes more relevant and urgent than ever. It's time to meet the challenge to reimagine education and move to action.

10TH ANNUAL PROGRESSIVE EDUCATION SUMMIT
REGISTER AT CITYNEIGHBORSFOUNDATION.ORG



Every challenge provides an opportunity and, in celebration of our 10th anniversary and in acknowledgment of the new virtual landscape, we have taken the opportunity to expand this Summit over the course of several days using an entirely revised and virtual format:

Tuesday, January 19, 7 PM: Kickoff and 10th Anniversary Keynote Speaker, Lisa Delpit

Thursday, January 21, 5 PM: Workshop Night!

Saturday, January 23, 9 AM: A Reimagining Education Event: A Polyvocal Keynote and Deep Dive Classes with Dr. Crystal Laura, Dr. Jal Mehta, and Dr. Kaleb Rashad

Please join us and help get the word out. [Register here](#)

Request for Workshop Proposals

The heart of the Progressive Education Summit is our practitioner workshops. It is the space where we get to learn from each other, share practices and problems, and be in community around our aspirations for great, innovative, student-centered classrooms and schools.

Workshop Night will take place on Thursday, January 21 from 5-8 PM, with workshops offered every hour, on the hour.

Please consider facilitating a workshop. We are seeking workshops in areas of innovative teaching practice, equity and anti-racist teaching, self-care, trauma responsive practice, or any other area that connects with the progressive ideals of child-centered, democratic schools, and classrooms.

We will be accepting proposals through December 15. [Submit a workshop proposal here](#).

Will you sponsor the 10th Annual Progressive Education Summit?

Aligned with our mission to create rich professional growth opportunities for educators, City Neighbors Foundation hosts this annual conference with the commitment to keep the event free to all participants, giving them the option to make a donation when they register. As you can imagine, the cost of hosting this event grows annually. Even so, our commitment to provide educational opportunities to help ensure children in Baltimore City are Known, Loved, and Inspired remains strong. But we need your help.

Your sponsorship of the 10th Annual Progressive Education Summit broadcasts to an audience of 500 your commitment to and support of great public education in Baltimore City and beyond. [Sponsor the Summit here](#).

MSDE Collaborative

Through a grant from the Maryland State Department of Education, the City Neighbors Foundation has launched a one-year professional development initiative with four local schools – two neighborhood schools and two public charter schools.

This one-year professional development consultation partners teachers and leaders at City Neighbors with teachers and leaders at participating schools to deepen and root a particular child-centered, democratic practice of teaching and learning.

We are honored to work with and learn from our partners at Creative City Public Charter School in play-based education; Belmont Elementary School in Engagement-Based Learning; Watershed Public Charter School in Project-Based Learning; and Calvin Rodwell Elementary/Middle School in Engagement-Based Learning.



Learning from a Distance

At City Neighbors, we continue to strive to make learning authentic, engaging, relevant, rigorous, and student-centered – even in our virtual world. Check out some of the amazing work of our teachers and students during this time.

CNHS Seniors launch the year writing their legacy poems. Check out Tyler's:

Tyler Huddleston

I will write my verse like water in a stream.

I will write my verse like water in a stream.

Flowing but still. It may not seem like much but it gives life.

A stream or river may stand as a lone body, but this stream leads to the sea

My legacy shouldn't be for those who misinterpret.

My legacy shall be Known by the world my river resides, but verse should

My legacy shall live through music and in stories filled with joy.

I wouldn't want my legacy to be temporary but something that lives foreve

I will write my verse like water in a stream.

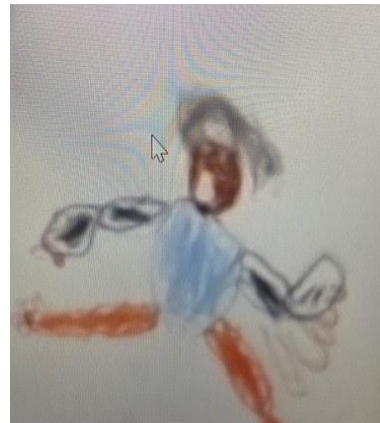
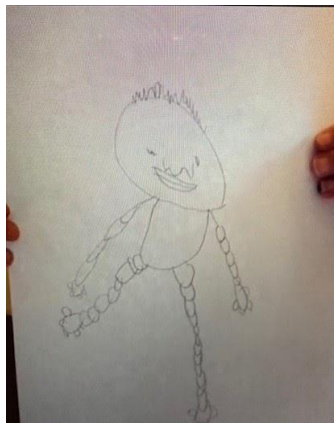
I will write my verse like a poet with his pen.

