Executive Summary for Tempe Academy Visioning Workshop and Community Garden

Project Summary Process

The research process of this project was characterized by searching for adequate stakeholder engagement methods in order to create a workshop that accurately conveyed the stakeholder vision for the garden. In order to do this initially we outsourced this project to the SOS 230 professional skills class, who created several templates for a mock-workshop for us to test with stakeholder analogues. After testing these ideas at a mock-workshop, we consolidated their most effective elements into the final version of the workshop that we employed at Tempe Academy of International Studies. We employed this approach to utilize an applied testing perspective that would practically generate accurate and engaging stakeholder engagement.

We, as well as Tempe Academy of International Studies, are going to use this collective garden vision in order to create a useful and value-based school garden that reflects the sustainable and happy vision of the community.

The planning process began in fall of 2015 and continued up until stakeholder engagement in spring of 2016. Analysis of the data collected from implementation began immediately after, and planning for implementation began in fall 2016 and continues until the present date.

Findings and Conclusions

What we found from this project were the values and desires of the community involved with making the garden, and we found a portal to their vision. This has given the project a track to follow or a path to an end result. It is important to have this because now they have a community goal; it helps align a lot of moving pieces and structure the project more definitively such that the result is what they desired. Our project resulted in the creation of a visioning workshop, hybrid data taken from surveys and recordings from the workshop which give insight into the values and desires for the garden, and a narrative and presentation describing the results of the workshop and the communities vision. While this project was clearly important for the end goal of creating this community garden, what is less clear is its impact on the greater Phoenix area and its culture. This is one of the first projects in a larger path to developing a more resilient, mindful, and caring Phoenix. This project sets a path for other schools who wish to follow after Tempe Academy. This project is setting the precedent for how schools look towards changing education and the health of those being educated.