

2009 Workshops

**Wait Till I Get My Money Right (Financial Literacy Track)**

- "Stretch Your Wallet"
- "The Battle: Credit vs. Debt"
- "Make Your Money Grow"
- "Keep Your Money Safe"

**I Want To Choose My Future**

- "Be Your Own Boss"
- "Make Your Passion Your Career"
- "Control Your Future"

**Urban Expressions**

- "Hip Hop Culture"
- "Art Wall"
- "Urban Art vs. Graffiti"

**Power Through Performance**

- "Show Case Improvisation"
- "Ice Breakers"
- "Writing and Movement for Teatro"
- "Teatrito Performance"

• Workshops for the 2010 event are still under development •



*Two participants interact during a theater game in the "Power Through Performance" workshop put on by Straight Up.*



*An 805 Youth Exchange participant paints on the art wall set up by the LAB in the "Urban Expressions" workshop.*

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CEDC Mission Statement: To provide comprehensive housing services, through a community building approach, that facilitate self-sufficiency for individuals and families who are most lacking in opportunity in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties and adjacent areas in Los Angeles.

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QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE CABRILLO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

# VISTAS

702 County Square Drive • Ventura, CA 93003



bringing community home

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# VISTAS

NEWSLETTER FOR THE CABRILLO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



Residents of Paseo Santa Clara gathered to paint a mural outside their new community room during CEDC's First Annual 805 Youth Exchange in September 2009. The event was the first of its kind in Ventura County, bringing youth together in a culturally diverse and educational environment. Excitement is building for this year's 805 Youth Exchange scheduled for September 2010.

## The First Annual 805 Youth Exchange Was a Huge Success; Even More is Planned for the 2010 Event

CEDC encourages youth to interact in positive ways and plan for the future highlighted by the event's tagline to "swap what you got...ideas, community, culture"

On September 26, 2009, more than 150 participants and volunteers met for CEDC's first annual 805 Youth Exchange, an event focused on bringing local youth together to engage in positive activities. The all-day event featured a selection of creative and educational activities from which participants could choose. Tracks ranged from financial literacy and planning a successful future, to public performance and urban culture including hip hop music understanding and appreciation, and urban art vs. graffiti. (See page 4 for a list of workshops offered.)



Alex Robertson, 16, who attended the Urban Exchange workshops said, "I loved it; especially the performances. It was the first time I attended something like that and it was really cool. I met new people and I met people from my school that I didn't even know went there. I will definitely go again this year."

*During the Youth Exchange, participants watched performances by many local talents including LAB recording artist Mantis, Arts 4 Action Capoeira martial arts and Inlakech Youth Mariachi.*

Last year's signature event was created to offer local youth positive experiences and alternatives to negative influences they may experience in their communities. Ultimately, the event's goal was to not only to bring young people together to have a good time, but also to open their eyes to the positive ways that they could interact. Participants weren't lectured to, but rather given advice in a familiar voice. CEDC Board Member and long-time violence-prevention advocate Barbara Marquez O'Neill said, "The Youth Exchange gave youth the opportunity to explore personal alternatives." These possibilities open youth up to a better future; and these are attitudes that Barbara believes spread out into the community as well.

CEDC staff and volunteers worked diligently to make the event relevant to participants. The LAB set up an art wall for the participants of the "Urban Expressions" track. Participants in the "Wait Till I Get My Money Right" financial education track, were entered into a drawing to win a laptop or an iPod®. Local performers from Straight Up Improv and Teatro de las Americas played theater games and put on a live performance. At Paseo Santa Clara, residents were given the opportunity to paint a mural together outside of one of their community rooms.

Planning for the second annual 805 Youth Exchange, which will take place on Saturday, September 25, 2010, is well underway and excitement is building as new workshops are being developed and youth are anxious to participate again. If you would like to learn more, volunteer or contribute to the event, contact Silvia Rodriguez, Director, Community Building and Neighborhood Revitalization at 805.671.5474 or email: srodriguez@cabrilloedc.org.

## Greetings from Rodney Fernandez, Executive Director

I've always said that we are a housing development business that is committed to community building. This means we don't just focus on bricks and mortar. We stay committed to the people where our managed properties are located, and the surrounding community. For example, consider our 805 Youth Exchange. I knew when we were developing this event that it was going to be great. But in the end, I was blown away by the number and variety of youth who attended, and by the variety of workshops available to them. There was a high level of focus, interaction, participation and just people having a good time.



