



# DENBY HIGH SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

## OVERVIEW

The Detroit Future City Strategic Framework Plan provides a clear vision and approach for Detroit's future. The implementation horizons for change call for the stability, improvement, sustainability and eventual transformation of Detroit between now and 2050. This call for a long-term plan necessitates the engagement of youth who hold a significant stake in the present and future of Detroit. As a result, Denby High School has adopted the Detroit Future City Strategic Framework Plan in two significant manners. The senior class at Denby High School completes senior capstone projects, utilizing the Strategic Framework to drive research topics. Secondly, Denby High incorporates the Detroit Future City Strategic Framework into a community-oriented curriculum developed in partnership with Denby High School, Michigan Community Resources and Detroit Future City. The partnership with Denby High School has served as a catalyst for the formation of the Denby Neighborhood Alliance Project, a grassroots project championed by Denby High School and community interest partners to rehabilitate and revitalize the community in and outside of Denby High School.

## IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES & ACTIONS

- 1 EXPAND CAPACITY FOR THE LONG TERM: BUILDING ON STRENGTHS TO EXTEND RANGE
- 1.3 Focus on Detroit institutions
- 1.4 Focus on Detroit residents
- 2 INFORMED, INCLUSIVE DECISIONS: DEVELOPING AND SHARING KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION
- 3 A MOSAIC OF TACTICS FOR A MOSAIC OF PEOPLE: DIVERSE PLATFORM OF OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE

## OBJECTIVES

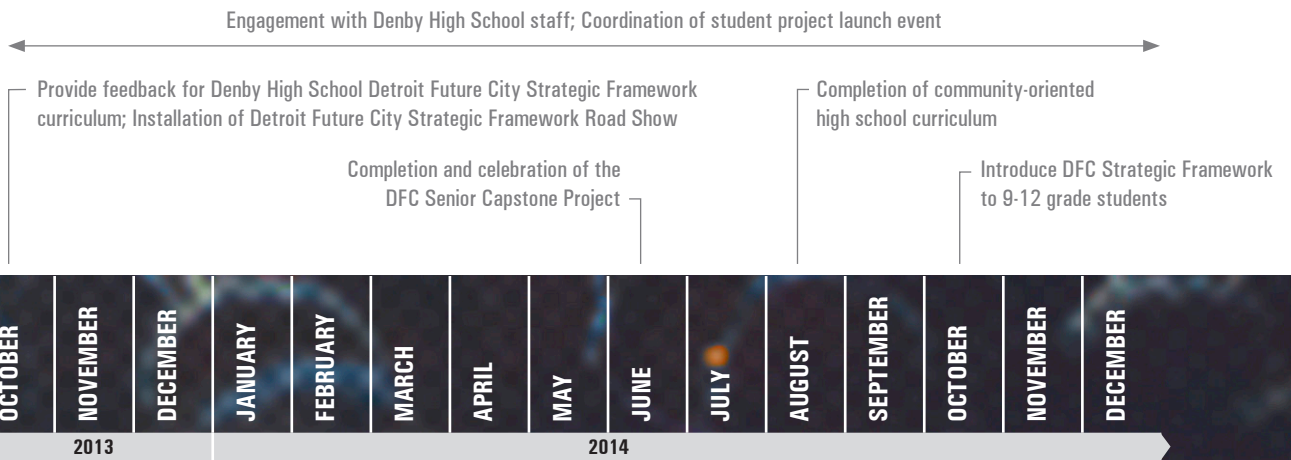
- Provide technical assistance to Denby High School in developing curriculum plan, partner coordination and project launch event
- Align youth capstone projects with engagement of the larger community
- Engage students, Denby High School staff and residents around the Detroit Future City Strategic Framework Plan
- Rehabilitate and redevelop Skinner Playfield into a multipurpose field used by both students and community member. (Denby Neighborhood Alliance)
- Re-imagine Denby High School as a hub for community activism and reform, and to empower students to create and implement their visions for positive change. (Denby Neighborhood Alliance)

## RESOURCES

- Detroit Future City Process Leaders
- Detroit Future City Implementation Office
- Denby High School staff
- Michigan Community Resources staff

## EVALUATION METRICS

- Number of students directly engaged
- Number of other community stakeholders directly engaged
- Identification of legacy projects to fulfill the DFC framework
- Feedback from Denby High School staff regarding the quality and impact of the partnership with Detroit Future City



## INITIATIVE VITALS

### CONTRIBUTING ORGANIZATIONS:

Detroit Future City, Detroit Collaborative Design Center, Denby High School, Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries, Detroit Youth Violence Prevention Initiative, LISC Detroit, Michigan Community Resources, Michigan Environmental Council, Motor City Grounds Crew, Permaculture Initiatives, Summer in the City, Wayne County Community College

### DFC INITIATIVE TYPE: Partner

**DFC REPRESENTATIVES:** Sandra Turner Handy (Process Leader), Heidi Alcock, Allandra Bulger, Josh Budiongan (DCDC), Charles Cross (DCDC)

**INITIATIVE DURATION:** October 2013–Ongoing

**RELEVANT PLANNING ELEMENT:** Civic Capacity

## DFC APPROACH

The DFC Implementation Office provided Denby High School with copies of the Detroit Future City Strategic Framework Plan along with supplemental materials. The Detroit Collaborative Design Center installed DFC Road Show panels at Denby High to give students the opportunity to learn more about the Strategic Framework and communicate their ideas.

In coordination with Michigan Community Resources and Denby High, a community-oriented high school curriculum has been developed for 9–12 grades across the following subjects: 1) math, 2) science, 3) English, and 4) social studies. The four-year, community-oriented curriculum was created to provide a framework for schools to incorporate community development initiatives into the Common Core and Michigan High School curricula, to empower students to take action in their communities, and to increase academic rigor through project-based learning.

Additionally, DFC Process Leaders provide mentoring and coaching to the students throughout the project, and the Implementation Office provides feedback regarding the curriculum implemented to teach and engage students about the Strategic Framework. The Implementation Office meets periodically with Denby High School staff to monitor the students' progress and plan community launch events for student projects to foster broader community engagement.



Image Source: Detroit Future City