



**ROCKLAND PLUS 2016**  
PLANNING LAND USE WITH STUDENTS

**MENTOR GUIDE**

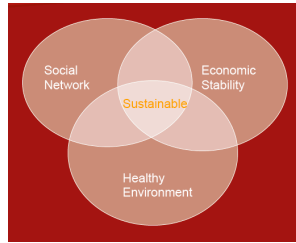
(Updated to reflect new morning meeting place, the Cultural Arts Building Theatre)

Rockland P.L.U.S. 2016 is made possible with the generous support of



**Frank & Joanne  
Gumper**





## **MENTOR INFORMATION FOR ROCKLAND P.L.U.S. Planning Land Use with Students**

March, 2016

Dear Rockland PLUS Mentor:

Thank you for joining us to be a mentor for the 2016 Rockland Planning Land Use with Students (PLUS) project. The planning team, teachers and students value your input and the time you spend with them during the project's culminating symposium at **SUNY Rockland Community College on Friday, March 18, 2016.**

Rockland P.L.U.S. 2016 focuses on planning for sustainable communities through transit focused planning. Our 2016 event combines the best elements of previous years' programming. In the classroom workshops leading up to the symposium, students explored: (1) their connection to community, (2) the perspectives and needs of community members at different stages of life, (3) the strengths and weaknesses of the wider community and (4) what role different types of transportation play in a community. They then assessed their local transit station and the surrounding area, and re-envision the space to create a community hub, integrating features that promote a community balance of Social Connections, Economic Opportunity and Environmental Sensitivity (S.E.E.) – They are able to S.E.E. their community in a whole new way.

At the symposium, students from the participating high schools will first present their vision for creating a 'community hub' through revitalizing their local transit hub (bus or train) to create an sense of place around the transit stop. They will then gather input from you to improve their plan. They have focused on this specific space and how it can support and improve the wider community through innovation and partnerships. Following these presentations, the students will work in mixed school teams, applying what they've learned to a larger project; the development of a proposal for Exit 10 on the thruway in Nyack as part of the NYS New Bridge project. Their designs will focus on reconnecting the village a bringing in new commercial ventures.

This year at the symposium we have 7 participating high schools groups: Clarkstown North, Nanuet, Nyack, Pearl River, P-Tech and Spring Valley and Suffern.

The Rockland P.L.U.S. website contains all curriculum materials for the program:

<http://www.ldeo.columbia.edu/edu/plus/Rockland.html>

Below is a highlight of the plan for the day, which begins in [RCC's Cultural Arts Center Theatre](#). We will have a check-in table set up in the lobby of the Ellipse Room for you.

For Building information: <http://www.sunyrockland.edu/about/campus-guide/rcc-virtual-tour/technology-center>. Volunteer guides will also be available.



8:15-8:30 AM  
CULTURAL ARTS BUILDING  
LOBBY

**Mentor Check In**

8:30 – 8:50 AM  
CULTURAL ARTS BUILDING

**Greeting from Dr. Wood, President SUNY RCC**  
**-Introductions & Day Plan**  
**-Introduction to Mentors & Facilitators**

9:00 – 9:30  
Various Campus Locations

**Student Presentations of Local Transit Focused Project**

Each school team presents to mentors for feedback and discussion on their project plan. Students will be collecting feedback on the items the mentors found as **strengths** with their projects, as well as suggestions on **improvements**. We encourage the mentors to have a “light touch” as they suggest and offer feedback, allowing the students to be the drivers of the product. Your insights, thoughts and observations, however, are extremely valuable. We often find that posing questions assists the students in considering their plan more deeply, allowing them to come up with ways to improve them.

9:40 – 10:00  
CULTURAL ARTS BUILDING

**Snack Break**

Students posters and feedback forms will be posted

10:00 - 10:25  
CULTURAL ARTS BUILDING

**Introductions to Collaborative Mapping Project**

Students will receive background information on Exit 10 and a newly visioned South Nyack and we put into mixed school groups to work on rethinking this space.

10:30 – 12:00 PM  
Various Campus Locations

**Collaborative Mapping Project**

Students will work in mixed school teams to apply their understanding of revitalizing a community around transit to develop a plan for the Exit 10/South Nyack site. Mentors provide feedback and guidance during the process.

12:10 – 12:40

**Lunch** - *For students, mentors, teachers, facilitators and volunteers*  
Faculty Lounge & Student Cafeteria, Cultural Arts Building

12:50 – 1:20  
Ellipse in Tech Bldg

**Team Presentations**

Maps posted - 2-minute project highlights from team spokesperson

- How was the use of trains, buses, biking and walking promoted?
- How did the proposed plan focus on addressing perceived weaknesses & strengths of the community?
- Most valued piece of input received from mentors.
- Comment from Mentors (from those that can stay)

1:20  
Ellipse in Tech Bldg

**Wrap up and reflection/ Evaluation form**

1:30

**Dismissal**

Many, many thanks for your help in this event. We have designed the program to engage the students in their own local community, as well as to connect them to the wider community of Rockland. We would love to have your feedback and suggestions on the event and will be following up after the day with a very short evaluation form we hope you will complete.

**THANK YOU!**

The Rockland PLUS Planning Team

