



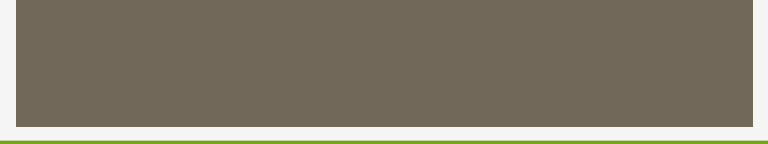
Inner City Struggle United Students

Report from April 9th Site Visit

Julie Willems Van Dijk,
Rapporteur

Outline

- Ice Breaker
- History of Inner City Struggle
- What We Learned from the Students
- Discussion



History of Inner City Struggle



Los Angeles Times

Looting and Fires Ravage L.A.

25 Dead, 572 Injured; 1,000 Blazes Reported

Column One
South L.A.
turns and
rieves



■ Unrest: Troops begin deployment and a dusk-to-dawn curfew is clamped into place in the second day of violence.



History of Inner City Struggle

- 1990's: Moms organizing to decrease gang violence
- 2000's: Move to educational justice



ICS youth leaders with the support of co-founder Luis Sánchez launch the *Schools Not Jails* statewide campaign to defeat the anti-youth initiative Proposition 21 and to demand culturally-relevant curriculum in California schools. The campaign inspires a modern day movement of young people throughout California and nationwide to challenge the school-to-jail pipeline, disproportionately affecting youth of color.

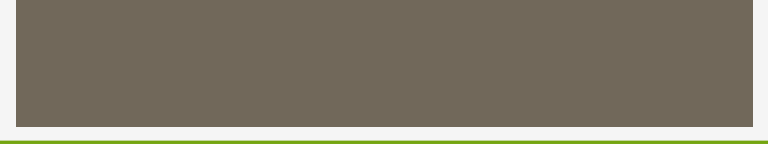
Los líderes juveniles de La Lucha con el apoyo de uno de los fundadores Luis Sánchez, lanzan la campaña de *Escuelas Sí, Cárceles No* en todo el estado para derrotar la Proposición 21, que es perjudicial para los jóvenes y para exigir un plan de estudios que tome en cuenta la cultura de los estudiantes. Esta campaña motiva un movimiento de jóvenes en todo California y el país para retar la canalización de estudiantes hacia las prisiones, que afecta desproporcionadamente a jóvenes de grupos minoritarios.

Focus of Educational Justice

- ◉ Culturally-relevant curriculum
- ◉ College Prep Courses
 - ◉ Equal access to A-G college prep curriculum
- ◉ New Schools
 - ◉ 2004: Building new schools in East LA for the first time in 80 years
 - ◉ Reduction of class size in overcrowded schools

Focus on Restorative Justice

- Elimination of punitive discipline policies
- School Climate Bill of Rights
- Restorative Justice Coordinator in schools

