



# HANOI. VIETNAM

## URBAN EXPLORER'S CAMP

### MAPPING LOCAL CULTURE & HERITAGE IN THE FRENCH QUARTER & LONG BIEN BRIDGE

A group of 20 MYP students took part in a one-week urban explorer's camp as part of their annual off-campus week. For the entire week the students set up camp in the two neighbourhoods: an old school turned café in the French Quarter and a gallery/co-working space near Long Bien Bridge. The objective was to produce a map that best depicts the character of the neighbourhoods. The week was divided into two phases:

1) series of guided activities - including historic research, fact-finding, site surveys - and reflective sessions to collectively determine the narrative and map sites of significance. 2) supervised group work - giving students the opportunity to independently research, interview and photograph specific sites in the neighbourhoods. The final product was displayed at the inter-disciplinary yearly school exhibition.

### 5-STEP PARTICIPATORY MAPPING PROCESS

**“THE FRENCH QUARTER IS A PERFECT BLEND OF HANOI CHARM AND PARISIAN STYLE”**

- Workshop participant

- 1 **REVEAL**  
neighbourhood narrative 
- 2 **MAP**  
sites that matter 
- 3 **CREATE**  
content worth sharing 
- 4 **DESIGN**  
artist map 
- 5 **SHARE**  
in the community 



**OUTPUT**



**“A GREAT INTERDISCIPLINARY LEARNING EXPERIENCE, A CHANCE TO GET OUT OF THE CLASSROOM AND EXPLORE THE CITY THEY LIVE IN”**  
 - Grade 10 teacher

**IMPACT**

90%



**INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATIONS**

Students worked in groups to develop international mindedness and multi-lingualism.

75%



**COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS**

Students engaged in individual conversations with selected local residents and shopkeepers in the two neighbourhoods.

80%



**CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING**

Students became more aware of the culture and history of the city they live in through practical and fun exploration activities.

**20**

student participants from the Hanoi International School



**2**

city challenge games created



**14-15**

average age of participants



**30**

eye-opening encounters between local residence and students



**2**

urban maps and photo-collages created by students



**60**

tangible and intangible cultural assets mapped



**75**

cups of Vietnamese coffee



**50**

local community connections



**400**

visitors to the inter-disciplinary learning school exhibition

