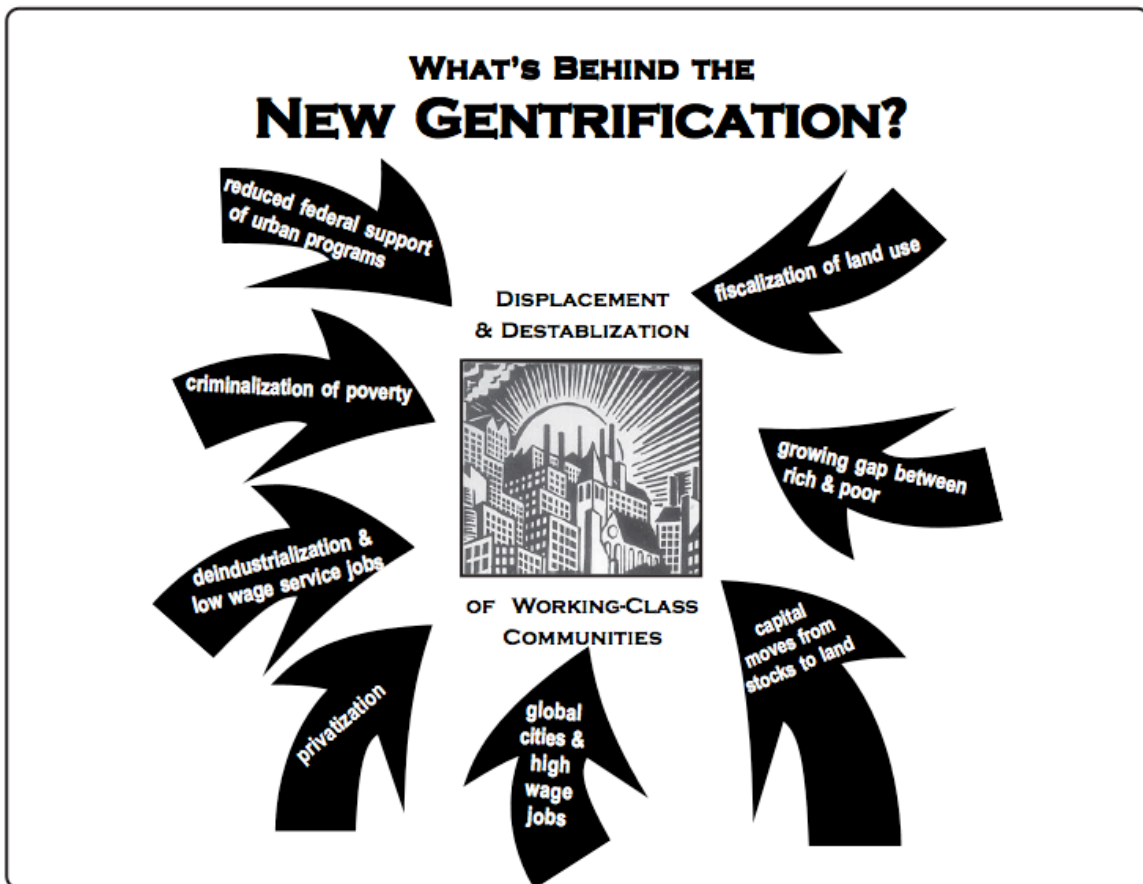


**Community Scholars Program
2006-2007
*Brochure & Application***

GENTRIFICATION, DISPLACEMENT, AND THE RIGHT TO THE CITY



BUILDING A STRATEGY FOR URBAN LAND REFORM IN LOS ANGELES

Community Scholars Program 2006-2007



Overview

The *Community Scholars Program* is a joint initiative of UCLA's Department of Urban Planning and the Center for Labor Research and Education that recognizes the important role that community and labor leaders play in shaping community development policy in Los Angeles.

By bringing together labor and community leaders with urban planning students to study issues in depth, the Program provides these community leaders with a forum in which to develop and further the skills that are required to influence policy.

The *Community Scholars Program* offers an opportunity for community and labor leaders, regardless of their educational background, to participate in a special applied research project seminar along with graduate students for two academic quarters. The project always culminates in a unique product designed by the Scholars and students (*examples of prior projects are included in this brochure*). Scholars who complete the program receive a certificate of completion from the UCLA Urban Planning Department.

The *Community Scholars Program* is free to selected participants. Community Scholars receive the same access to faculty advisors, library services, and other academic resources and privileges granted to full-time students. In addition, interested Scholars may enroll in other courses within the Department of Urban Planning and, by special arrangement, within the other departments of the School of Public Affairs.

2006-2007 Program

Gentrification, Displacement and The Right to the City: *Building a Strategy for Urban Land Reform in Los Angeles*

The term “gentrification” was first coined 40 years ago. Then, as today, it refers to a process where:

- * money is invested
- * neighborhoods improve
- * richer people move in
- * poor people and working-class people (usually people of color) get displaced

Sound familiar? Gentrification is not a new idea.

However, the economic and political context in which gentrification occurs today is new.

Today’s gentrification is transforming cities across the U.S. at an unprecedented rate and scale—not only in Los Angeles, but in Miami, New York, Boston, D.C., Seattle, Portland, Chicago, Oakland, San Francisco and beyond. Its causes can no longer be simply attributed to real estate market cycles. It is rather the result of decades of economic policies that have stripped U.S. cities of public investment, civil rights, and good-paying jobs.

