

# Brainstorming Charrette

## Essential Questions

- What are our central priorities for the project?
- How have our findings shaped our ideas for recommendations?

## Objectives | Students will be able to...

- Synthesize quantitative and qualitative data to brainstorm creative and innovative proposals
- Prioritize top solutions
- Begin grouping short and long-term solutions
- Visually represent and present ideas

## Materials

- Pencils, pens, markers
- Glue, tape, scissors
- Paper, post-its
- [Digital Inspiration Tour](#) (most relevant slides can be printed)
- Printed maps of project site (large if possible)



## Steps

1. Welcome Y-PLAN College Mentors: If College Mentors participate in this lesson, allow them to reintroduce themselves. Begin with a quick icebreaker/warm up activity.
2. Introduce the Concept of 'Charrettes:' A charrette is a fun, fast-paced, and professional design process in which participants brainstorm and visually represent ideas. Since the class has been busy collecting data and making observations, it is now time to let the creative juices flow and come up with solutions!
3. Review the Project Question: Charrettes are a perfect time to think outside the box, letting your imagination run wild. That being said, it is important that the ideas directly relate to the central, project question! Briefly review this with the class.
4. Group Discussion: Before breaking into smaller groups, ask your students: *What are some key takeaways from your research/data that we should keep in mind when coming up with ideas?*
5. Break Into Small Groups: Divide students into teams (from 'Site Mapping'/site visit).
6. Distribute Handout & Explain Instructions: Pass out the printed slides from the [Digital Inspiration Tour](#), printed maps (one per team), as well as the ['Brainstorming Charrette' worksheet](#).
7. Create 'Master Plans:' After students complete their worksheets, ask each team to add their ideas to their project site maps using post-its. Have them indicate where exactly their ideas could be situated and which are highest-priority.

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8. Present to the Class: Have each team present their ideas to their classmates and Y-PLAN College Mentors, explaining any details they have added to their maps. If time is limited, have every team share their top 2-3 proposals, articulating how they address the central project question. Encourage students and College Mentors to ask questions and provide 'warm and cool' feedback!

### Facilitator Tips

- To ensure the lesson runs smoothly, either create supply stations or make sure each team has all the supplies they need.
- Professional charrettes can sometimes last several hours so, if you think your students and College Mentors need more time to collaborate, splitting the charrette into two classes could be an option.
- Remind students this is a time to be creative and think outside the box! While it is important to consider realistic constraints, encourage students to come up with at least one wacky idea.