The Youth Block Report Projects’ mission is to enhance the value of youths’ voice through community mapping and digital media that expand their sense of civic engagement and community change in the South Sacramento Building Healthy Community zone.

The Youth Block Report Project also serves as an advocate to enhance the discourse of underrepresented youth voice in the South Sacramento area to create and share neighborhood and personal stories of community change opportunities.

Discussion questions

1. How does knowing more about young people’s goals, dreams, and commitments help us act as their allies?

2. These young people had 6 weeks of program support to shine a light on their communities and opportunities to make a positive change. What can we do to help move their work forward?

3. Where are the places you know of that are bringing multiple generations together – youth, adults, elders – to know each other and work toward common goals? Do the majority of young people in your community know about them?

4. The youth featured here have highlighted strengths of their neighborhoods. What is your sense of why the strengths of our communities are rarely celebrated while the challenges are amplified as insurmountable problems? What steps can we take to bring balance to the stories of our communities that will allow us to take effective action?

A special thank you to Dr. Angela Booker’s research team, the youth and adults that worked on the Youth Block Report Project, were interviewed, or provided access to resources, all which helped to make the project a success!
About the Project:

The South Sacramento Youth Block Reports Ethnographies Project is a youth voice and culture research project aimed at learning and understanding the cultural phenomena connecting youth who live in the South Sacramento area. The UC Davis School of Education, Center for Community School Partnerships (CCSP), conducted the ethnography research. CCSP’s work centers on research, evaluation, and technical assistance, connecting schools and communities to support student success, youth well-being, and collaborative community-school partnerships.

Fundamentally, the Youth Block Report ethnography research is about equity. A South Sacramento call to action for schools, families, universities, and community partners alike; significant disparities can be alleviated, but this monumental task demands partnership, cooperation, and prioritization. We hope the ethnography research will inform the efforts of the South Sacramento Building Healthy Communities Initiative by examining the voice and culture of the youth lived experiences.

Ethnography (noun) (from Greek ἔθνος ethnos = folk/people and γράφω grapho = to write) is a qualitative research method aimed to learn and understand cultural phenomena which reflect the knowledge and system of meanings guiding the life of a cultural group.