Skate Equity for Santa Ana Youth

KidWorks: Youth for Active and Safe Communities (YASC) group

Why is YASC here?

- We noticed the lack of skate friendly places and streets in Santa Ana
- Because we want to give youth a chance to make their voices heard and to increase programming, spaces, and resources for Santa Ana youth
- Skateboarding is not just a form of recreation, but also a mode of transportation for many youth in our city
Who/what is YASC

- YASC= Youth for Active and Safe Communities
- Advocates for more green open spaces and safer street infrastructure for all modes of transportation
- Part of the local non-profit organization KidWorks
- The group started in 2010 through The California Endowment’s (TCE)10-year Building Healthy Communities (BHC) initiative

Santa Ana Youth Health Stats

Youth Health (physical fitness test results)

- Teens Engaged in Physical Activity:
  - Santa Ana: 14%
  - Orange County: 16.9%
  - California: 20.7%
- Teens Obese and Overweight
  - Santa Ana average: 27.5%
  - Orange County’s average: 20.9%
  - California’s average: 33.1%
- Percentage of students that passed the Aerobic Capacity Test
  - 58.8% of students from Santa Ana
  - 70.6% of students from OC
- Percentage of students that passed the Body Composition Test
  - 54.2% of students from Santa Ana
  - 68.4% of students from OC

2017-18
Santa Ana Youth and Space

Housing / limited open space:

- Where do most people live?
  - Apartment Complexes: Usually small, crowded, multiple families

- Yard space:
  - No yard
  - Or regulations are placed and kids are not allowed to play outside

- Usual Living Situation:
  - Not having enough space at home
  - Families go play at parks— not always well-kept, safe, adequate equipment
  - Santa Ana does not have enough park space per capita

Observations thru GIS

High concentrations of skateboarders at schools

- Skate hazards at schools, parking lots, shopping centers, and downtown area
- Collisions throughout the city
  - Many are around schools
    - Creates an unsafe environments for families
    - Creates accidents that could have been avoided if there were safe designated area
    - The sidewalks are not only for people walking, but also for people who ride skateboards, bikes, and scooters.
Skatepark Visits & Partnership Events

In order to collect the knowledge on how to build a well-maintained skatepark we needed to observe outside skateparks. In these visits we collected details on how the skateparks are designed.

- There are 22 surrounding skateparks
  - Santa Ana only has 1 designated skatepark located on the Southwest side of town

We have also partnered with various community groups and companies that support skateboarding.

Is It Just Us or…?

- Survey:
  - Gather residents thoughts about skateboarding in Santa Ana
  - Confirm hypothesis that Santa Ana needs investment for skateboarding in the city
- How did we gather residents thoughts?
  - Go to:
    - Community organizations and groups
    - Parks
    - Churches
    - Laundromats
    - Storefronts
Some of Our Survey Results!

- 77% of respondents support increased investment in skateboarding
- 65% are unsure if skateboarding is a form of transportation
- Santa Ana should invest in & support the creation of safe skate spaces & include skateboarding in Active Transportation conversations and planning infrastructure for the future of our city

Youth Voices in Transportation Work

- Attend the SA Active Transportation Planning meetings
- We provided input on student perspectives in getting to schools, stores, community centers, etc. and point out challenges that we notice on certain streets and intersections
- For example one of the main challenges that skateboarding youth face are: sidewalks that are too narrow, broken and with no ramp, and don’t have a smooth and safe ride
Our Ideas Into Parks!!

- We have had the opportunity to be part of the various parks and recreation community outreach meetings
- We have been able to give input about what we want to see in new parks, and ones that will soon be renovated.
- One of the main things we advocate for is a safe skate space in parks for youth to be active and healthy

Thank you and We hope you support us through your work