

YOUTH STOREFRONT PROJECT PROJECT DESIGN

GOAL:

Establish a place (a "storefront") attractive to youth where a wide variety of productive learning activities will occur.

PURPOSE:

Provide both in and out-of-school youth with "hands-on" learning opportunities. Students will learn from each other and adults the process and details of how to create, establish, and run enterprises that produce items for sale while potentially earning school credit.

FOCUS:

We will contact youth who may be "at risk" or are "marginal" to the traditional schooling process and provide them with access to the Storefront. Through a variety of established classes, workshops, seminars, and available work space, we will provide the opportunity for students to learn from each other and from other mentoring adults who have a wealth of experience in running a business or producing products that may be offered for retail sale. We also will establish and increase a network between the Storefront and other business, schools, and service organizations in the downtown area of Tucson.

OTHER SERVICES:

The Storefront can be envisioned as a learning context that provides the availability of experienced adults and other youth willing to engage in creative, exciting projects that stimulate learning, while acquiring practical skills that may ensure jobs in the future. School credit may be available as well as linkages to "real life" job possibilities, and social services may also be possible. The idea of the Storefront is to empower people to work toward their potential within a context of enjoyment and harmony.

LOCATION:

The Storefront has leased a space at 118 S. 5th Ave. in the old Louis hotel. The space is located in the Western end of the building and faces Arizona Avenue (Alley). This warehouse space will allow for the multiplex operation that we are proposing. It is located close to Project M.O.R.E. at 200 N. Stone Avenue. Project M.O.R.E., one of T.U.S.D.'s Alternative education programs, will continue to serve as administrative linkage to the Storefront. Beginning in January we will begin to create and to work on a variety of student and adult driven projects.

HOURS:

In the beginning regular hours will be from 1:00 until 5:00 p.m., depending on the projects that are underway. It is hoped that hours will be extended into the evening and, ultimately, to late evening, hours being determined by on-going projects. In addition, it is the intention to have the Storefront open for each Downtown Saturday Night. We will offer both retail space and a variety of music and artistic events.

FUNDING:

- 1) Self funded through projects, productions, and products produced and sold by Storefront participants
- 2) Self-funded through "fund raisers" (i.e., bake sales, benefit music performances, Tee-shirt sales, etc.)
- 3) Contributions from businesses, schools, and the public
At this time we have a growing "wish list" for materials to help us furnish the Storefront. A variety of materials for producing art/craft materials are needed at this time. Paints, materials, plywood, canvas, and other items are in demand. In addition a Tee-shirt printing equipment, as well as other craft producing equipment is welcomed. As the Storefront is part of T.U.S.D., a non-profit organization, cash contributions would be very helpful for us, as well as, deductible for you!
- 4) Grant funded, renewed each year from foundations, etc.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

Students are recruited from various Alternative Education Programs, youth organizations, and self-referrals. Youth expressing an interest will be interviewed as to their interest in the program and possible involvement in on going projects. A program of learning will be developed with each participant so that their interests will be met by the project in which they are involved. It is expected that other students and adult mentors with similar interests will collaborate on projects.

WORKSHOPS:

The Storefront will have a number of on going projects. Some of these will be short term workshops involving the arts and other crafts. Some will be of longer duration and function as classes. It is assumed that some projects may run indefinitely such as tee-shirt printing, photography, and some construction projects. We are currently looking for professional artists and other interested individuals who are willing to participate in Storefront activities as mentors and teachers.

INSTRUCTORS:

Local professional artists, educators, and others, including youth with particular skills and talents, will be asked to donate time periodically until funding and/or products produced will earn enough revenue to provide stipends. Teachers from the school system will possibly be able to offer classes for credit within Alternative Education Programs such as Project M.O.R.E. If you, or someone you know, is interested in working in the Youth Storefront please call Thomas Martin Anderson at Project M.O.R.E. (617-6460), or weekday afternoons at the Storefront, 882-4471.

RESULTS:

Youth attracted to the program will emerge more self-confident, having learned skills that can lead them toward jobs or toward further education and training. Drop-outs will return to finish school with the knowledge and awareness that they have much to offer to the society in which they live. The program will, by having youth teaching youth, cultivate leadership while maintaining each unique individual. As the programs attract a wide variety of young people, cultural diversity will be celebrated through the physical results of working together and the arts and crafts produced.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

We welcome inquiries regarding the Youth Storefront. Should you desire further information about the program and/or the projects under way please write to us at the following address:

Youth Storefront Project
118 S. 5th Avenue, room # 200
Tucson, Arizona, 85701