Growing Up Boulder (GUB) is Boulder’s child and youth-friendly city initiative

**Mission:** To empower Boulder’s young people with opportunities for inclusion, influence and deliberation on local issues that affect their lives

Since 2009, we have worked with 5,500 young people, ages 0-18, 1,200 university students, and 60 partner organizations on 100 projects. Fifty percent of our young people are from historically marginalized groups.
Growing Up Boulder

A real-world demonstration of how including young people’s voices in city planning makes the city better for all

Photo by Nia Efeoglu
United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

*a treaty ratified in 1989 by all countries except the United States*
Today, the initiative reaches approximately 30 million children in 40 countries worldwide.

Austria

© Christian Schwier / Fotolia

Korea

© UNICEF Korea

United Arab Emirates

© Sharjah Girl Guides

Mozambique

© United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)

© UNICEF Mozambique
Safe Route Shares Some of the Same Goals as Other Global Initiatives

• Vision Zero
• UNICEF's Child Friendly Cities Initiatives
• UN Habitat’s Sustainable Development Goals

Shared goal of creating safer, healthier, more independent and more joyful ways for our children to move around their communities.
The route we travel in Boulder is not just FOR children, but WITH children.

Photo by Darcy Varney Kitching
Thank you to the toddlers

Photo by Boulder Journey School
to the elementary school students
and to the middle school students
whose input will lead to new bike lanes and new sidewalks on the 19th Street Corridor
Thank you to the 3rd graders, 6th graders, 9th graders and parents who influenced the 2014 Transportation Master Plan.
Thank you to the 10-year-olds: 15-minute neighborhoods

Photo by Darcy Varney Kitching
Thank you to the Emerging Bilingual 2nd grade students who studied the HOP bus route
and whose input resulted in a new, child-requested bench
and child-friendly, child-designed “where’s Waldo-style” murals to make public transit fun for all ages!
Thank you to the more than 700 children and families who helped create the nation’s FIRST PRINTED BILINGUAL child-friendly city map.
and the nation’s 2nd child-friendly city digital map
growingupboulder.org/gubmap
52% of the children and parents were from marginalized backgrounds.

3 feedback cycles and 27 iterations of map.
These children helped inspire maps that feature

Photo by Boulder Journey School
Safe Routes to School paths, SRTS videos, biking safety sheets, and FUN, child-friendly walking and biking paths!
Safe Routes to School maps are included twice on the map.
5 KEY PRINCIPLES FOR OUR
PARTICIPATORY PLANNING
ENGAGEMENTS
5 key principles for our participatory planning engagements

1. Go where young people are

2. Create an asset-based engagement, not deficit-based engagement

3. Communicate, be transparent, & be accountable about the *process* and *outcomes*

4. Reflect, evaluate and adapt

5. Use fun, creative and varied engagement methods
Principle 1: go where the people are
Principle 2: Use a variety of methods to engage a variety of learners
Principle 3: Base engagements upon young people’s assets

Assets:

- lived experiences
- skills and interests
- culture
Principle 4: Communicate, be transparent, & be accountable about the *process* and *outcomes*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Youth Ideas</th>
<th>Translation into Policy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“Have places we visit be close together”</td>
<td>Daily needs are within easy access from home, work or school without driving a car.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Youth need and like places that are easy to get to”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Principle 5: Reflect, evaluate, and adapt
THANK YOU

Mara Mintzer

Website: www.growingupboulder.org

Talk featured on TED: How Kids Can Help Design Cities

Book: Placemaking with Children and Youth: Participatory Practices for Planning Sustainable Communities, by Victoria Derr, Louise Chawla, and Mara Mintzer