In response, grassroots communities across Los Angeles and in cities throughout the country are pushing back and demanding a right to the City. They are organizing for new policies and producing new community development strategies at the same time that they are challenging the primacy of private property rights as the key determinant of urban planning.

This year’s Community Scholars Program will devote itself to:

- Building a common understanding of the causes and responses to the current crisis of gentrification and displacement of working class people from Los Angeles.
- Building a shared agenda that promotes a right to the City for all people.
- Learning from national and international best practices.
- Producing useful research that can help build a stronger movement in Los Angeles for *The Right to the City* and a new kind of *Urban Land Reform*.

This year’s Community Scholars Program is open to all community and labor activists, but with a particular preference towards:

- Tenants’ Rights organizations that are already fighting displacement and gentrification and want to gain new tools and allies.
- Labor and community organizations who may have not yet tackled the issue, yet know it is a key problem for their members, and want to learn more about the problem, strategies, and solutions

Application Requirements



In order to qualify for the Community Scholars Program, applicants must be sponsored by a community-based or labor-based organization (i.e. any organization that is accountable to an identified grassroots constituency) in Los Angeles County and be one of the following:

- staff member of the organization
- board member of the organization
- recognized activist in the community

Interested parties who meet the above qualification should submit the following:

- completed application form
- brief statement of why you want to be a Community Scholar and what you would like to get from the Program.

An application form is provided on the following pages.

Applicants will be selected based on the strength of their applications and the potential of the sponsoring organization to make a long-term contribution to the Los Angeles area community.

For more information or to request additional brochures and application forms, please contact:

Gilda Haas at gildahaas@saje.net or 213-745-9961 Ext. 202

This year's Community Scholars Program is sponsored by:

- *UCLA Department of Urban Planning*
- *UCLA Institute of Industrial Relations*
- *UCLA Center for Labor Research and Education*
- *Strategic Actions for a Just Economy (SAJE)*

Community Scholars Program
Gentrification, Displacement, and The Right to the City

Application Form

Please submit this application form, organizational support letter, and statement of purpose **by November 10, 2006** to:

email to: Gilda Haas (gildahaas@saje.net)

or mail to:

Gilda Haas
Community Scholars Program
c/o SAJE
152 W. 32nd Street
Los Angeles, CA 90007

or fax to: Gilda Haas 213-745-9969

(you may confirm fax receipt with Gerry Villa at 213-745-9961 Ext. 202)

(Please type or print, and attach additional pages as needed.)

APPLICANT NAME: _____

PHONE: _____ **EMAIL:** _____

ORGANIZATION NAME: _____ **PHONE:** _____

POSITION IN THE ORGANIZATION: _____

APPLICANT ADDRESS: _____

1. Describe your organization, its purpose, and its constituency.

2. Describe your position in the organization.

3. Letter of Support

A. Please attach a letter from your organization indicating its support of your participation in the *Community Scholars Program*.

B. List the names and phone numbers of the letter writer above and one or two other persons who are willing to be a reference for you.

Your Organization Contact:

Name _____ Phone _____

Reference One:

Name _____ Phone _____

Reference Two (optional):

Name _____ Phone _____

4. Statement of Purpose

Write a brief description of how you feel the Community Scholars Program will benefit you and your organization. Please include your interest in the problem of Gentrification and/or Displacement and the prospect of establishing a Right to the City in Los Angeles.

(Please attach an additional page, if needed, but limit your essay to no more than two pages.)

Community Scholars Program

2006-2007 Calendar

November 1, 2006	Deadline for Applications
November 20, 2006	Selection and Notification Scholars
January 10, 2006	Orientation Luncheon 12:00-2:00 PM <i>program overview, meet other Scholars, receive I.D. card, UCLA library card, computer lab orientation</i>
	First class 5:00-8:00 PM
January 10- March 21, 2006	Winter Quarter Classes meet at UCLA, every Wednesday, 5:00-8:00 PM, January 10- March 21, 2006
March 22- April 3, 2006	Spring break <i>no classes</i>
April 4- June 13	Spring Quarter Classes meet at UCLA, every Wednesday, 5:00-8:00 PM, April 4- June 13, 2006
mid-program retreat	all-day retreat Friday, April 6, 2006 <i>location TBD</i>
June 13	Graduation

Past Community Scholars Projects

Since 1991, Community Scholars have worked with graduate students on solution-oriented research related to the theme of building grassroots economic development policy in Los Angeles:

2004-2005: *Wal-Mart and Wal-Martization: Challenges for Labor and Urban Planning*

2003-2004: *Focus on the Figueroa Corridor.*

2002-2003: *Common Ground: Finding Common Grounds, Organizing Around Common Issues*

2001-2002: *Coalition Building for Social and Economic Justice in the L.A. Metropolitan Area*

2000-2001: *Participatory Democracy and Coalition Building--Organizing for Social Change in L.A.'s Communities and Workplaces*

1999-2000: *Models of L.A. Organizing for Social Justice: Pushing the Boundaries, Crossing the Isms.*

1998-1999: *Banking on Blight: Redevelopment in Post-Proposition 13 strategies.*

1996-1997: *Learning for a Change: Experiences in Popular Education in Los Angeles*

1995-1996: *Worker Ownership: A Strategy for Job Creation and Retention in Los Angeles*

1994-1995: *Los Angeles Manufacturing Action Project*

1993-1994: *Banking on Communities*

1992-1993: *Manufacturing L.A.'s Future*

1991-1992: *Accidental Tourism*