



**ROCKLAND PLUS 2023**  
PLANNING LAND USE WITH STUDENTS

**Symposium**  
**Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup>**  
**St. Thomas Aquinas College**

**FACILITATOR GUIDE**

**Program Partners:**

Keep Rockland Beautiful  
Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University  
Rockland Conservation & Service Corps  
Rockland County Soil & Water Conservation District  
Saint Thomas Aquinas College

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**ROCKLAND PLUS**  
**PLANNING LAND USE WITH STUDENTS**  
**Facilitator's Information 2023**

Thank you for being part of Rockland P.L.U.S. 2023. As a facilitator, you play an important part in the symposium. Your role is to:

- **Guide your group(s)** of young people through the two main activities for the day and be mindful of the limited time allocated for each activity
- **Encourage all** students to participate in the discussions
- Provide an atmosphere where all ideas are **respectfully heard and considered**
- **Support an 'idea incubator'**, where creative thought and concepts are encouraged – strike a balance between novel creativity, and realistic
- **Have fun!**

The following is the schedule and basic steps for the day:

**8:00 – 8:15 a.m. - Check- In Students**

**8:15 – 8:30 a.m. – Check- In Facilitators/Mentors**

**LOBBY Romano Center**

Check-in and pick up Facilitator Packet

- Student name tags will indicate their assigned group for both Sessions I & II

**8:30 – 8:50 a.m. – Brief Explanation of the Day and group introductions**

**Romano Center Lower Level**

Welcome, quick overview of the day, and an introduction to the mentors/facilitators.

School presentation teams are matched with their Facilitator & Mentors and head to Session I breakout rooms. Please wait for your school group outside of the Romano Building before leading them to your assigned classroom which will be on one of three floors in Maguire Hall. We have several STAC students that will help you find your room and assist with facilitation.

**9:10 – 9:40 a.m. - Session I: Student Local Site Presentation (30 Minute Session)**

**Breakout Rooms Maguire Hall & Romano Center**

(a) Student Presentation of Local Site – Presentations are on Google Project so will use the room computers. Many rooms will have two student groups presenting, both be on the same project site but with different ideas to share.

- Start with facilitator and mentors introducing themselves to the students. Note: While this is happening have the first presenter log into their project so they are ready to go! **(suggest 5 minutes)**
- 1<sup>st</sup> group of students present their project illustrating their plan for their local site. They can introduce themselves as they present, i.e. 'I am Hector and I will introduce the site history'. **(suggest 5-8 minutes)**
- If there is a 2<sup>nd</sup> group of students they then presents their ideas **(suggest 5-8 minutes)**

(b) Mentor Feedback & Discussion **(suggest 5-8 minutes)**

- Mentors ask questions and provide suggestions after the students have finished their presentation.
- If needed, question prompts are included to encourage the conversation. **(Appendix A)**
- If there is time, guide students in a discussion of how the project could incorporate the mentor feedback.

(c) Capture Mentor Feedback /Record as the mentors are speaking

- Assign a student from each group to complete the provided Planning Feedback Form (**Appendix B**) outlining mentor suggestions
- Thank Mentors
- Return to the Romano Center with Planning Feedback Form

**9:55 - 10:15 a.m. - Morning Snack**

Romano Center Lower Level

**10:20 - 10:40 a.m.: Introduction to Session II - Collaborative Mapping Project of Chair Factory in the Village of Haverstraw**

Romano Center Lower Level

Participants receive an overview of the **Chair Factory** site for envisioning redevelopment, and an explanation of the collaborative mapping session.

- Students move into mixed school planning groups before heading to their assigned Session II breakout rooms. Integrated teams of ~10-12 students, 3 to 4 from various schools, will be in each group.
- Student name tags indicate their group and breakout room number.
- After the introduction, pick up supplies for the collaborative mapping session at the front of the room and wait for the students and your assigned mentors outside the Romano Center before moving back to Maguire Hall.

**10:50 - 12:00: Session II – Collaborative Planning and Mapping**

Maguire Hall Breakout Rooms

Introductions and Icebreaker Activity (10 minutes): Facilitate a quick round of introductions supported by the provided icebreaker activity - Tell the students that each planning group has been assigned 1 to 2 mentors to work with them to give feedback and insights

- Keep in mind that students will need time and encouragement to warm up to each other, the mentors, and the new site so be prepared for things to start out a bit slowly.