A story.

In preparation for our project, 8th-grade students with Ms. Cohen met with artist Saba Hamidi on Zoom. She shared her involvement with the Unity Through Art project in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement. In response to what is happening locally and globally, our students are creating advocacy stickers to spread a message they care about with the community.



City Neighbors Hamilton Kindergarteners, with Ms. Bryant, are working on drawing people that look more like real life. We felt the various parts of our bodies-our arm parts, leg parts etc., and then used ovals to draw those different parts.



Vote! City Neighbors middle-school students embarking on their Election Photojournalism project. Observing the election process in action.



Ms. Almon's City Neighbors Kindergarten Fall Watercolors!



City Neighbors High School 10th Grade Chemistry students, with Mr. Singh, examining the intersection between science and social justice.

Check out Sharon (Vianey) Espana-Montes: Screencast video with a Google Slides Presentation, Mural, & Essay on current ICE hysterectomies

Part 1:

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Part 2:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1n1uxYlkArVyj1h7zJtSmwaBjQY0eh5/view?usp=sharing>

Part 3:

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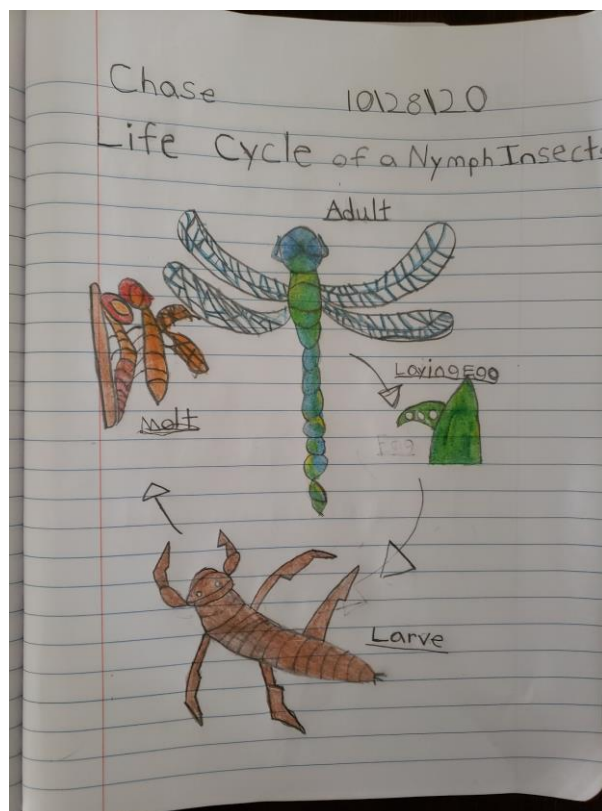
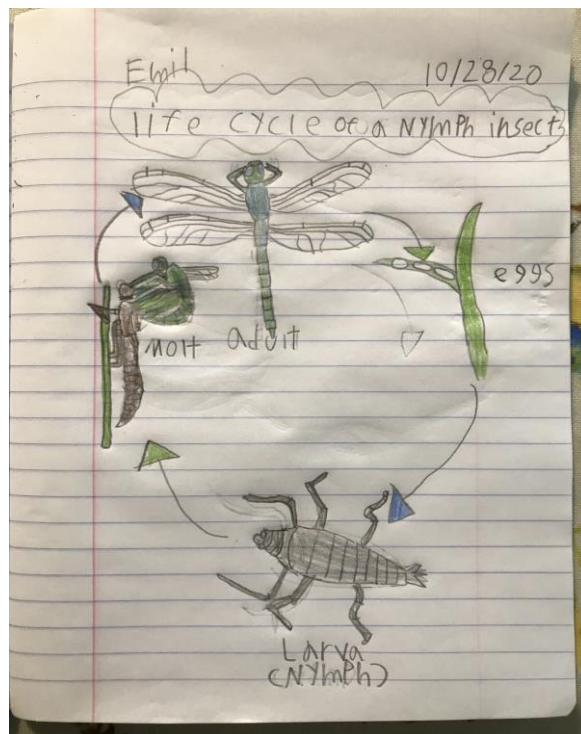
Check out Taheim McCray: Website on Dr. Samuel Morton and connection to Black Lives Matter

