



“VIBE” Urban Youth Lounge and Career Center

VIBE is a teen owned/operated urban lounge and career center where Sacramento teens acquire academic and vocational skills, engage in service learning, socialize, and network with Sacramento based private, public and non-profit organizations.

With adult supervision, teens are responsible for the daily operations of VIBE and in exchange, earn Regional Occupational Program (ROP) school credits. VIBE is located at 1725 K Street in midtown Sacramento and caters to teens who reside in the Sacramento region.

VIBE focuses on preparing Sacramento teens for employment in private, public, and non-profit organizations. All VIBE members ages 14-18 can access the VIBE career center which offers assistance in resume writing, completing applications, preparing for interviews, quarterly job fairs, and access to local employment, apprenticeship, and internship opportunities.

Features of VIBE

- **VIBE employees 75 teens** each year because VIBE is staffed by teens who work in exchange for school credits.
- **Job search assistance** is available to all youth members including: resume writing, completing employment applications, and preparing for interviews.
- **Resource specialist refers teens to local prevention and intervention resources**, a library of teen resource books, job posting board, and comfortable couches.
- **Monthly calendar features youth planned VIBE activities** such as SAT preparatory classes, job fairs, life-skills workshops, dance classes, poetry readings, and more.
- **Open late**; Mon-Thurs 4:00-9:30 PM, Fri 4:00-10:30 PM, Sat 5:00-10:30 PM.
- **Laptop computers** can be checked out and have free internet access and wireless printers, and include current software applications.
- **Free tutoring** during after-school program hours

The Location- 1725 K Street

Why Midtown-Numerous teen focus groups were conducted throughout Sacramento and concluded that VIBE should be centrally located. Focus groups often stated that VIBE should benefit all youth in Sacramento and not be exclusive to one group or neighborhood.

Why 17th and K- This location offers the essentials required to start VIBE with limited capital costs. There are also opportunities for the teens to create special events and programs that will foster cross-generational relationships and celebrate the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA) senior residents in the adjacent Comstock building.

Vibe-ability Study- In May 2007, a citywide survey was conducted to see if youth would travel downtown to an urban youth lounge and career center. Based on 250 respondents, 183 respondents would go to VIBE if it was located in downtown Sacramento and 63 respondents would not.

Safety- A Top Priority

To ensure the safety of VIBE members' staff will work with the Sacramento Police Department and the Downtown Partnership to hire an on-call security professional. Before entering VIBE all teens must check in at the membership station where their information is stored in a confidential database. If any problems arise adult and youth staff will be trained in crisis prevention/intervention. Law enforcement officials and parents will be immediately notified.

Adult Staff

- **Executive Director** is selected by the VIBE Board of Directors and is responsible for ensuring the longevity of VIBE.
- **Supervisor** monitors the safety of VIBE and the assistant supervisor. This person ensures that VIBE is fiscally responsible and transparent and reports to the executive director.
- **Assistant Supervisor** is responsible for the daily operations of VIBE by following the policies and procedures. This person also leads youth staff meetings with the ROP teacher.
- **ROP Teacher** issues participants school credits, coordinates job fairs and develops outside employment opportunities.

Youth Members

- **Community Members** can be any high school student who joins VIBE.
- **ROP Employee Members** are ROP students who attend weekly "staff meetings" to learn about the operations of VIBE and work at VIBE in exchange for school credits.
- **WIA/ROP Employee Members** are low-income employee members who earn wages and school credits. The WIA integration makes paid employment possible.
- **Youth Leadership Board is open to** youth who have been employee members for six months. These members may apply for a position on the VIBE Board of Directors and they are responsible for planning activities and updating policies.

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is essential to the success of VIBE. Adult Board members hold the majority vote. However, adults recognize the necessity of youth Board members and value their perspective in the decision making process. The youth membership on the Board ensures that the VIBE Foundation is truly run by youth. The VIBE Board contains two youth seats that are filled with youth who have worked with VIBE for a minimum of four months.

Financial Information

VIBE has already acquired over \$550,000 of in-kind donations to support some capital expenses. To cover materials and equipment, labor and permits, organizational development and one year of operating expenses \$350,000 is still required. The current objective is to raise \$50,000 to support renovation construction costs.

VIBE is currently able to accept tax-deductible donations through the Gifts to Share Program. All proceeds will be used to directly support VIBE and not to supplant the budgets of other businesses, organizations, or public entities.