Orientation to the Site (10 minutes):

- Do a quick review and discussion of the information shared in the introduction to Session II and the materials provided at the table. Begin with the site map and project highlights sheets as these will be new to the students. Be sure that everyone is oriented to the site and review key landmarks (like the Hudson River!) and anything that already exists at this location.
- **Brainstorm ideas!** Use the post it notes to capture ideas for this 10 acre property along Haverstraw's waterfront and put them on the map
  - Consider the location – waterfront properties have to consider storm surge and sea level rise challenges
  - Consider how to improve transit for the region – can you connect to harbors, the ferry, Emeline Park?
  - Consider the needs and wants of the local community (Village of Haverstraw) and Rockland County
- Think of community partners to engage with on new property usage
- Remind the students to use the planning skills and resources they have already developed through the work they did in planning for their local redevelopment site.
- Consider the wants and needs of **all ages and stages of life**
- Balance the interdependent **social, economic, environmental and equity** aspects of the community
- Think about **Climate Smart Community** features you could address at this site

### Starting the Planning with available Tools: (20 minutes)

- Let the students discuss and toss around ideas – if the group is having trouble starting suggest they each offer an idea from their morning project to incorporate into this new site.
- **Planning cards** you can lay these out to help students think through what could be included
- The **Cost Benefit form (Appendix C)** can help make decisions as to what to include to revitalize this area.
- **Engage the mentors** in providing feedback on student selections.
- As the facilitator, **you can make suggestions and encourage discussion** e.g. “How would you create a multi-use community hub? What would attract people to this area?”
- **Sticky notes are useful for jotting down ideas** until they are ready to actually map them. Use the props in the baggie (poker chips, yarn etc.) to provide visual placemarkers for features until you draw them in.

### Sketch it out (20 minutes):

- With their sticky note ideas and planning props, students put pen to paper & sketch out the map.
- Groups are encouraged to select a name slogan or logo for their new community.
- **Label Group # and everyone’s name on the back of the map**

### Prepare to Share (5 minutes)

Be sure to reserve 5 – 10 minutes at the end of the session to prepare for the **pop-up presentation** back in Romano. The pop-ups will be a very short highlights opportunity - **2 minutes each!**

- Students select a spokesperson(s) and map holders
- Use the Final Wrap Up Form (**Appendix D**) to jot down notes to help highlight features of the redevelopment plan.
- **\*\*Before you leave for lunch, be sure your map is labeled by group #, pack up all supplies and bring them down to Romano with the map and your presenter notes (Appendix D).** Be sure to hand these in at the table in the upper lobby of Romano.

### **12:10 - 12:40: Lunch**

Romano Center Lower Level

### **12:45 - 1:20: Student Feedback Presentations**

Romano Center Lower Level

We have 15 groups to hear from, so we will ask students to work from the sheet they completed so they can present 3 highlights from their planning projects and the most valued mentor feedback.

As there are multiple groups, we suggest you write down more than 3 and select ones you have not already heard if possible. **2 minute wrap ups!**

**Mentor Thoughts** - mentors who remain are encourage to share an observation on either the plan or the process

**1:20 p.m. – Wrap Up & reminders that evaluations are going to be emailed to teachers for students and to mentors/facilitators**

**1:30 p.m. – Students Depart**



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**★APPENDIX A★**

**First Session Local Plan Presentation:**

**Suggested Prompts if Needed for Discussion**

**Why did you choose these social, equity and economic features? Do they benefit all ages? How?**

**Can you elaborate on what energy saving features you chose and why you selected them?**

**Why have you chosen these green infrastructure features? Can you explain how they will benefit the community?**

**What transit connections have you chosen? What enhancements have you added to make mass/alternative transit more attractive to users (like yourselves)?**

**Have you suggested features that will (a) help reduce contributions to climate change? (B) reduce our footprint (3) make us more resilient to the impacts of climate change?**

**Conserving water is important in the County. Are there ways to assist with water conservation in your plan?**

**What linkages and interconnections do you see between the social, economic, equity and environmental features you've chosen?**

**What local organizations, businesses, agencies might make good partners?**

**Which of these features are you most excited about? Which do you think most beneficial to the local community? What about to the county?**

**Which of these features do you think would be most difficult to implement? How might you address these challenges?**



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### ★ APPENDIX B ★

#### SOCIAL ▪ ECONOMIC ▪ ENVIRONMENTAL ▪ EQUITABLE (S.E.E.E.)

Mentors help us S.E.E.E. the community!

#### Feedback From Your Mentors On the Local Plan

**PLEASE HAVE GROUP COMPLETE & RETURN WITH LOCAL POSTER!**

POSITIVE & UNIQUE IDEAS THIS PLAN BRINGS TO THE COMMUNITY:

1.

2.

3.

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOW TO IMPROVE THIS PLAN:

1.

2.

3.

ADDITIONAL PARTNERS WE COULD SUGGEST YOU WORK WITH:

1.

2.

3.

OTHER COMMENTS:





**★APPENDIX D★**  
**FOR FINAL WRAP UP PRESENTATION OF CHAIR FACTORY SITE PLAN!**

PLEASE SELECT ONE PERSON TO SPEAK TO THE GROUP AND TWO OTHERS TO HELP DISPLAY THE PLAN.

THIS WILL BE SHORT AND FOCUSED!

S.E.E.E. this project – Thinking of how revisioning this location can support the Social, Economic Environmental and Equitable Goals of Sustainable Planning...



1. Did you think about how to improve people movement/transit?



2. List 3 highlights from your project. How does your proposed project address existing weaknesses while drawing from the strengths of the community – to become the ‘heart’ and ‘economic engine’ of the surrounding community?

**MENTOR  
MINUTE**

3. Is there one suggestion your mentors offered that really helped improve your project?