



# Urban Compass Summer Newsletter August 2011

## SUMMER CAMP 2011



Summer camp was a huge success! This July we served over 35 students, which is more than ever before. Our daily schedule consisted of academics in the morning, followed by lunch and various field trips in the afternoon. During the camp's four weeks, the children were able to enjoy new life experiences, and explore parts of Los Angeles they had never seen before.



Four of our older students enjoy their first time mini-golfing!

## CAMP ACTIVITIES

This summer, our students visited attractions such as the CA Science Center, the Los Angeles Zoo, Homeboy Industries, the Kidspace Museum, the MOCA Street Art exhibit, the Hollywood Bowl, and Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum. The students also bowling, mini-golfing, roller-skating, a private concert given by bassoonist Daniel Goldblum, as well as a special day of swimming at Urban Compass supporter Teresa Suryan's home in Orange County. The kids were also lucky enough to enjoy a gourmet lunch thanks to Urban Compass contributor Jack Girardi. On the last day of camp, Children's Life Saving Foundation hosted our older students for a day of surf camp at Zuma Beach in Malibu. At the end of the day, we said goodbye to our summer volunteers and staff, and parted ways until September when the after school program resumes.

We personally would like to thank all of our wonderful volunteers for spending their summer with us and making this year's camp incredible.

Tess Winebaum, Adelaide Seaman, Hunter Johnson, Ryan Pape, Ezequiel Salazar, and Emily Davis-Williams-

We couldn't have done it without you!



Annie with Arianna at the park



## VOLUNTEER PERSPECTIVE

Urban Compass was an eye opening experience to us this summer. The children at summer camp were the most unique and loving kids. Despite their younger age and upbringing, each child taught us not to take the little things for granted and to be grateful for what we have. Whether it was just a “thank you” or a loving hug, it made us realize how much ones attention can truly make a difference in their life. While working with this group of students, they impacted us just as much as we influenced them. The most significant thing we noticed is that the kids truly were more interested in academics and the outside world, rather than hanging around on the streets. Being a part of Summer Camp allowed us to recognize that our work has and will make a difference in leading them towards a more successful life.

*“Our favorite field trip was surfing because whenever we looked at the kids faces, they were filled with smiles and gratitude.”*

- Adelaide Seaman & Tess Winebaum



## STAFF UPDATES

On August 1<sup>st</sup>, Urban Compass introduced our new Program Director, Annie Levine. Annie is a native of Santa Monica and a recent graduate of the University of Southern California, where she earned a Bachelor’s degree in Communication with a double minor in Spanish and Social Work. Annie began working with Urban Compass last year as a full-time summer intern, and continued to volunteer throughout the school year while working to recruit other USC volunteers. Upon graduation, she wanted nothing more than to be able to build on her previous work by becoming a full-time contributor to Urban Compass. Annie is excited to be working as the new Program Director, building on the existing curriculum, recruiting more volunteers, and developing new enrichment programs.

*“I feel incredibly lucky to have a job that is so rewarding, it hardly feels like work.” -Annie Levine*

### Theresa Gartland, Executive Director

I am honored and humbled to take the position of Executive Director with Urban Compass. For the past three years, I have greatly enjoyed working closely with the students, building the after school and summer programs, and working with donors and board members to grow the program. In my position as Executive Director, I will take Urban Compass to the next level; I look forward to seeing our students through elementary school, middle school, high school and beyond. Urban Compass has a bright future and I am grateful to be part of the expansion and evolution that is on the horizon. I feel blessed to be part of a program that does such important and tangible work in our community. We would not be able to do any of this with our friends, supporters, and sponsors like you. Thank you!

**Urban Compass**

11100 S. Central Ave.

Los Angeles, CA 90059

phone (323) 383-7588

fax (323) 564-9009

[tgartland@urbancompass.org](mailto:tgartland@urbancompass.org)

[www.urbancompass.org](http://www.urbancompass.org)