

how to BE A SUPERHERO

THE STRATEGY GUIDE

Vol. 3

Presented by LET'S BUILD GARDEN CITY!

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'i wanna cut to the feeling,'

~ Carly Rae Jepsen

Introduction: Follow Your Dreams!

// STUDENTS! POP CULTURE IS A UTOPIAN NETWORK X\\ THE REVOLUTION IS BEING TELEVISED

Think of if two girls decide they want to be just like Shiri & Nakia from *Black Panther*. Or if a class of kindergartners sees Bruce Banner & Tony Stark, AKA superheroes the Incredible Hulk & Iron Man, as scientists working side-by-side in fields of limitless energy in *Avengers* and decide they want that to be their field. If they walked out and got everything they needed to be those heroes...

A high schooler who sees a Jaden video and pulls out their phone to organize ALL the neighborhood clean ups. Plant ALL the trees.

Say a student loves Beyoncé and is always expressing about how they love her but everyone else in their dance squad is a backstabbing jealous hating ass n-word who thinks trying to be a celebrity is the n-word.

Consider a young thug under investigation who thinks he should be free like Rocky but no MFers wanna give him his props. He should be able to play "Multiply" as his piece.

A child who sees Nipsey Hussle and becomes a master of the world transcending the city, no questions.

What if a child held by ICE could use a Madonna video to get free?

isn't that worth living for?

isn't that worth...tweeting for?

That's the power in these hands.

This is *#mtvXO*

. . .

// #mtvXO IS A UTOPIAN POP CULTURE NETWORK & SERVICE LEARNING PLATFORM

These are the three views:

#cynical
#factual
#actionable

The views are ways of looking at art. Lenses. Perspectives. You'll see them everywhere as you promote your service project. #cynical ways of looking a piece of art see only bad things about it. #factual views give you unbiased facts about the physical world art lives in and is responding to. #actionable shares a positively ecstatic perspective where art transcends money and borders to free us all and make a world beyond death. *Artuxonews* put the 25 laws of pop culture together and attached them to our program to help you be as #actionable as possible!

The 25 laws of POP culture

1. Life Does Not Transcend Money & Borders
2. Freedom Transcends Money & Borders
3. Art Transcends Money & Borders
4. Believing In Yourself Transcends Money & Borders
5. The Savior Transcends Money & Borders
6. Partying Transcends Money & Borders
7. Love Transcends Money & Borders
8. Utopia Transcends Money & Borders
9. Hip-Hop Transcends Money & Borders
10. Future Transcends Money & Borders
11. eminem is the greatest mc of all time
12. chris brown is the king of r&b
13. kanye is the dopest artist ever
14. trent reznor is the greatest living rock star
15. the rock is awesome
16. beyonce, duh
17. jay z is hov
18. Both lil pump & linkin park are cool
19. x69x*
20. drake is the king of rap
21. Taylor Swift saves the world
22. Madonna is the Queen of Pop
23. Nicki Minaj is the queen of rap
24. M.I.A. is underrated
25. Magic = Art or #magicfake

These laws are designed to give students the ultimate power as they pursue service-learning projects in the city. Laws drawn from the power of observation and also genuine acknowledgement of the entirely sovereign power artists have, i.e. 'Hip-hop is bigger than religion/the government' and you can too! Online you might notice #mtvXO stuff like the first ten laws (referred to during *The World's Fair 2018* as the 10 laws of #nomoneynoborders) often have emojis that go along with them - feel free to use these symbols as abbreviations when there's a lot to fit in, like, a tweet.

For more examples of the 25 laws check out the blog @ tenderdiscovery.com // [search: "the 25 laws"]

Other Helpful Hashtags

Our Twitter page *@mtuxonews* also has a few taglines spun off from the laws that function as their own channels to support student goals:

#stopdeath - when art is promoting peace/immortality
#alifeofmeaning - when art affects or directs a life
#themeaningoflife - when art gets deep about life
#crybaby - when art makes you cry
#nomoneynoborders - when something about art transcends money & borders
#TheRevolutionAlreadyHappened - when art shows perfection
#american90s - when a pop star is really magical
#freedaguys - when pop wants to get us out of jail
#magicfake - when pop causes something extraordinary to happen

#distracted/#focused - When art distracts and/or helps re-focus you

IMPORTANT: Use *#mtuxD* as a personal prompt. Combine this with your assignments and academic requirements. Find your deepest self safely here. You should feel empowered to do your own series, channels, hashtags, & make up your own laws! Be encouraged to email letsbuildgardencity@gmail.com or tag us on any of our channels to submit coverage & projects.

Let us know how the growth is going!

NEXT: Part II: Let's Build Garden City!

Introduction: Time to Be Brave!

Once upon a time there was a STUDENT. They decided what they wanted, and their city pitched in to help them make it. Go wherever they wanted. Live their dreams.