*Rodney Fernandez  
Executive Director*

Our goal was to reach out and increase our connection with youth from the communities we serve to have a good youth-to-youth experience. We included our current developments as well as the new ones in production – especially in Piru, Oxnard and Simi Valley. Our Community Building and Neighborhood Revitalization division worked closely with our Property and Asset Management division to organize the day-long event. The exchange encouraged youth to participate and "swap what they got."

It was exciting to see the widespread Board and staff participation from CEDC for this event. Divisions volunteered for various components of the event, and everyone was willing to help out. That good old American feeling of being open to helping your neighbor was evident throughout the day.



*Rodney and his wife Melinda participated in a "movement for life" exercise with youth and volunteers at the 805 Youth Exchange.*

Being an organization that focuses on people first is what we are all about. It keeps us grounded, it keeps us focused and it helps us remember why we do what we do. We're here to assist people in getting ahead to pursue their dreams. The 805 Youth Exchange is just another step in the process. We look forward to holding our next 805 Youth Exchange this September and encourage you to get involved.

Rodney Fernandez  
Executive Director

*Community Room and Mural Helps Bring People Together at Paseo Santa Clara*

The 805 Youth Exchange not only brought youth together to exchange ideas and talents, but it also engaged residents at CEDC's Paseo Santa Clara development in Oxnard where the event was held. Paseo Santa Clara features 140 rental homes, 24 of which are available to residents with special needs. These residents were given the chance to "swap what they got" by painting a mural on the wall near their community room.



The mural displays pictures that give the residents a sense of community and history, such as a heart with a house in it. Special needs resident Jeri Burkow helped paint the heart and said she had a great time doing it, "It was a lot of fun. I got paint all over me, too."

*Arts 4 Action assisted Paseo Santa Clara residents in painting the mural outside of their new community room.*

Arts for Action muralists led the design process and taught residents

how to use special products and techniques as they painted the community room at Paseo Santa Clara, which is used primarily by the community's special needs residents and youth. The room was just completed in March 2010 and showcases the work of award-winning interior designer Jone Pence, and local artists MB Hanrahan and Andrea Vargas. The room features design concepts specific to the preferences of the residents including a place to create artwork and an entertainment center with a television and a Nintendo Wii video game system.



*The finished mural includes images depicting the local community as well as Oxnard's history.*

Artist MB Hanrahan designed and painted unique artwork on the floor in the community room that resembles rugs and features words of encouragement and community. Andrea Vargas painted original artwork for the walls that reflects the positive attitude and friendship that the room hopes to convey.

Since the 805 Youth Exchange last year, youth from Paseo Santa Clara and other residents have interacted on other art-related activities and events. They look forward to more fun events this year as well.

*Youth Financial Empowerment Program Gives Young People Tools They Need for Future Financial Success*

Participants of CEDC's 805 Youth Exchange attended the event's Youth Financial Empowerment Program presented by the CEDC's Homeownership Center. The goal of the workshop was to give youth a solid understanding of the responsibilities of owning a credit card and avoiding unnecessary debt. The program, which was held in Paseo Santa Clara's Ernie Whitaker Community Room, taught participants about debt, credit cards and other important financial information they may not have been taught at school or at home.



Homeownership Counselor Krystal Sarabia, who taught the workshop, avoided

*Homeownership Counselor Krystal Sarabia taught the Youth Financial Empowerment Program at the Youth Exchange.*

lecturing and instead used language and examples that would stay with the youth after the workshop. "I focused on using examples that they would understand. For example, I discussed how much an iPod® costs and how long it would take to pay off a credit card for such a purchase. It is not difficult for students to understand the material as long as it is interpreted in their language." Many children learn about finances when situations come up in day-to-day life and often they are only learning pieces of information that may not help them avoid debt in the future. This workshop aimed to give them the bigger picture.

The curriculum introduces students to the importance of making wise financial choices. Students develop thoughtful decision-making skills that will help them protect themselves from the unexpected financial pitfalls that plague so many adults and increases the chances of a healthy economic future. "Understanding and knowing how to handle finances will make the community stronger," says Krystal. "For example, if many adults knew better how to handle their finances, the economy might not be as bad as it is now." Those youth who participated in the all-day class were eligible to win raffle prizes, but Krystal believes the event had lasting value beyond any prize or reward.

CEDC plans on offering this financial program again at the 805 Youth Exchange event in September 2010.

Real Estate Development Division

Paseo Santa Clara, CEDC's newest development, hosted the first annual 805 Youth Exchange event. The development features 140 apartment homes for individuals who earn 20-50% of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD's) Area Median Income (AMI).

