

WSU Climate Change Workshop Report  
January 27-29, 2017



**How did GBD get involved?**

In mid-December, Rosie Jenks contacted Julie explaining that a Washington State University Landscaping studio class had intended to hold workshops on climate change in Chinatown, but plans did not work out and they were looking for another site. Would the GBD like to sponsor the workshops and focus on climate change affecting Dogpatch and Northwest Potrero?

**What did GBD do to help set it up?**

Both Julie and Rosie connected Hope Hui Rising, the professor to city and neighborhood resources. WSU Workshop did not have money for a venue or for refreshments. GBD found that the Slovenian Hall was free that weekend and would let us use the facility at no cost. GBD supplied projector, screen and refreshments. GBD added a signup and workshop page to the GBD website and contacted neighborhood groups to invite them and share invitations. Julie worked with Hope on an invitation poster and reviewed arrangements as much as possible. Julie, Kat and David Glober helped organize a tour for the students before the workshops.

**How was it attended?**

The initial plan was for 5 workshops. Due to low turnout, 5 was reduced to three, but the 2, made available, time slots were filled with presentations from Nick Birth (Sewers), Rosie Jenks (Water) and Joel (historic water thoughts). The Friday workshop had about 18 attendees, about 1/3 being city employees. Saturday had around 13 which included students and leader from LEJ (Literacy for Environmental Justice). The Sunday workshop had about 15 participants. Add the WSU seven and the room did not feel empty.

**What actually happened?**

Each workshop session had three parts – 1 hour presentation (six students - 10 minutes each), 1 hour “game” – six tables where participants used maps of GBD district and applied solutions suggested by students as well as solutions they came up with, and 1 hour sharing solutions.

**How could we have done better?**

If we had known about it earlier, we could have involved more board and neighborhood folks in the planning. Also, we could have worked with WSU to increase the relevancy of the solutions they brought.

**What did we get out of it?**

It was a positive experience for the folks attending the workshops. It was great for neighbors to interact with city employees who are working on Climate Change and water issues. Just focusing on the topic brings awareness of a problem needing solutions to the foreground. It was great to see maps of the district at many levels – population, flooding potential, sewer system, serpentine and fill, underground streams etc. WSU will be coming up with reports and recommendations as part of the course. This may support fundraising.