



Shifra Teitelbaum
 Director
 youTHink
 6505 Wilshire Blvd #100
 Los Angeles, CA 90048
 (323)761-8988 ph
 (323)761-8990 fax
 E-mail: shifra@youthink.org

Engaging Students in Contemporary Issues and Civic Action Through Art

About youTHink:

youTHink, an education program of the Zimmer Children's Museum, uses the **power of art** to foster critical thinking, engage diverse learners, promote literacy and serve as a tool for social change.



The youTHink program includes:

- ◆ **youTHink Lessons** — Interactive lessons for 4th-12th grade classes, using art to engage students in contemporary issues analysis, problem solving and community involvement. Available at NO CHARGE for public school classes throughout Greater Los Angeles and beyond, based on availability.
- ◆ **Teacher Services** — Professional development opportunities for teachers that provide inspiration, methods, practice and materials for using art to engage students in authentic learning, critical thinking, literacy, and social issues.
- ◆ **Youth Services** — Fostering leadership development through art, community service, civic involvement and other unique opportunities for LA-area middle and high school youth. Youth Services programs empower youth use their voices and take action for social change.
- ◆ **Community Partnerships** — Collaborations to mount exhibits of student social commentary art. Corporate training programs addressing human relations and diversity, teambuilding, communication skills, and social responsibility, and social responsibility.



◆ **Students** repeatedly express their surprise at being asked their opinion, at being taken seriously, and at being told that they can make a difference. According to one 8th grader, *"What I learned from youTHink is that you are never too young to put a stop to something and you are never alone because other people feel the same way, too."* Social issues of student concern are expansive, including violence, discrimination, pollution, public education reform, community-building, and youth leadership.

◆ **Teachers** are often amazed at the active participation of students who have never spoken in class before, or been engaged in the curriculum. Brandon Backhaus, 4th-grade teacher at Community Magnet Elementary School, told youTHink, *"I feel my students benefited greatly from your program. Their perspectives are broader than they were before the program. They are the ones standing out as leaders for the school and the classroom. They are the ones mediating conflicts, and having meaningful discussions in class and informally. They asked me if they could do your program again."*

www.youthink.org