

WELCOME TO GENERATION ALL

BY **BEATRIZ PONCE DE LEÓN** ON SEPTEMBER 26, 2014

Hello! Welcome to the Generation All website. I am Beatriz Ponce de León, executive director of Generation All, and I will be writing here to keep readers up to date on the happenings of the initiative, provide perspective on research and policy developments related to our work, and share news from our steering committee members and other partner organizations. We will occasionally have guest bloggers to add multiple layers of perspective and expertise to our conversation.

So why are we here?

Generation All is a new initiative to unite Chicagoans in helping create top-quality neighborhood public high schools that provide students the supports, resources and opportunities they need for academic success and personal well-being. We believe that all students in Chicago should have the chance to go to a great school in their own neighborhood where they will develop the skills and knowledge they need to be successful in high school, work, college and life.

Our city has many excellent high schools: public and private, selective enrollment, magnet and charter. While this means there are many choices for students, it also means there is a tiered system of schools where most of the non-selective neighborhood public high schools become a default option rather than a top choice.

Generation All believes that we can change this. We have assembled a 40-member steering committee of community, civic, education, and youth leaders who will create a new vision for our neighborhood high schools and a plan for a coordinated system of resources and supports that ensures all public high schools can provide inspiring, high quality learning opportunities for students both in and out of the classroom. This dynamic, committed, and knowledgeable group of individuals will meet monthly for the next 10- 12 months to take on the challenge.

So, can you get involved? The answer is yes. Generation All is not just a planning initiative. It is a public education campaign. The steering committee cannot do it alone. We will be engaging Chicagoans from different communities in a citywide conversation about equity in education, high school improvement, positive youth development, and community building through a variety of activities. We invite you to join the conversation. Tell us what you think. Follow us on Twitter and Facebook, explore the Generation All website, and come back here to catch up on our progress.

Hope to hear from you soon!

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