

Urban Promise Academy

3031 E. 18th St., Oakland, CA 94601 | <http://www.urbanpromiseacademy.org/>

1. Overview (pg 1)
 - a. Mission/Vision + Principal
 - b. Demographics
 - c. Race/Ethnicity
2. What Makes this School Unique (pg 2)
3. School and Neighborhood History (pg 3)
 - a. Development
 - b. Gentrification



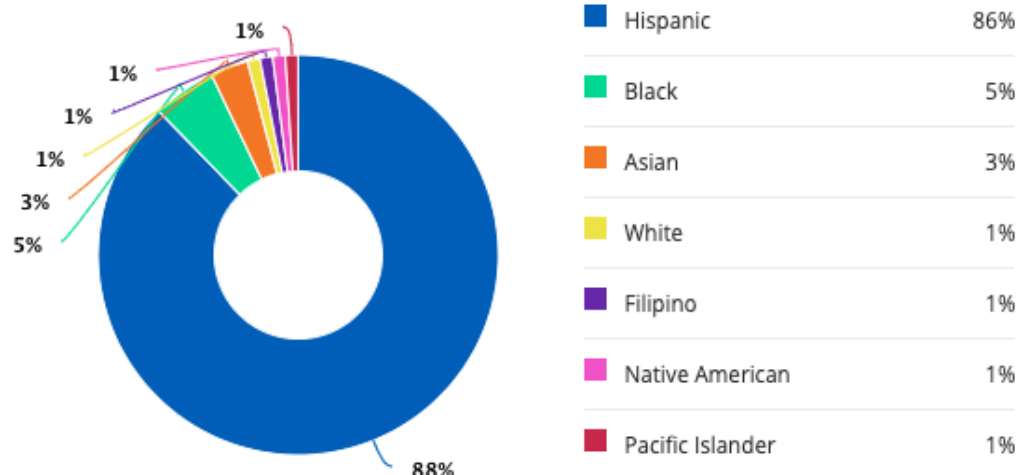
Overview

Mission/Vision: The mission of Urban Promise Academy (UPA) is to develop scholars, warriors, and artists. We prepare the middle school students of Fruitvale for success in college and career by equipping them with the skills to become confident, self-driven learners and respectful leaders who show solidarity with their communities. At Urban Promise Academy, we prepare our students for success in college, career, and community through an innovative approach that emphasizes project based, personalized, and social emotional learning. UPA's school model is key to supporting our diverse learners who represent many academic, emotional, language, and literacy skills. **Principal:** Tierre Mesa

Demographics:

Total # of Students	Under-Resourced Students	Dual/Multi Language	Equity Rating	Students to Teacher Ratio	Students: Counselor
370	97%	46%	3/10	21:1	375:1

Race/ethnicity:



What Makes This School Unique

UPA's learning model is key to addressing the challenges of supporting our diverse group of learners who represent a wide range of academic, emotional, language, and literacy skills.

PROJECT-BASED LEARNING emphasizes mastery of cognitive skills, hands-on experiences of academic content, collaboration, and relational skills. Projects pose real-world challenges and inquiry, connecting students' academic experience to their local and global communities. Through projects, students are able to truly engage in a deep exploration of content application and real-world skills.

PERSONALIZED INSTRUCTION provides structures and resources for students to be self-sufficient learners capable of passing rigorous assessments. It allows them to deeply understand their own data and use it to target areas of growth, self-pace and set goals. While all grade-level teams are working towards personalized learning, 6th grade Summit Basecamp has set precedence for exploring what it truly means to be personalized.

Through this platform, students work at their own pace through a series of content skills. They can take tests when they are ready and use a variety of provided resources to self-teach. Teachers analyze the data to pull small groups to target specific skills, allowing each student to receive tailored, timely instruction. In 2016, UPA was proud to be one of six "breakthrough schools" awarded a Next Generation Learning Challenge (NGLC) grant from the Rogers Family Foundation to support personalized learning and blended learning!

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING prepares students to be self-reflective, emotionally intelligent stewards of their community, build strong relationships, and be able to accelerate and drive their own learning in two ways.

First, students have daily Crew classes designed to help students expand their self-knowledge, growth mindset and relational skills through the habits of success and goal-setting. Secondly, the academic curriculum is designed so that learning is directly linked to these habits and goals.

MORNING BOOST UPA's before-school intervention classes give a "Morning Boost" to students needing extra support in math, reading and English.

SUMMIT BASE CAMP Our personalized learning approach uses the transformative Summit Model, which offers students a school experience that's just the right fit.

COLLEGE FOR ALL We believe college prep cannot start too early. We give students a glimpse of college life by taking them to various Bay Area colleges such as: UC Berkeley, UC Santa Cruz, San Francisco State, and Laney College.

ENGLISH LEARNER AND NEWCOMER SUPPORT With a high percentage of UPA students being English Language Learners (ELL), we offer intensive support for kids whose first language is not English, including our growing newcomer student population. UPA also has two newcomer

classes to support newly arrived students and students who have been in the country for at least one year.

URBAN ARTS AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM UPA's eclectic after-school program gives kids the opportunity to explore creativity (visual and other arts), unique activities like capoeira, and fitness (soccer, Run Club (pictured below), and more.)

School and Neighborhood History

Urban Promise Academy is a middle school located on the site of the former Hawthorne Elementary. The school was started by teachers, parents, and community organizations and UPA first opened its doors in September of 2001, and is run by very dedicated educators. Over 50% of students opt to stay for after school programming which includes academic programming and other activities. UPA has evolved with the community throughout the years in order to meet the needs of the community

The [Ohlone and Chochenyo nations](#) inhabited the coastal region of Central and Northern California that includes Oakland.⁴ Due to [Spanish colonization of the Ohlone and Chochenyo lands](#), there was a drastic change and evolution of the region over the years that leads us to it's physical layout today.

