

Steven Love II

YouthBuild VISTA Alum- YouthBuild Venice

What were your main assignments?

I was responsible for building up YouthBuild Venice's alumni database and helping to improve alumni outreach. The database was used to track YouthBuild Venice alumni and help the program connect alumni with supportive services, such as job searches or accessing college. I also helped to develop an "Advisory Board", and as part of this project I did some asset mapping of community partners and resources. The idea of the advisory board was to get help and direction from local businesses and partners in terms of preparing YouthBuild students and alums for jobs or gaining job skills.



What did you enjoy most about your VISTA service?

I just wanted to give back to my community. It was also a chance to grow personally and professionally. It was a great experience working with my supervisors, Tim Sweeney & Rick Solis. Tim & Rick challenged me in new ways and held me accountable. And they did this through a consistent dialogue about what I could do better. They really pushed me to own my project, and it was tough at times, but I really grew because of it. I am happy to know the advisory board is still in place and benefitting students.

What are you doing now?

I'm in my second year of service with Public Allies working with CDTech in Los Angeles. I am working on community development for CDTech and I am also helping to create a leadership development curriculum for high school students for a program called YLEAD.

What inspired you to continue with national service?

I want to build my community and be a part of change. With VISTA, I was behind the scenes building capacity and with Public Allies I am now more engaged with the community. It is a chance to be a part of something bigger than myself.