FAB LAB SAN DIEGO . Gang Commission Meeting Presentation

EDUCATION
-- Fab Lab San Diego is a not-for-profit program founded in 2007.

– Fab Lab provides Educational Programs in PRODUCT DESIGN & DIGITAL FABRICATION, IT & DATABASE MANAGEMENT, CREATIVE COMPUTING, ROBOTICS, ENGINEERING, and SOLAR TECHNOLOGY. These programs focus on highly-skilled career readiness, personal development, and college preparation.

-- We promote project-based learning, resulting in individual ownership and real-world skill attainment.

-- Fab Lab, in partnership with UCSD Extension provides UCSD Extension accredited College Preparation units to youth.

-- We focus on youth in south-east San Diego who have had varied educational backgrounds, creating a community environment and providing support in areas not traditionally covered by educational programs.

--Additionally, we have developed a learning methodology that allows newcomers to attain low-barrier access to highly technical learning.

-- While we strive to serve all motivated learners, we focus on providing quality learning experiences to students that represent the most disenfranchised members of the educational system, including high school dropouts, youth offenders, and recent refugees.

COMMUNITY
-- With this approach, there is a true leveling of the playing field taking place - students from demographics traditionally showing the lowest statistics of high school completion and college matriculation are offered high-quality job and college preparation opportunities in their neighborhoods.

-- We focus on developing Local Partnerships in order to engage youth and community members from all walks of life. This has been exemplified by the recent partnership with UCSD Extension and Workforce Partnership to provide classes in South-East San Diego.

SUMMER 2011
-- This summer, 30 youth participated in a summer program that engaged them in developing high-tech skills in order to advance their options for careers and prepare them for college. Of this 30, 27 students successfully completed the courses.

-- Students learned about electronics, solar energy, computing and database management, as well as graphic design and product fabrication.

-- These students each received one-on-one counseling for academic and personal needs, as well as individualized assistance in developing resumes, creating personal portfolios that showcase their work online, and preparing for college entry.

-- Councilmember Tony Young and Assembly Member Nathan Fletcher visited our students during this summer and expressed how greatly surprised they were with the high level of the program and the students' performance.

-- Visit our website for more information about the SouthEastSD Youth Summer Program 2011:
http://www.fablabsd.org/education/programs/metrocenter-summer2011/

INNOVATION
– Innovation drives the learning methodology behind all Fab Lab SD programs. Additionally, SAN DIEGO is a hub in the green tech industry and we have launched the inclusion of clean tech and sustainable energy education into our curricula. We kicked that off this summer with our intensive learning program, in which students learn about alternative energy and how to build their own solar powered devices.

-- Being an innovator, a maker, a creator is akin to being an empowered community member. We have found that the motivation that drives us to make things is bolstered by the desire to work with others, leading to the development of a dynamic community of empowered learners, which we have seen take shape in San Diego.

You can learn more about our programs at **www.FabLabSD.org**. Thank you very much for the opportunity to present here today.