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ESPM 50AC

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CPO Vallejo Project: **Final Project Report**

For this semester, my partner and I decided to come together to work on the Vallejo Project. It is a non-profit organization which is directed towards improving student outcomes for those in the surrounding communities. It consists of dozens of youth leaders and educators who create varying plans to accommodate diverse interests, and target a wide-array of skills. Some of the many fields of professional training offered include film, business development, communication, technological design, horticulture, sociological studies. With such an immense curriculum, their vision continues to be empowerment through engaged service.

Within this organization, expanding and specializing their curriculum is something that is extremely important, which is something we focused upon throughout our time with the Vallejo Project. We specifically worked on the gardening and horticulture aspect of the expansion, where my partner and I worked on creating a logic model (3hrs)(attached to the end of this file) to further present information on urban agriculture. With this logic model, we incorporated inputs, activities, and outcomes that we believed would be great for Urban Agriculture, a safe place for students, and overall to continue to better the Vallejo Project. In addition, we worked as student volunteers in the garden, once again relating to the horticulture aspect of the non-profit. Due to time and transportation conflicts, my partner and I worked in the garden once for 3 hours towards the end of the semester. By then, the garden was looking so great however, there was still some work that needed to be done. We collected mulch from a certain area in the property and transported this mulch to the garden using a shovel and a wheelbarrow. We did have the great opportunity to see some of the kids who were very eager to help us with the garden. We also learned an interesting method that was being used to plant. Hugel Mound is a raised garden bed that is built from the bottom up with logs, mulch, and horse feces. This is very beneficial since it hosts beneficial fungi, bacteria, insects, worms, and microbial growth that makes nutrients for the plants to use. In some areas, wood fences were created to separate certain plants. The wood that was used was either Redwood or Douglas Fir. Furthermore, we also spent 11 hours (10am -10pm including commute) merely volunteering at one of the annual holiday events, where we worked as staff members during a Saturday which was a farmers market day at Vallejo. We helped with advertising the non-profit organization and met different food vendors that had the same interest in horticulture. We also helped out to sell raffle tickets, Vallejo

Project calendars, and some delicious smoothies. As the student leader for the group, I spent about 2 hours reaching out, and setting up meetings to discuss project concerns anyone had, and also created and evaluated surveys. After 6 hours of weekly meetings, we accomplished our service with Adjoa, Kat, and the rest of the crew. All the effort that we took was to act as mentors to the Vallejo community. This was definitely something that helped us grow as people, leaders, and better UC Berkeley students.

CPO Vallejo Project: **Reflection**

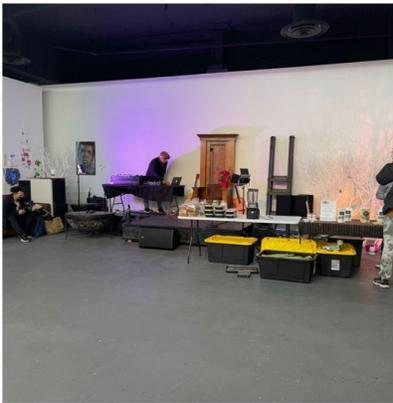
Such an amusing and friendly experience. It was a great pleasure to be working with committed and diligent people. My partner and I are extremely grateful to be chosen to be part of this organization for this semester. We've really never had the opportunity to work with any organization in the past therefore, we didn't have experience nor did we know what were the general expectations that our executive directors were looking for. I believe we've been working with Vallejo around late October or early November and initially, we started remotely because we just wanted to get a better understanding of what tasks were going to be and whether or not we had to go in person. Because our partner and I decided we were going to do this together, we were aware that we would possibly be having time and transportation conflicts because of our different schedules. Finally after being on the same page, we went to Vallejo twice. We first went to help volunteer for the farmers market at 350 Georgia St. since that was the place where the *Vallejo Project* was going to be advertised. We had a fun and COLD adventure, no one warned us. Assuming that Vallejo was in the Bay area, we dressed casually to help volunteer but it was super cold and we were inside!

We met Adjoa..... in person...finally and she is so sweet and caring! We were going back and forth, and helped out anywhere Adjoa wanted us to be. In the beginning, we were inside selling raffle tickets, *Vallejo Project* calendars, and collecting donations. Later on, we went outside to the farmer's market area and passed out several *Vallejo Project* flyers. In the evening, we were selling kale, strawberry banana, mango, and beet smoothies...even in the after party. What we didn't know was that there was a theme going on. It wasn't until we were given "card" costumes that we realized that it was an *Alice and Wonderland* theme. We also met Kat and she is the sweetest. She was very understanding with everything, it felt like we were speaking to one of our best friends. We also met the pros of the garden, Thomas and Aaron. In addition, we met food vendors that had tasty snacks that were all following the alkaline diet. Although we started around 10am and arrived home around 10pm, it went by so fast!

The next day, we went to the community garden where we saw Adjoa, Aaron, and Thomas once again. We also saw other Berkeley students getting that gardening experience just like us. It was a gloomy day but it was very surprising to find out that those plants still tend to grow with no sun. The main objective for this day was to transport the mulch from the area that it was at to the garden. We bonded very well with Aaron and Thomas, they are such nice and friendly people. Did I mention that they were chickens and worms! It was very interesting to see a variety of things. We also heard that there might be some goats coming soon into the garden.

We had the nice opportunity to meet two kids that had a huge interest in learning how to improve their gardening skills.

Overall, the *Vallejo Project* was an exciting organization to be a part of. With the Vallejo volunteering service, logic model, weekly meetings, and surveys that my partner created and sent out, we managed to accumulate our **25 hours** of working with this wonderful non-profit organization. Everyone was really caring, friendly, and understanding of our time and transportation conflicts. This is one of the reasons as to why I wouldn't mind doing this again, it was a positive experience.



PhotoGrid

LOGIC MODEL

for

URBAN AGRICULTURE/ SAFE PLACE

Purpose: To finish up Vallejo's Community garden and improve students' understanding with Urban Agriculture.

- **Committed volunteers** willing to dedicate their time at the community garden for multiple hours.
- **Donation/ Funding** for garden equipment.
- **Surveys** to all Vallejo Project volunteers for progress reports and improvement.
- **Propaganda/ Flyers/ Ect.**

Inputs



Activities:



- **Community Opportunities:** students being able to volunteer at "Vallejo Project" related work.
- **Horticulture:** Volunteers being able to understand the significance and purpose of Urban Agriculture..
- **Yoga Classes:** students being able to feel safe and interested with the program along with volunteers.

- **Create** a safe utopia where all youth volunteers, and adults are welcomed.
- **Improve** opportunities as the organization grows based on responses.
- **Develop** friendly relationships with the youth and current volunteers.
- **Persuade** students to have better understandings in the academics, culture and wellness.
- **Persuade** community advocacy through the city of Vallejo through enterprises promoted by the Vallejo Project.

Outcomes

