

NARRATIVE REPORT

Section A: Basic Reporting Information

Convening Organization: Child and Youth Friendly Calgary (CYFC)

Location: Calgary, Alberta Canada

Reporters and contributors:

Andrew Phung – Programs Director - CYFC

Jorge E. Salazar – YouthScape Facilitator - CYFC

Tobi Ferris – Initiatives Director -CYFC

Elizabeth Dozois – Developmental Evaluator

Jenelle De Jesus – YouthScape Team Leader

Reporting Period – April 1st 2008 to March 31st 2009

Section B: Key Activities

List of Go Grants that were approved and unapproved from April 1, 2008 to March 31st, 2008:

Approved Grants

Title of Grant	Brief Description (including #/ages of youth)	Community Partners	Grant Amount	Status of the project
Parkour Calgary	With the funding from YouthScape, Parkour was able to design an amazing website that teaches other youth how to practice Parkour in a safe responsible manner. About 15 people have been engaged with this project. Average age early 20's . Unknown how many people are reached through website.		\$2,500	Ongoing
Chrisinda Spark	Proposed using a peer support model to connect street youth to services in Calgary. Age of youth and number of people affected unknown .	Sidedoor	\$2,500 Half the money was granted. Lost contact with youth. See explanation in report	YouthScape is still in contact with the community organization that supports Chrisinda. Unfortunately due to circumstances in Chrisinda's life she needed to use the money for other reasons. She hopes to complete the project in the future .
I Heart Urban Dance - Kaiti Pasqualotto	Design Urban Dance workshops for youth. Number of youth affected unknown . