

**Charette Charter High School
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Providence, RI 02903
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Overview of Charette's Urban Planning and Historic Preservation Program

In September 2018, Charette Charter High School opened its doors at 335 Westminster Street in Downtown Providence, Rhode Island as an innovative Urban Planning and Historic Preservation themed High School. Our Mission Statement is to inspire students:

· ***The Charette Community engages Providence youth in the pursuit of academic excellence and the design of a more equitable and sustainable city.***

“To Inspire Our Students to Create a City in Which They Would Love to Live”

We offer a four-year *Urban Planning and Historic Preservation* curriculum. Our theme-based program focuses on community development, appreciation, and preservation of historic urban infrastructure, as well as communication and collaboration with community leaders throughout the City of Providence and beyond. Since the inception of the program, students have become more involved in their community and are working on giving back to a city that they care about so much. The *Urban Planning and Historic Preservation* classes have shown students the importance and relevance that it has on building and maintaining a community.

9th Grade: The first year of the program begins with an introduction to the topic and its importance: What is urban planning? and What is historic preservation? Projects and experience focus on having students get to know their own city through the lens of urban planning and historic preservation. Students participate in walking and/or virtual field trips, group projects and individual presentations. This part of the curriculum sets the stage for the internships and capstone projects, which will be completed in the following years.

10th Grade: The second year is focused on ways in which people can improve the community. Our curriculum for this experience is provided by Generation Citizen: an action civics course that “empowers young people to become engaged and effective citizens.” Students spend time researching an issue that they see in their community and brainstorm ways in which they can have a positive impact. After choosing their focus issue, students reach out to community leaders, bring in guest speakers and eventually present their project and solution at the Rhode Island State House. This is an engaging experience for students and provides them the opportunity to work together as a class, while also working individually to complete various tasks.

11th Grade: The third year of *Urban Planning and Historic Preservation* is an opportunity for students to take a deep dive into the topics they were introduced to during their 9th grade year. They are introduced to Jane Jacobs, an urban planner and activist who fought tirelessly to restore and renovate cities, rather than knock them down and start over. Students will continue to make connections with community leaders and engage in different events. By the end this year, students will design and seek approval for their Capstone Project Proposal, a state graduation requirement. This process involves identification of a community-based problem that the students first research and then propose solutions that will add to the enhancement of their community.

12th Grade: The fourth year of Urban Planning and Historic Preservation is dedicated to completion of their individual Capstone Project. Students will use their skills from Generation Citizen and any previous internship and academic experiences to create a project that will allow them to become even more engaged in the community. In past years, students have gotten involved in many different organizations to help support them. To list a few, they have worked with Groundwork RI, Downtown Providence Park Network, Providence Recreation Department, Boys and Girls Club and the Historical Preservation Society. Students are required to complete 20 hours of community service, a final paper and presentation, which are conducted at the end of the year.

Charette actively seeks partnerships with professionals in the field of Urban Planning and Historic Preservation. We welcome opportunities to work with professionals that can serve as guest speakers, provide mentoring or internships, sit on capstone project evaluation committees, and share their professional expertise toward the development of our program.