<https://sites.google.com/cityneighborshighschool.org/chemistry-project/overview>

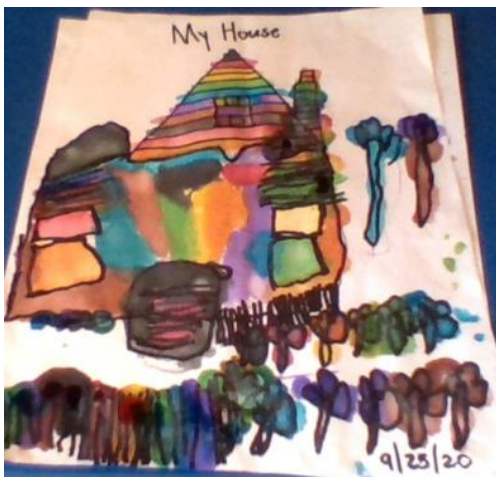
Author Kiese Laymon, author of *Heavy*, Zooming with Seniors at City Neighbors High School Today today. All of our CNHS 12th graders, with teacher Kozbi Simmons, are in the midst of reading his extraordinary book.



3rd graders at City Neighbors Hamilton examining the life cycles of insects...as they engage in a project study leading to their own self-designed insects.



Kindergarten started our project study on houses. We engaged in our first observational drawing by stepping outside and sketching our own houses. After a discussion of siding, bricks, and stucco, the children drew new drafts with added details. They traced the lines in sharpie and used watercolor to either represent the actual color or a desired color.



4th and 5th grade students, with teacher Tracy Pendred, launch their project study of Maryland native plants. Even virtual learning won't get in the way of hands-on, authentic project-based learning at City Neighbors.



AP Seminar students at CNHS - with Ms. Lewis - learned zine techniques taught by visiting artist Georgia McCandlish. They then created a perzine that explored a concept integral to who they are, from their own perspective. They then "inverted" the zine and explored the concept from a different perspective or lens, creating a reversible book representing 2 unique ways to explore one concept.

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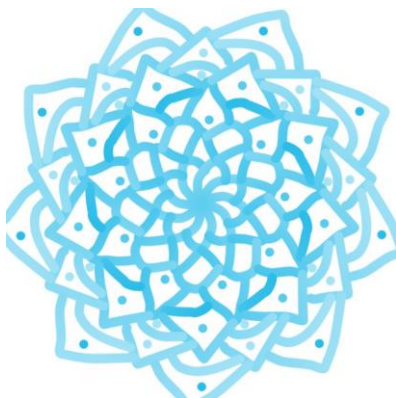
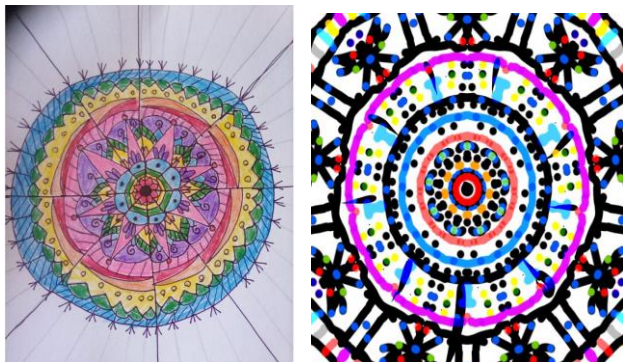
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8th graders at City Neighbors Charter School started their first day by brainstorming class mantras for this year, their final year at CNCS. Some wise words here. Check 'em out. What's your mantra for this year?

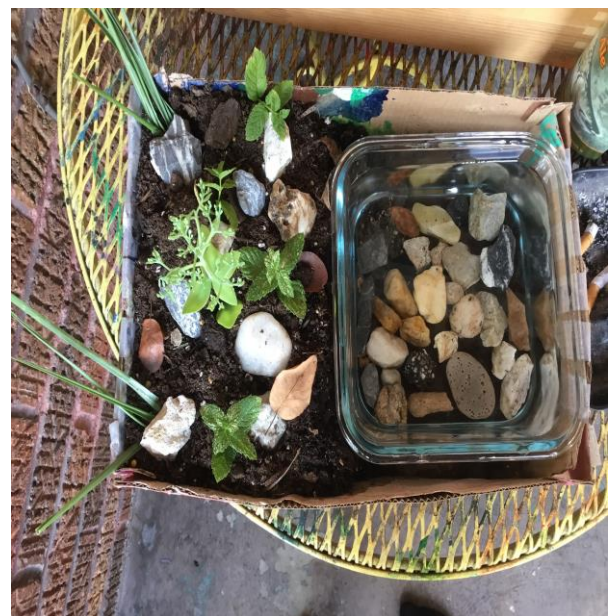
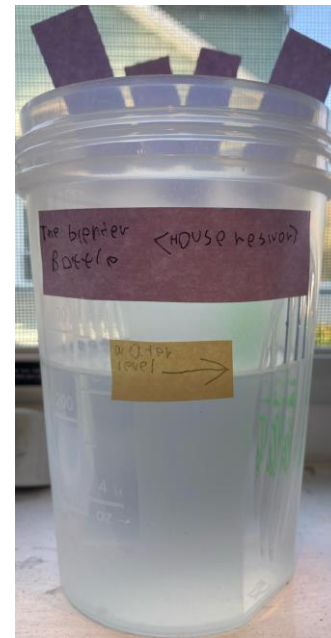
8th Grade Brainstorming Class Mantras with Ms. Reinhardt



The 5th grade class with Ms. Cohen explored the mindfulness practice of drawing mandalas both by hand and digitally. Students are now working on applying their knowledge of radial symmetry by creating mono-prints at home using foam and washable markers.



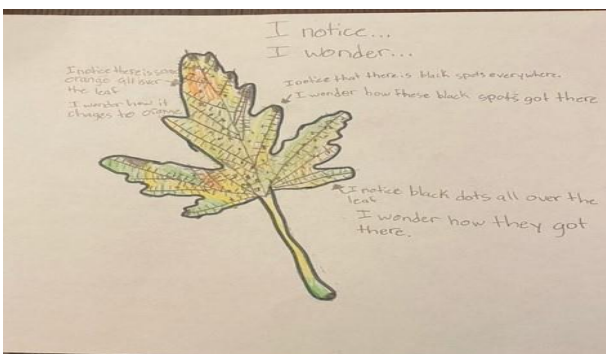
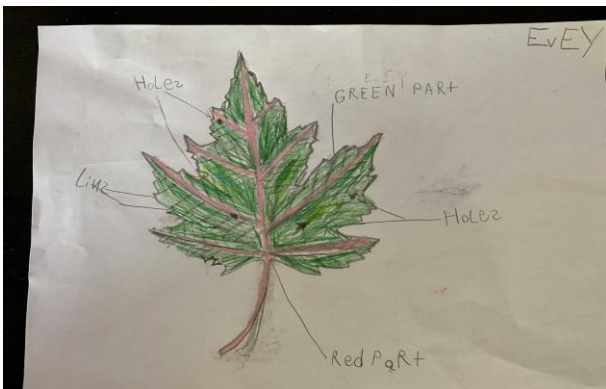
Fourth graders at CNH with Ms. Murphy are in the midst of a mini-project to design their own reservoir at home, just starting their designs. Launching with a study of the chlorine spill in Baltimore, students then learned about the Lake Montebello reservoir. Next week they will make noticings about the evaporation of our reservoirs and brainstorm ways to conserve water sources.