The name Fruitvale comes from the district's past as a home to many fruit orchards. This neighborhood is known as a Latinx cultural landmark in Oakland for the city's Latinx population. The increase of Latinx residents in Fruitvale was caused by major Urban Renewal projects that destroyed many homes and businesses in West Oakland, where the first Latinx community has roots. Latinx residents began the Chicano movement to fight for their civil rights and self-determination. This movement sparked different communities to form organizations such as The Chicano Revolutionary Party, Black Panthers, and *La Chispa*, a community newspaper.

When residents moved to the Fruitvale district, they organized themselves in poverty and a lack of services from the community. During this time period, the Latinx community faced inequitable access to good schools, adequate services, and housing. Importantly, police brutality was a significant concern amongst the Oakland community.⁵

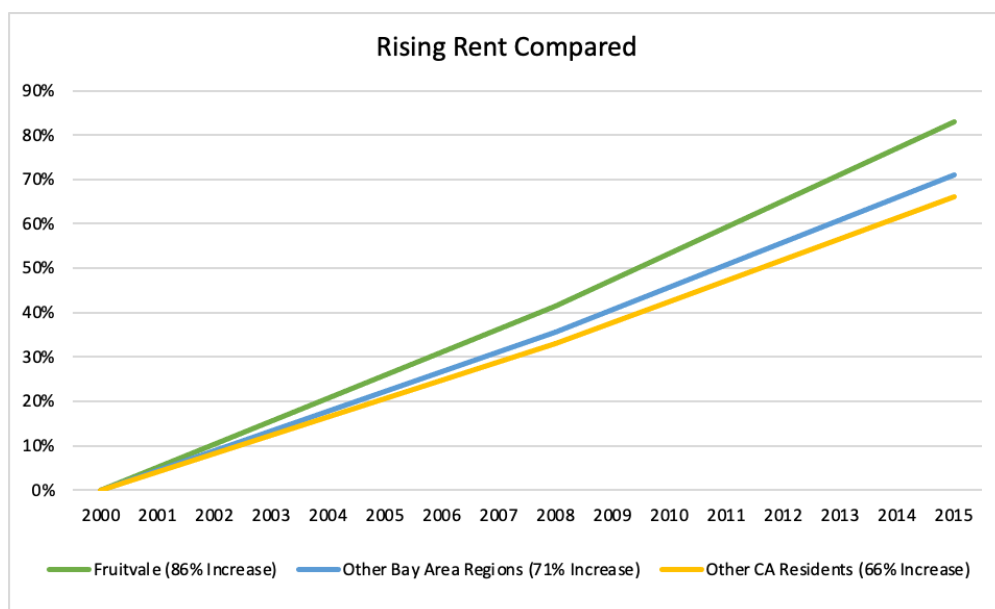
Development: The name (originally "'Fruit Vale'") comes from the many fruit orchards (largely apricot and cherry) which dominated the area in the late 19th century. During and following WWII significant numbers of African-Americans and Latinos immigrated to Oakland and located in the old part of town, West Oakland. This was followed by the "urban renewal" and the construction of the Nimitz freeway, bulldozing much of West Oakland. There was then a movement of the dispossessed residents to East Oakland. Fruitvale was in the middle extent of East Oakland, and due to its location was heavily settled by African-Americans, and by Latinos who by 1990 formed a majority of the district's residents. It wasn't until the late 1980s when the larger Fruitvale District began to attract more Latino residents. African-Americans had either relocated to the outer East Oakland area south of Fruitvale or moved out of the city altogether to outer Bay Area suburbs.

Presently, Fruitvale is predominantly Latino, and is the cultural landmark for the city's Latino population.

Gentrification: [Gentrification](#) is a process that includes economic and demographic changes to historically disinvested neighborhoods. It's important to be aware of the process because new, affluent residents moving to a neighborhood for housing or business can contribute to significant increases in rent and real estate prices. These increases impact the most vulnerable and pressure low-income residents to meet the demand which alters their own household/family budget. Many Bay Area neighborhoods have [changed culturally and financially due to gentrification](#).

The Fruitvale Village is special because it was a community-driven effort, and it acts as a centralized hub where community members can access essential services, such as: transportation, education, affordable housing, healthful and affordable food, etc. It's also maintained by the majority of existing residents, who are reflective of the neighborhood's Latinx culture.

As the Fruitvale Village has become more incorporated into the neighborhood, residents' household income grew and the number of home buyers in the area increased, indications of gentrification. Additionally, data has also shown an immense increase in higher rents in Fruitvale by 83%, compared to 71% in other Bay Area regions, and 66% to other similar California neighborhoods.⁷ However, Latinx residents were able to stay in Fruitvale, while the Asian resident population also grew by 6%. [Long-term residents of Fruitvale noticed their community has changed](#) and have found it harder to find affordable housing. This community will continue to change drastically over time, and in response, the Unity Council, a non-profit Social Equity Development Corporation, began the construction on a 94-unit building to provide affordable housing with future plans to build more market-rate units and retail units for long-time or incoming residents. The Unity Council improves quality of life by building communities where everyone can work, learn, and thrive. As changes amongst a region take time to be implemented and seen, strides are being made to provide inexpensive housing while maintaining the cultural history of Fruitvale.



Endnotes:

1. <https://www.greatschools.org>
2. <http://www.urbanpromiseacademy.org/>
3. <https://oaklandplanninghistory.weebly.com/index.html>
4. https://localwiki.org/oakland/Fruitvale_District