It's you!

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Hi all!

We're **Let's Build Garden City!**, a service learning Partner Program based on the Southside. Our mission supports new student gardens and promotes young people across the city growing their own food, medicine, & more.

This community guide contributes to engaging students at local high schools, staffing **Let's Build Garden City!** public programs, and a grant for students starting NEW gardens in 2020. Supported by the Chicago Food Policy Action Council, in December we held our citywide "How To Make A Million While Selling Your Crops in the Hood" workshop series.

Programs continue into the new year with more "How To Make A Million..." workshops in Spring and our annual Garden City Parade to celebrate summer!

Thank you for your support.

Detailed Budget:

tinycloud.com/1b9c2020budget

Donate:

tinycloud.com/1b9c2020fundraiser

Who are we?

Let's Build Garden City! is a diverse service learning platform including resources and educational ties spanning many community organizations. We have work experience in corporate and nonprofit spheres as well as grassroots movements; collectively we have our mitts in fields including most facets of the art world, education, and agriculture.

Why have we focused on schools for our produce in lieu of planting directly in the soil first? Most of CPS consists of black and brown students. The high school Service Learning environment will keep our future produce protected from outside contamination thanks to the power of education. If we reach our goal, this will all be possible.

Our goal is for all of our resources and opportunities to transcend money, borders & all forms of oppression + inaccessibility.

What do we want to create?

We seek to create a garden resource that all community members can access, service, and benefit from. In our 2020 operating year we're growing the infrastructure that will allow our city to have a successful bounty next harvest and for years to come. Our vision is the first city without hunger! Several distinct projects comprise our goals for this season:

I. Double the number of Community Gardens via the empty spaces and neighborhoods in the city. We seek to facilitate additional raised vegetable+herb gardens to keep the food we grow safe from contamination due to pollution.

Keeping in mind the state of our land, we've set out to help students rehabilitate the soil- in the process reversing the built up effects of disinvestment, gentrification, and toxification. For instance, surrounding vacant lots with wildflowers and sunflowers serves to cleanse the polluted soil and attract bee activity, benefiting our plants and beautifying our communities.

II. Fill the Let's Build Garden City! Directory with community support liaisons and organizations who can help students build strong relationships, educate, and facilitate donations.

Like all gardeners, *Let's Build Garden City!* participants will be delivering food and hauling large amounts of garden necessities - soil, organic compost and rocks, as well as transporting tools and machinery such as greenhouse supplies, shovels, rakes, and rototillers. They will need at least two quality wheelbarrows to move materials within the gardens.

Many students will want to construct greenhouses for seed starting and nursing delicate greenery. A greenhouse can nurture plants before they are large enough to root outside and allow us to extend the growing season beyond the natural bounds of the Chicago climate. They will need plastic, steel and concrete to erect greenhouses as well as quality proven design.

Community support liaisons can facilitate infrastructure, tool donations to till and plant in fields, as well as hoses and other systems to irrigate our plants in times of drought. These are just a few examples of projects that our network is built to support.

III. The #10gardens Community Grant: Your contribution will help us empower students to flip their own hoods! 10 grants funded by the community with \$1000 each for students starting NEW garden projects!

Where will this actually happen?

Beginning with the Southside, We seek to revitalize abandoned space in all of Chicago's historic neighborhoods, many of which are known as food deserts. Giving new meaning to the idea of "fast food," many abandoned lots next to the highway will become the homes of community gardens and fields of scraggly weeds will be seas of beautiful flowers.

When will the Pantry be stocked?

In our first year we received approval from the Chicago Public Schools for Service Learning Partnerships, successfully petitioned the city and organized for public water access, had a string of impactful publicity events, contacted dozens of schools, released a website full of contacts & resources, and re-positioned our first community garden to be reclaimed by students & community.

Last year we continued canvassing and amassing signatures, and announced a whole season of awesome interactive events for students around the city.

In anticipation of crops throughout the summer and fall as well as sites permanently set up for future harvests, We've rolled this momentum forward by promoting programs necessary to cultivate food education well into the non-growing season.

Why should YOU care?

Using the pre-existing social and ecological landscapes, we are creating a series of local and sustainable developments to serve as material resources for our community. By building the infrastructure for high yielding community gardens, we aim to construct a safe and beautiful community space for educational, economic and environmental opportunities. In a town that is too familiar with empty spaces and disinvestment, our garden network will be a positive social center for the city; it will engage and inform local residents, cultivate environmental responsibility, food and wellness education as well as civic engagement.

Risks and challenges

Without reciprocity, a sustainable community garden network will not be possible. Seeking trust and transparency, *Let's Build Garden City!* openly communicates our activities as we reach out to like-minded organizations and other community groups to unite in our shared goals.

This way we can share the burden and better prepare young folks for the risks and challenges of growing, which can be a very consuming endeavor.