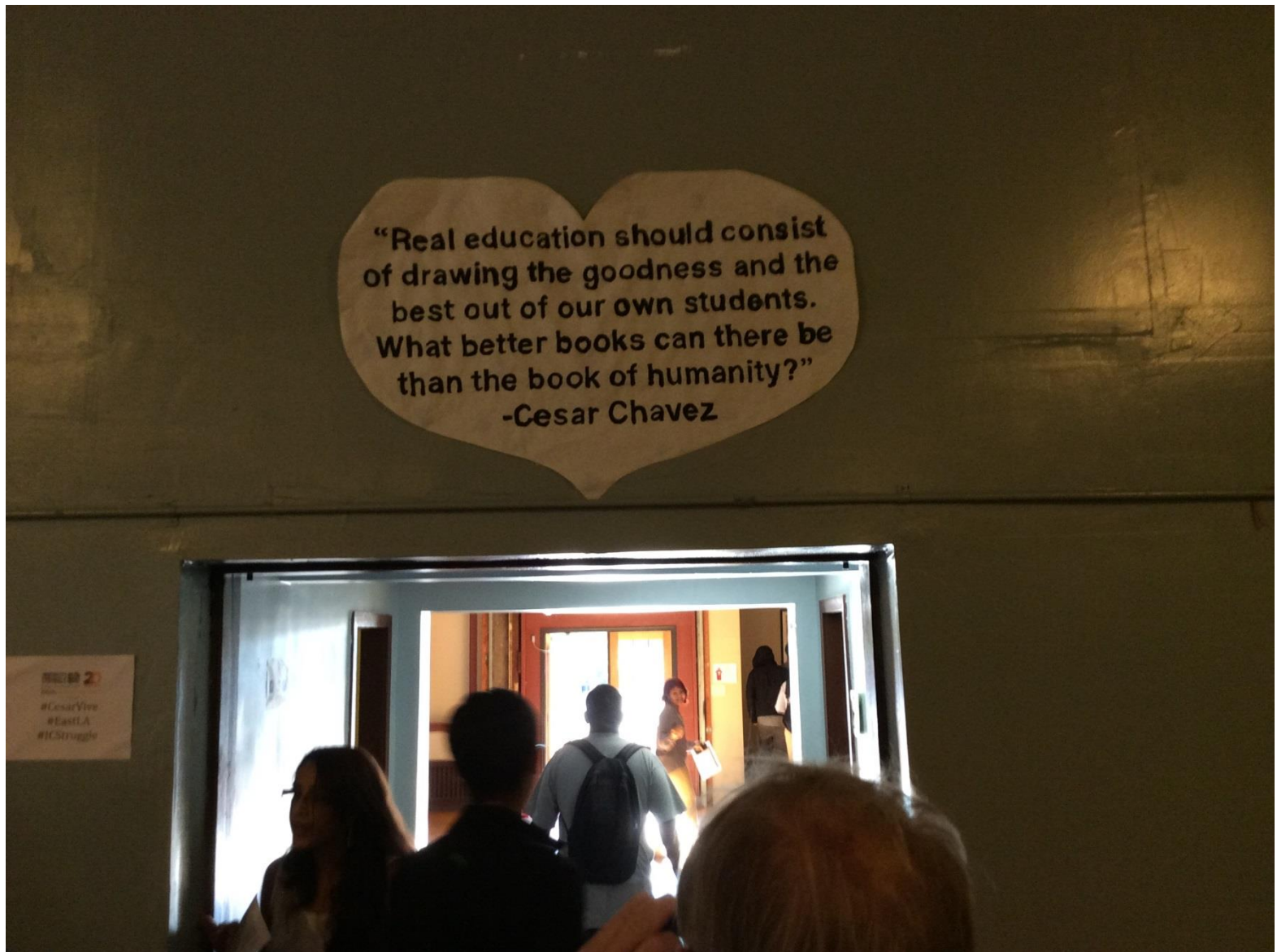


What We Learned from Students

**"Real education should consist
of drawing the goodness and the
best out of our own students.
What better books can there be
than the book of humanity?"
-Cesar Chavez**

2014

#CesarVive
#EastLA
#ICStruggle



Lesson on Stereotypes

- Opportunity to personalize stereotypes with the stand-up exercise
- Acknowledging stereotypes
- Thinking about what effect stereotypes have and what actions can be taken

Other Lessons

- Success of program was that it provided opportunity to address issues AND self improvement
- Leadership skill development—speaking up, public speaking,
- Increased awareness of issues that affected their lives
- Language matters (e.g. Stipend; Push out)

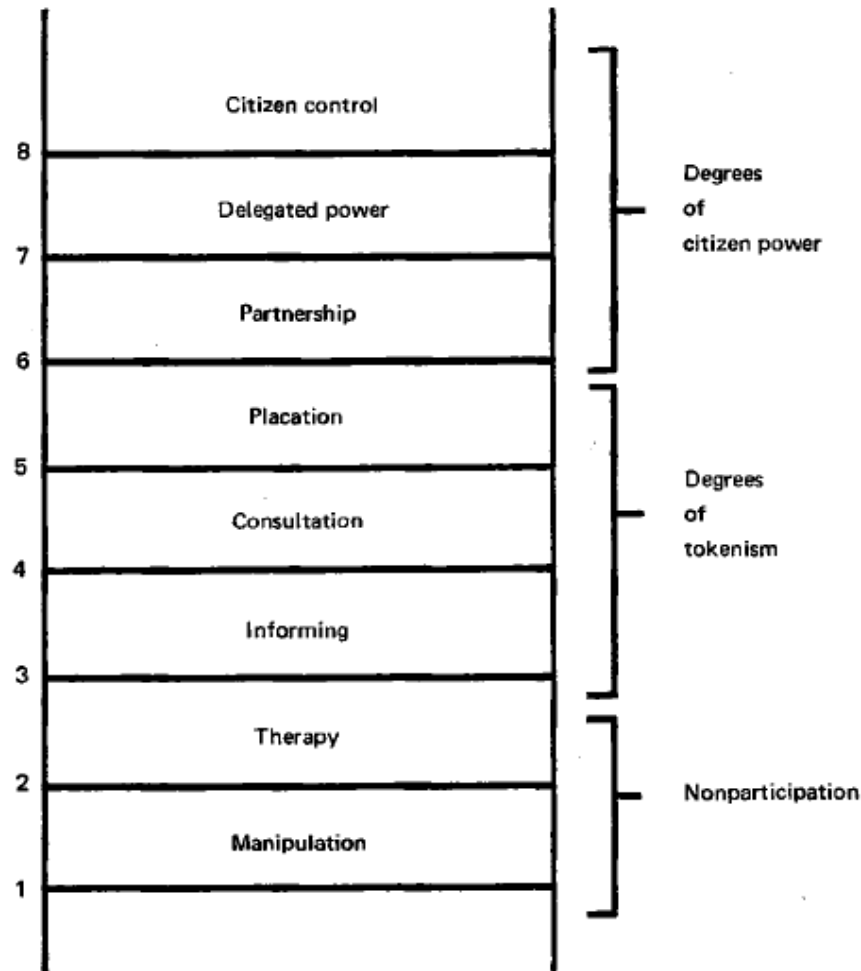


FIGURE 2 *Eight Rungs on a Ladder of Citizen Participation*

To cite this article: Sherry R. Arnstein (1969) A Ladder Of Citizen Participation, *Journal of the American Institute of Planners*, 35:4, 216-224, DOI: [10.1080/01944366908977225](https://doi.org/10.1080/01944366908977225)

To: willemsvandi@wisc.edu

Cc:

Subject: InnerCity Struggle

Hello,

My name is Adriana Meza and I'm part of United Students. We met this afternoon and I would just like to thank you for the positive feedback you gave me. It really meant a lot. I'm very glad we got the opportunity to meet all of you. If you have any more questions, please don't hesitate to ask me. Again, thank you!

Sincerely,
Adriana Meza

Discussion