Project Details:

Name:
Clark Park Coalition

Date:
1991–Present

Categories:
Live, Work, Play, Community Organizing

The Gist:
A group of neighbors, threatened with the closure of their blighted, neglected local recreation center, formed a partnership with the...

Project Scope:

Challenge:
How can a community take ownership of their recreation center and take it from blight to benefit?

Overview:
While other Detroit recreational centers have closed and struggled, this grassroots, nonprofit coalition has grown to offer positive activities for nearly a thousand neighborhood youth each year. The Clark Park Coalition now offers one of the nation's only free inner-city hockey programs, as well as quality soccer, baseball, softball, and tennis activities, in addition to providing summer and after-school youth programming.

Accomplishments:
> Kept the neighborhood recreation center open and improved it despite the odds; most of the city’s recreation centers have been boarded up over the past 20 years due to disinvestment and neglect.
Organization:
TAP is initiative of Young Nation, a nonprofit organization promoting the holistic development of youth in urban settings through building relationships, community education, and passion-driven projects. Since 2004, The Alley Project has evolved from four garage canvases and eight to 12 students to a creative hub that welcomes 30 to 50 participants a month. Artists, youth, and neighbors gather weekly in the studio and alley to work on new projects, discuss challenges, share ideas, and maintain the space. TAP also hosts longer mentoring workshops called Graphik Jam and onsite tours.

Budget:
TAP is currently unfunded. Small donations, resources, and materials are contributed by neighbors and local service providers. A one-time $38,000 community grant provided by Community + Public Arts Detroit allowed The Alley Project to host a community design charrette and build their garage studio.

Funding:
For TAP, each phase of the project is planned for long-term sustainability. All labor
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