

Bullying and bias-related harassment is a crisis in US schools, victimizing nearly one out of three middle and high school students each year at one of the most formative and vulnerable moments of their lives. Despite a surge in restrictive laws and an increase in bullying prevention programs, tragic headlines still stun us:

“Granite Bay teen who committed suicide was bullied for being gay.” January 2012, Sacramento Bee
“Teen Hate Crime Suspect Sentenced to 21 Years.” December 2011, Southern California Defense Blog
“California leads the nation in hate crimes.” December 2011, Cal Coast News

To eliminate this violent epidemic, California needs sustained effort and strong leadership. That’s why the Institute for Advancing Unity is working tirelessly to build UNITY Lab a permanent home.

What if . . . there were a place where youth of different cultures, religions, orientations and abilities could gather to “walk in the shoes” of others, to understand the importance of respect for others, and to celebrate extraordinary people who have overcome prejudice and violence?

What if . . . this were a learning *Lab* that integrated dynamic ‘flexscape’ architecture into every aspect of its physical design to create a not just a building but an environment that builds relationships?

What if . . . this place would empower digital-age youth to use technology and social media to spread *positive* messages and be champions for *UNITY*?

What if . . . this *UNITY Lab* could bring together the most promising practices, measure their effectiveness, and deploy results where they are needed most?

What if . . . the *UNITY Lab* could track the participants’ experiences and modify its tools for social justice interactives in real-time to improve learning outcomes?

What if . . . the building were located steps from the California State Capitol— a model for *UNITY* in the nation’s most culturally diverse state and most integrated city, attracting 100,000 youth and more than one million people each year from across the world?

How many lives could we change?

How many suicides could we prevent?

How many youth could we save from the cycle of violence and incarceration?

How many schools and communities could avoid being torn apart by acts of hate?

Not just for today, but for the future?

The future is upon us. That future is the UNITY Lab.

The UNITY Lab is a shovel-ready! With your help, we can raise the \$10 million needed to break ground. Join the Institute for Advancing Unity, our partners, and supporters, in empowering youth to be champions of UNITY in their lives, their community, and the world.