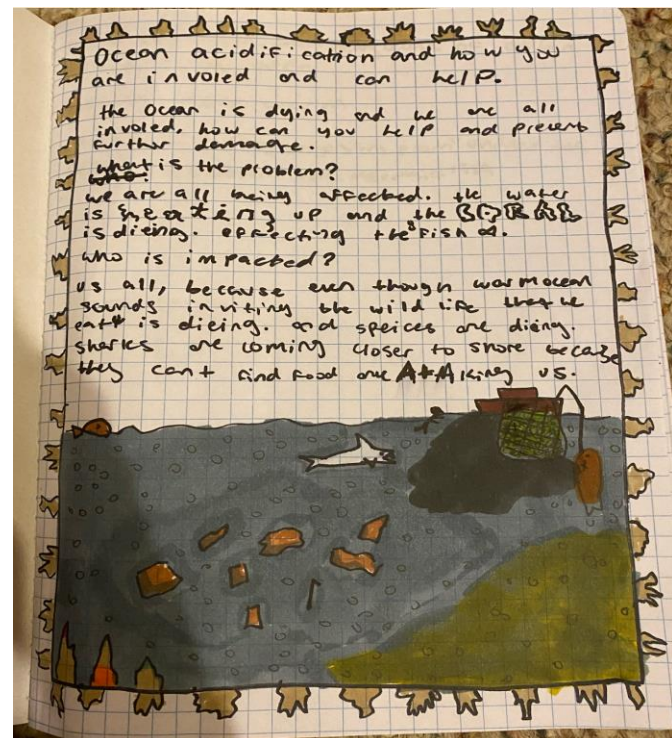
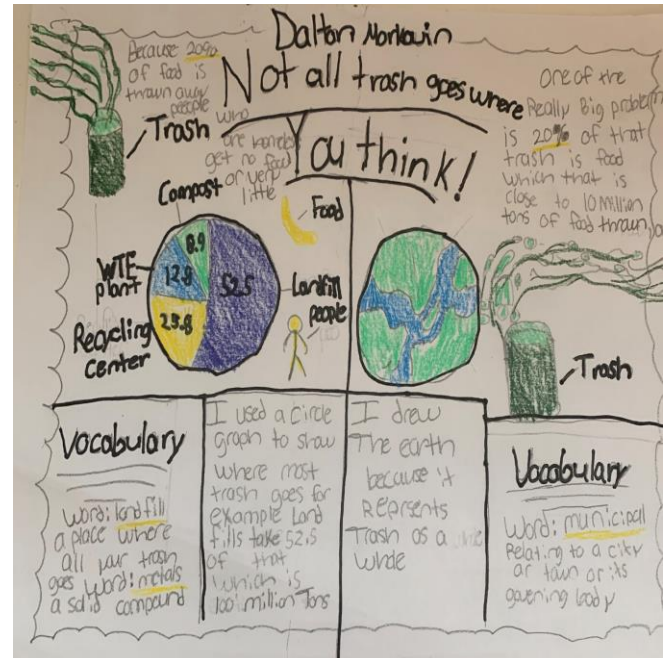
It's Internship Day at CNHS. We can't intern live, so we bring the experts, professionals, and speakers to our 11th graders. Here's Senator Cory McCray with our 11th graders in October. Thanks for inspiring our 11th graders Senator McCray!



3rd graders with Ms. Butcher are learning to work like scientists, making observations using their senses and making detailed observations and scientific drawings. Here are some of their first sketches!



7th and 8th graders with Ms. Rouse at CNCS worked on a "One Pager" about the climate issue their group is researching and will be designing a recycled fashion collection around. This first round of posters identify key words and address 2-3 parts of the climate problem statement. (Who, What, When, Where, Why is this a problem?)



City Neighbors Joins the Bridges Collaborative



City Neighbors is very proud to share that we have been selected as one of fifty-six organizations across the nation to participate in the inaugural Bridges Collaborative, an initiative designed by The Century Foundation, to promote the intersection of equity and integration in our neighborhoods and schools. This two-year cohort pairs housing organizations, large school districts, and charter schools across the nation who have shown a deep commitment to the work of integration and equity to find ways to deepen the work and push for policy and practice that acknowledges the powerful intersection between these two ideals.