Paseo Santa Clara features 24 units for individuals with special needs, as well as two community rooms including a professionally decorated room for special needs tenants that features the work of two local artists. Paseo Santa Clara was chosen as the main site for the event because of its recent completion and because of its easy access to a large park across the street.

The development is also the winner of the 2009 Multifamily Project of the Year Award from the Southern California Association of NonProfit Housing (SCANPH). CEDC is the first organization (non-profit or private) to partner with the City of Oxnard and the Ventura County Behavioral Health Department to provide supportive housing for individuals with mental challenges in Oxnard. It is also CEDC's first state-of-the art Green Point Rated project.

CEDC holds many activities at its developments to encourage resident interaction and to promote community building.



*Above: Local artist MB Hanrahan paints a community rug in front of the entertainment center. Right: A painting by local artist Andrea Vargas hangs on a wall in the community room. The furniture was selected by HGTV designer Jone Pence. The three worked together to make the room inviting and fun.*



# CEDC Welcomes Donations and Volunteers For The 2010 "805 Youth Exchange"

The 805 Youth Exchange last September would not have been the success that it was without the help of volunteers and the support of generous donors. They are listed below. CEDC welcomes you to contribute to the 805 Youth Exchange 2010 through monetary donations or volunteerism. Contact us if you would like to volunteer your time for our 2010 Youth Exchange taking place on September 25, or other community building events, you may send a tax-deductible contribution to:

Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation  
Attn: Contributions  
702 County Square Drive  
Ventura, CA 93003

Contributions to CEDC qualify as charitable deductions for income tax purposes and may help to reduce tax liability. An attorney or financial advisor can provide tax information specific to your situation. CEDC's federal identification number is: 95-3681521.

CEDC has numerous volunteer opportunities each year. If you would like to contribute your time and talents to our mission, please contact Kathryn Benner at: 805/659-3791.



*Volunteers and staff led participants in an activity at the 2009 Youth Exchange.*

Thank you for your interest in contributing to our mission and we look forward to hearing from you!

## Community Building and Neighborhood Revitalization Division

*CEDC's CBNR division would like to thank the partners of the 805 Youth Exchange 2009:*

- *Arts for Action* • *The Lab* •
- *Junior Achievement* • *Oxnard City Corps* •
- *Straight Up* • *Teatro de Las Americas* •

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Robert Keating, DDS  
Serge Tihomirov, D.C.*



*805 Youth Exchange participant Jonathan Pleitez pausing for a quick photo.*

Silvia Rodriguez, the Director of Community Building and Neighborhood Revitalization (CBNR), would like to extend a special thank you to the CEDC Management team and Board, the dedicated volunteer committee and to the CBNR Division staff:

Juliana Gallardo  
Kathryn Benner  
Maria Gonzalez  
Priscila Cisneros  
Raul Lopez  
Yvonne Flores

## Volunteer Profile

*Oxnard Teen on a Mission to Help Fellow Youth  
Bridging the gap between young people and adults*

There are very few young people who step up to meet the challenges of their community with the maturity and excitement of Victor Aguilar. Victor's involvement in various community building and youth events has made him an inspiration to others. He gladly stepped up to help fight Oxnard's graffiti problem by presenting twice at the City's Graffiti Task Force meeting and by volunteering in "Paint Not Prison," a program centered on working with juvenile graffiti offenders to encourage them to clean up unwelcome graffiti, and paint murals in its place.



*Victor Aguilar  
Youth Representative  
Villa Cesar Chavez Apartments*

Victor is a resident of CEDC's Villa Cesar Chavez Apartments, an affordable rental development in the City of Oxnard. Through his efforts, Victor has become the point person for CEDC for the youth in his community. Victor's passion for helping other youth drove him to approach the Villa Cesar Chavez Resident Council about becoming a voting member and youth representative, making him the first-ever teen at a CEDC development to hold this title.

In 2009, Victor participated on the planning committee for CEDC's first annual 805 Youth Exchange. In fact, Victor even suggested the name for the event. He was a strong advocate for having subjects that appealed to people his age. He wanted to balance the financial literacy track with something that spoke to young people, and created the "Urban Expressions" track that focused on analyzing urban culture and positive messages in urban music.

Priscila Cisneros, CEDC's Community Building Manager, says that Victor has grown a lot as a leader, "Victor is the kind of guy who is 'up' for anything. He wants to create opportunities for his family and for his community."

Victor says that his goal is to strengthen the relationship between adults and youth in their communities. In 2010, Victor plans to participate again in the Paint Not Prison Program, the Oxnard Community Peace Project and the 805 Youth Exchange.

CEDC is proud of Victor's accomplishments and looks forward to his leadership in the community for years to come.