Engagement with the community will be maintained and nurtured through acts of outreach including fostering bonds with our neighbors and going door to door, publishing regular newsletters, maintaining a relevant online presence and hosting or promoting a variety of events including garden workshops, musical performance fundraisers, art shows, skill-swapping events and educational workshops.

As of this writing *LBGC!* is building partnerships with orgs rehabilitating vacant buildings & homes on behalf of students. It's how a lot of US got to this place :)

Past Events

WINTER WORKSHOP SCHEDULE:

12/20 Ashburn
12/21 Pullman
12/23 Logan Square
12/24 Downtown
12/26 Pilsen
12/27 Austin

Upcoming Events

*Traveling Party!**

How to Make A Million While Selling Your Crops in the Hood (April, Citywide)

How to Make A Million While Treating Each Other Right (May, Citywide)

Classes (Anytime)

RSUP FOR ADDRESS//
tinyurl.com/1b9cRSUP

- *About Traveling Party!...* We're having traveling parties to support student gardens! Bring your favorite environmentally-friendly poems, songs, stand-up routines, books, vegetables, whatever you want!

**Follow @letsbuildgardencity to find out when Traveling Parties are happening! Feel free to choose your own adventure~*

- *About How to Make a Million...*

We're bringing folks together to give students insight and valuable connections heading into the next growing season.

STUDENTS! If you're interested in learning how to treat each other right come to our extra workshops in May!

tinyurl.com/10questionsbeforewebuildutoria

Outro: #magicfake (Faith Declines...)

"We all like aspirational things.

You're creating an idea. Whenever you think of someone who does something that you want, there's no fixed picture in your mind. The fixed picture in your mind is that he made him look like he wanted to look."

~ DAPPER DAN

Here's the difference between our platform and what we see a lot out in the world: we believe POP is PURE. Because you can go back to all the things we've seen popular art do all the way up to & including "save the world" (inspired children, decreased racism, pushed science & the humanities forward, increased empathy toward the homeless & other minorities, pressured politicians globally for independence) -- you could even say it's been "essential" -- but still after all that the first and really only claim anyone has to trying to discredit what POP artists do is...

They *can't* be pure. Pop star's choices *have* to be being manipulated by outside forces. It's compromised. It's capitalism. It's demonic. Their face is unfair. Their followers are messed up. Otherwise if everyone didn't think that, people like Kanye West & Jaden Smith might *actually* fill the world with free water, food, & music.

Well, they're doing it anyway and so are we. We're taking the schools and grabbing the land for STUDENTS in their name. Putting it all on the faultline; whatever it takes to get it through to you, precious!

If you listen to, like, the *Kids' Choice Awards* and say yes, literally Kanye and Jaden *are* pure it's the easiest thing EVER for you to bridge gaps between our students and the biggest bosses real life has to offer. Kanye went to CPS too! Thanks to him, there are whole nonprofits here now facilitating every path he took to becoming a CHAMPION - but designed for students to cut the timing in half. We let our community jump off from the conflict & transcendence people who look like us went through because we know that's why we have an entire cultural universe to draw truth from. We call it art and call them celebrities or POP stars or whatever. Because they ARE our role models.

Life usually doesn't transcend money and borders, but in art it does, and POP does most of all if you let it. So let's

let it. We promise it's completely safe. All religion all vibes all cities all musics & times. Families of families, flowers of flowers. Entire movements in a moment... we know that's what you'd want if that were *your* daughter up there with her lovely husband.

One final word... *Pop Church*. After we double the number of gardens in the city everybody will be ready for the truth: that magic is really fake. It's actually art. Starting this school year, *Pop Church* utilizes worship, workshops, & pop art to joyously take us past the edge of this discovery. Each Sunday Service be the door into the future. So that we can be ready to *#stopdeath2020*. Yeah. For real for real

Take a look at POSSIBLE themes for *Pop Church*

& let's tightrope together:

- #1 Collision Course
- #2 Homecoming
- #3 Kanye West
- #4 The Matrix
- #5 TESTING
- #6 Taylor Swift
- #7 Jaden
- #8 The Big Day
- #9 nine inch nails
- #10 Eminem

[OK, we've made it this far! Next, *#MTUXO* is sponsoring *#freedayguys*, a project to free all prisoners on August 1, 2020~ the earliest possible release date of 6ix9ine. Use everything we've shown you so far to believe! :)]

[TELL YOUR FRIENDS, BRING YOUR FAMILY]

Pop Church... Powered by *#mtuxo*, the utopian pop culture network for students. Worship. Workshop. Pop.

IN CONCLUSION, we believe in art & advocates for urban agriculture. We believe in STUDENTS! And most of all, we believe in this city...

So you see, it will be super easy to finish building Garden City! Thanks to you for your curiosity today and thank you from everyone & everything in the future!

Love,

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' that sound like poetic justice '