MEANINGFUL COLORS & PLANS

YEP! Youth Engagement Planning is a non-profit organization focused on educating young people in grades K-12 by introducing them to urban planning and civic engagement, and creating opportunities for youth to have meaningful participation in advocating for change in their communities and the built environment.

Teacher Instructions

Facilitators: At least 1
Ideal Age Range: 4-12th grade
Length of Time: 20-40 min depending on engagement level

Supplies:
- Zoning Map of your community or example map printed from the YEP! website. The size of the map should be around 16-18” x 22-24”
- Site Plan Layout handout printed from the YEP! website
- Markers

OBJECTIVE

Students will learn about zoning and land use, including the meaning and purpose of a zoning map, zoning ordinance, and land use categories.

With this instruction of an existing zoning map and coordinated zoning legend, students will be able to make the connection between the colors on the map and what they represent within the legend.

By recognizing and describing zoning categories on the map, the students will then be able to recreate a zoning map on their site plan handout where they will be filling in the map with colored squares of the land uses that they imagine their city having. Using the key on the site plan handout, they will be able to identify which land use categories fit best together and make up an entire site plan.

PRELIMINARY SET-UP

The large-scale color zoning map needs to be printed or ordered around a week prior to the activity. Assume more time if using a printing service.

The site plan handouts need to be printed for each student participating.

Markers should also be provided to the students.
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Student Activity

WHAT IS ZONING?
Zoning is the process of dividing land in a municipality into zones (e.g. residential, industrial) in which certain land uses are permitted or prohibited. Example: Zoning Designation: Commercial, Permitted Uses: Retail, Shopping, Hotels, Offices, Restaurants). Zoning includes a zoning ordinance to explain the regulations and a zoning map to show the land use.

WHAT IS LAND USE?
Land Use is a planning method by which each parcel or piece of land is categorized for what the land is intended to be used for on a broad scale. Categories such as Residential, Commercial, Industrial, Parks and Open Space, etc. are used to define the use of land.

WHAT IS SITE PLANNING?
Site planning involves arranging structures on the land and shaping spaces between them. It is an art linked to architecture, and city planning. A site plan is a scaled drawing which shows the uses and structures proposed for a parcel of land. It also includes information concerning the landscape features of a given parcel. Site plans are intended to show how the intended land use relates to the features of a parcel and its surrounding area. A Site Plan is necessary in order for a planner to ensure that the development and design fit in with the character of the city and complies with the zoning ordinance.

COLORS ON A MAP: ZONING

1. Ask the students to observe the printed example zoning map, associating the colors on the map with the zoning designations in the key.
2. As each student looks over the map, go over the meaning of zoning and site planning.
3. Share with the students the meaning of the colors on the map:
   - Site Planning Components (Land Use/Zoning)
     - (Yellow) Residential - Places to Live (Single Family house, Two-Family, house, Duplex, Multi-Family)
     - (Red) Commercial - Places to Work (Businesses, Hotels, Offices, Services, Retail Stores)
     - (Orange/color can vary) Mixed-Use - A mix of residential, commercial, and sometimes industrial
     - (Purple) Industrial - Factories, Warehouses
     - (Green) Parks and Open Space
     - (Blue) Institutional - Schools, Hospitals, Churches, Public Buildings (City Hall, Police Station)

SITE PLANNING FOR EVERYONE

1. Ask the students to use their markers to create their own site plan using the key on the handout to draw various squares with the colors that represent the land use they would like to include on their plan.
2. Have the students utilize as many land uses as can fit onto their site plan handout.

CONCLUSION: DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Ask the students “What type of land uses did you use on your site plan? Why did you choose them?”
2. Ask the students “Which land use do you think are more compatible (can be next to one another) than others?”

WHAT DO PLANNERS DO?
An urban planner is a professional who works to enhance the quality of life. A planner is a person who helps shape the design and form of a city or place, from buildings to roads, and parks and more. Planners know how important land use and zoning are to communities and work hard to ensure the community is a great place to live, work, and play!