

5. Youth Development Program

Brief Program Description:

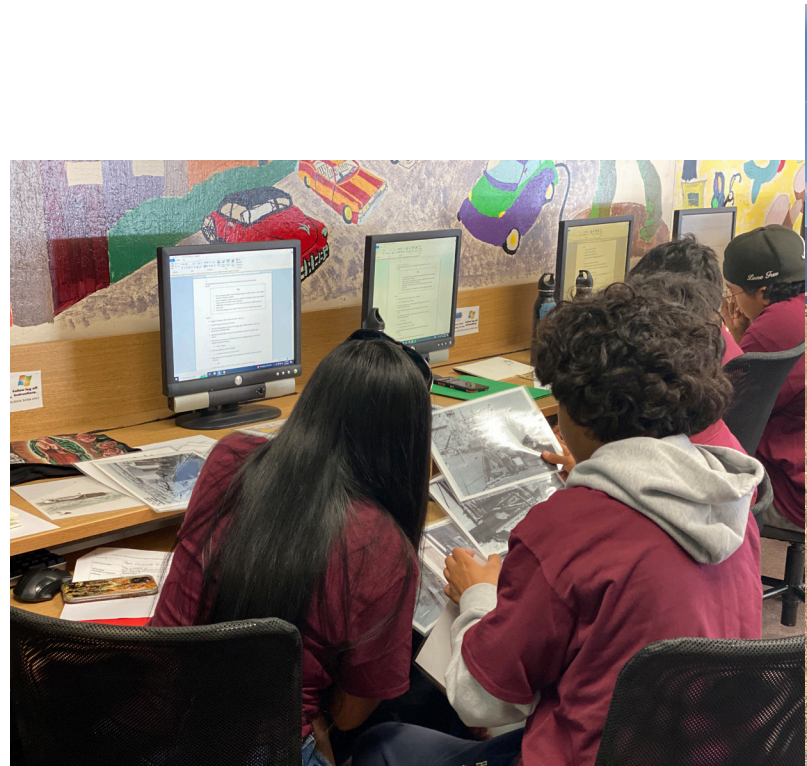
The program aims to build community connections with the new Thurgood Marshall Regional Park - Home of the Port Chicago 50 and the rest of the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD), while serving youths from neighborhoods and schools close to the park. Every summer, ten participants are invited to learn about their regional parks, explore personal connections to social justice, and develop educational content that highlights the park's relevance. The program supports youths by working directly with EBRPD Naturalists to design and develop digital interpretive media related to the themes of the new park, including natural history, stewardship, and social justice. Additionally, participants spend time with park staff to learn about the many professions required to run a park system, and build skills applicable to employment at EBRPD. Funding for this program, including stipends and lunch, is provided by the Regional Parks Foundation.

Program & Partnership:

People Who Care Association (PWC) is local community nonprofit organization that serves a racially and socio-economically diverse group of middle and high school-aged students from Pittsburg, California and surrounding areas. Through a combination of mentorships, counseling, learning experiences, and authentic opportunities to give back to their community, PWC provides youths with the education and training needed to realize positive change in their lives and engage with their communities. To learn more about their work, visit their website: <https://www.pwcpittsburg.org/>

In 2022, EBRPD and PWC first partnered through a series of day-long programs to augment existing offerings and connect youth to regional parks.

In the summer of 2023, EBRPD and PWC teams deepened their partnership to develop and launch a paid, multi-day program, the first Youth Development Program out of Thurgood Marshall Regional Park - Home of the Port Chicago 50. Thanks to the program's success, EBRPD and PWC will continue to provide this program every summer.



Youth Created Content:

As part of this program and with support of EBRPD Naturalists, participants developed interpretive content and reflections to be posted on social media. Their work is linked below.

Facebook posts 2023

Thurgood Marshall Regional Park
Youth Development Program Series:

**Part 1:
The Port Chicago Disaster**

Thurgood Marshall Regional Park
Youth Development Program Series:

**Part 2:
Thurgood Marshall's Role**

Thurgood Marshall Regional Park
Youth Development Program Series:

**Part 3:
The Future Park**

Facebook post 2024