City Neighbors also was invited to lead a workshop at the inaugural convening about our journey in diversifying our staff over the last decade.

**Members Present: Committing to School Staff
Diversity at City Neighbors Charter School**
City Neighbors Foundation



Mike Chalupa and
Kate Seidl
Thursday, October
15th
3:10-3:50 PM



We are excited to engage in the work with our local and national partners. [Check out the Bridges Collaborative here.](#)

City Neighbors Is a Baltimore Ceasefire School

City Neighbors Charter School has become an official Baltimore Ceasefire School. As one of just 7 Ceasefire schools in Baltimore City, we started our partnership by offering training to interested students, parents, staff, and community. We'll also participate in quarterly Ceasefire Weekends (Feb / May / Aug / Nov) by holding life-affirming events as defined by our student ambassadors and adult supporters. Baltimore Ceasefire's mission supports our school culture through conflict resolution, non-violence, restorative justice, strength in community, and student-led life affirming programming.

In November, City Neighbors sponsored "Fun on Wheels" – an event focused on exercise and friendship. It came out of a 6th grade advisory conversation about missing friends and the importance of getting outside for play and mental health during the pandemic. The event was part of the life-affirming Ceasefire Weekend, also known as the Baltimore Peace Challenge.



Shout Out to Diverse Charter Schools Coalition



City Neighbors is a proud member of the Diverse Charter Schools Coalition, a national coalition of diverse-by-design charter schools. [Check them out here.](#)

DIY PD at City Neighbors



On December 8 from 5-6:15 pm, the City Neighbors Foundation will host its third DIY PD at City Neighbors of the year. DIY PD is a simple concept and a free professional development opportunity.

DIY PD at City Neighbors is an emergent professional development opportunity, driven by the community of practitioners in attendance. At our DIY PD Sessions, we gather and connect - and have four short breakout sessions for you to choose from, with participants either sharing a great strategy, a great question, or a problem of practice. All of this is rooted in our child-centered, democratic ideals of education.

We are excited to announce that both of our first two DIY PDs this year have been over enrolled and, to date, over 140 educators have become part of the DIY PD community.

In this new and consistently challenging landscape for teaching and learning, come together, build community, share practice, get a new idea, share a problem of practice, or just keep innovating, broadening and thinking. [Register here.](#)

Arts in Charter Schools Report



City Neighbors Charter School was highlighted in a national report called *The Arts in Charter Schools*, by the Arts Education Partnership and the Education Commission of the States. It particularly highlights our partnerships with local arts organizations, our arts integration practices, and our professional development of teachers.

[Find the report is here.](#)

The Blueprint for Maryland's Schools

**Protect the Blueprint
for Maryland's Future**

- Do you think we should invest in our teachers?
- Do you think we should increase funding for our schools?
- Do you think early childhood education is important?
- Do you think we should invest in special education?

**Make Your
City Neighbors Voice
Heard!**

Go to:
www.marylandblueprint.org

Email your legislature today and make a short video to share why this is important to you!

City Neighbors organizing for the Blueprint! The City Neighbors Advocacy team, comprised of parents and educators from across our three schools are gearing up to help make the Blueprint for Maryland's Schools a reality. Educating our community, building investment, and mobilizing our staff and families, City Neighbors will be ready to make our voices heard for generations of students to come!

Interested in Being a City Neighbors Educator, 2021-2022?

Teachers! Imagine the best school you can – in the heart of Baltimore City. Deep in-depth project studies. The Arts as an integral piece to all learning. The vision of children as creative, capable, powerful, and worthy of the deepest respect. A workshop model where students actively learn and teachers facilitate. A place where teachers co-create practice, policy and direction of the school. A community with parents as valuable and active partners in the work. An approach where standardized testing does not drive instruction. Interested in joining City Neighbors for the 2020-2021 school year? [Check out our website](http://www.cityneighbors.org) and email your cover letter and resume to hiring@cityneighborsfoundation.org.

