

UrbanPlan



The mission of UrbanPlan is to generate more positive and informed dialogue about land use at the local level through the education of students – our future voters, neighbors, public officials, and land use professionals.



UrbanPlan Volunteers:

- Participate in a rewarding experience with local high school students
- Enjoy professional development and knowledge sharing
- Interact with other mission-oriented professionals
- Positively impact the next generation of citizens

About UrbanPlan for High Schools

UrbanPlan is a classroom-based learning curriculum developed for high school juniors and seniors. Traditionally imbedded into semester-long Economics or Government classes, the program is currently reaching almost 4,000 students per year in 52 high schools in 39 cities through ULI's network of District Councils. In the 15 class hours of the curriculum, students learn about land use and its related disciplines in business, city planning, real estate, architecture, and law.

Students form development teams and respond to an RFP to redevelop a 5½ block site in a fictional city. Each team member assumes one of five development roles and together the team develops a financial proforma and physical model of their plan. Once complete, each team presents their proposal to a mock City Council who then awards the 'development contract' to the winning team.

UrbanPlan Los Angeles Two-Week Summer Camp

ULI LA's UrbanPlan Summer Camp compresses and enhances the traditional UrbanPlan curriculum into a 10-day interactive real estate camp. Week One introduces students to real estate concepts and challenges. Week Two offers students the unique opportunity to reinforce this foundation by working on a real redevelopment site in their community.

Through the process, students discover the dynamic fundamental challenges of development: how market forces such as supply and demand clash and collaborate with non-market forces like politics and regulation to create the built environment.

Volunteering with UrbanPlan

Volunteers accepted into the program attend a one-day training session for hands-on experience with the program and tools. Trained volunteers serve as Facilitators or as members of a mock City Council for final student presentations.

The training and volunteer time commitment includes:

- Minor preparation prior to the training session,
- A one-day training session, and
- In-class commitment of one to four hours.



Questions? Contact cyrice.griffith@uli.org

Facilitators

The role with the greatest impact, most responsibility, and least time commitment is the role of Facilitator. Facilitators challenge the students to think more critically about the UrbanPlan issues and the specific responsibilities of their respective roles.

Facilitators draw deeply on professional experience and are rewarded by creating excitement and inspiration in students for the urban development process.

Effective Facilitators have:

- Development project experience,
- Patience to question rather than coach, and
- Time and willingness to learn the details of the UrbanPlan project case.

Facilitators meet twice with student teams during the camp.



ULI volunteers receive a one-day training to challenge the students to think more critically about the UrbanPlan issues and the specific responsibilities of their “roles.”

City Council

Students present their final proposals to a five-person mock City Council comprised of volunteers. By challenging the students' work as if in an actual City Council meeting, the volunteers assess whether the proposals are responsive to the RFP, grounded in the facts of the UrbanPlan case, and consistent with reality. The City Council then awards the contract to the winning team.

This is a fun volunteer opportunity, particularly for those who have sat on the other side of the table.

Effective City Council Members have:

- Development project experience,
- Previously presented to City Councils, Planning Commissions, etc., and
- The time and willingness to learn the details of the UrbanPlan project case.

The length of City Council sessions vary with the number of student teams presenting plans. Typically, with four to six teams per camp session, City Council sessions range from approximately two to four hours.



UrbanPlan

UrbanPlan is supported by local ULI volunteers who are professionals in a variety of disciplines within land use and development and selected for their depth of experience and knowledge.

For more information or to volunteer, contact cyrice.griffith@uli.org.