



Navigator

Newsletter

December/January Guest Speakers & Mentors



Erik Wixted, U.S. Bank
President, District Manager Bay Area



Delmi Hernandez, Patelco
Virtual Branch Manager



Shannon Clark, Shades by Shan
CEO and Founder

Inspiring Youth and Building New Pathways

Several guest speakers have made appearances during workshops to provide an invaluable resource - their knowledge!

EYP Board Members Erik Wixted of U.S. Bank and Delmi Hernandez of Patelco Credit Union have led separate discussions about banking basics and how to build your credit in a smart and healthy way. They've also shared their own stories about career trajectories and non-linear pathways, plus their educational backgrounds, which are very similar to the lived experiences of our youth.

A cohort favorite, Shades by Shan CEO Shannon Clark visited the cohort and shared her own story of persistence, resilience, and entrepreneurship.



Program: EYP Year 3

Summer Bridge Program by Paul Zapata

This past summer, EYP piloted its summer bridge program in partnership with the 49ers Academy. For five weeks, Envision Your Pathway supported incoming freshman students at Menlo Atherton High School to develop a civic engagement initiative. As a cohort, the students chose “Thriving Communities” as their area of focus and created a project, specifically dedicated to a beach clean up.

As with all of EYP’s civic engagement initiatives, the objective for this project is to give the students an opportunity to flex skills gained in the EYP program such as project management, to build self-efficacy, and to see their youth-led impact in the community. For this particular project, students also gained insight into the ways our daily lifestyle and resources can affect the environment and our local beaches.

How their project came together

The summer cohort was given a budget of \$400 for their project. Their first step was to research what materials were needed and to prioritize them accordingly, knowing that they needed to remain within the budget. The students decided on practical items such as trash grabbers, shovels, bags, and trash receptacles, as well as items that would ensure safety such as gloves.

Next the students created and assigned roles or positions. Creating and assigning positions was a vital step for our project, because it required critical thinking which also benefitted the group in practicing project management. The positions consisted of shovelers, trash bag holders, and trash sorters.

Flexing their skills of personal brand and entrepreneurship, youth also designed a logo for their beach clean up effort and discussed plans for how to promote it on social media. Our last cohort meeting prior to the cleanup involved us reciting research and creating a game plan for the clean up, essentially going over the work they have completed.

July 20th, the day of the clean up. Menlo Atherton High School students, EYP, the 49ers Academy, and Adopt-A-Beach came together at Sharp Park Beach in Pacifica, CA for the clean up. The Adopt-A-Beach organization provided valuable support to the cohort as they formed their groups and gathered materials. Groups nearly covered the entire beach, by the end of the clean up, youth had collected around 40lbs of trash and several hundreds cigarette butts. One group collected as many as 400 cigarette butts alone.

Within this project, students demonstrated teamwork, coordination, and compassion. These are a few of the skills and traits that I personally witnessed students and leaders using on and off the beach.

EYP Pathways

Youth Story

As EYP wrapped up its 2022 school year cohorts, youth began embarking on their pathways, including pursuing workforce opportunities and ongoing education. For one youth, his journey continued with EYP, not as a continuing Visionary, but as a staff member.

Nestor "Paul" Zapata joined the San José Visionaries cohort after being referred by partner Opportunity Youth Academy, an alternative education school that provides flexible academic environments for youth to complete their high school diploma. While in EYP, Paul naturally stepped up as a leader. As one program staff member put it, Paul is someone who gives his all to every opportunity and that was apparent during every session.

After taking time off from school to work due to COVID, Paul enrolled at OYA, participated in EYP, and graduated with his high school diploma in June 2022. He was invited to join EYP's Youth Board and in the summer of 2022, Paul was hired to be an EYP program coordinator. In his role, he supports with program implementation and co-facilitates workshops.

Paul is an integral part of EYP's team and his insights, lived experience, and passion for this work has undoubtedly made EYP better.



Paul with two peers, working on the civic engagement project during the OYA 2022 Visionaries Cohort



Paul, now an EYP Program Coordinator, co-facilitating a workshop with fellow alum and staff Osiel



Paul (center) with Osiel (right) and 49ers Academy Program Manager (left)

EYP Pathways

Helping Visionaries navigate their pathways ahead...

In November 2022, EYP partnered with Regional Medical Center in East San José for their 1st Annual Day of the Girl Empowerment Expo. The event gave 70 young women an opportunity to connect directly with female professionals in the healthcare field.



Youth from East San José and East Palo Alto were invited to hear from a panel of speakers, enjoy a key note address from Rebel Girls CEO Jes Wolfe, and participate in a hands on lesson on how to "Stop the Bleed" and treat wounds in the field. They earned a certification by doing so. EYP youth have long indicated healthcare as a primary industry of interest for them.

Through partnerships like this one with Regional Medical Center, EYP strives to make connections so youth can readily and enthusiastically explore career and education pathways that make sense for them.

Excerpt from "Inspiring our Youth: Regional holds Empowerment Expo for girls"

The girls had an opportunity to visit various booths and hear from hospital leaders in various departments such as the emergency room, radiology, and the laboratory. They also received hands on training.

"It was really cool, yeah. I want to keep on learning new things," said Camila Gallardo, an 11th grader.

The day also provided networking opportunities for these students. Many go to school in the same neighborhood where Regional is located. Others came from East Palo Alto and are in Envision Your Pathway...a program that helps students facing barriers to ongoing education and workforce.

"They're all going to take something away from this experience whether that be a connection, a broader network, a memory, again a certificate or just an idea of that's a role I know I can attain and I know it's possible for me," said Kendra O'Donoghue, Executive Director of Envision Your Pathway.

And that impact may go a long way. Melissa Harte is the Vice President of Trauma Services and co-chair of the Women's Colleague Network which is responsible for organizing the event.

"Walk away with knowing that you have a community of support right here, right here in the neighborhood. All of these people want to help you and support you to do great things," said Melissa.