

digital city planners: checkpoint 1

Decide on a Proposal Topic and Purpose

By the time you finish this checkpoint, you and your partner should determine:

- What is the issue?
- Why is this a central issue to members of your community?

Checkpoint #1 Activities

- #1. Pick three issues you see affecting your community.
- #2. Discuss the effect of these issues on community members: Who is impacted? Who would benefit from the resolution of these issues?
- #3. Based on your brainstorming, decide which of the three issues is most meaningful to you. Then determine the solution you want to propose.
- #4. Conduct research to find useful information on urban improvement projects similar to your own. Can you find examples of similar projects in the United States? Around the globe?
- #5. As you think through these steps, record your thoughts and ideas in a **blog** post. Be sure to include:
 - The issue that you want to pursue for your Digital City Planner project
 - Who is impacted by this issue
 - At least three examples of urban improvement projects related to the issue in the United States and around the globe.

What issues did the City of Chicago – and Daniel Burnham – face in 1909?

By 1850, Chicago was home to nearly 30,000 people. Just 20 years later, the population had increased to more than two million residents inhabiting 200 square miles – an average of 10,000 people per square mile! This rapid growth led to chaos, including severe congestion, intense pollution, hyper-industrialization, and an increase in violent crimes.

In 1909, Daniel Burnham outlined six areas of focus to address these issues and enhance the lives of Chicagoans:

- Improvement of the lakefront
- Improvement of railway terminals
- Acquisition of an outer park system
- Creation of a series of highways outside the city
- Systematic arrangement of streets and avenues within the city
- Development of centers of intellectual life and civic administration, such as museums, libraries, and government buildings

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YOUmedia

Chicago
Public
Library



digital youth network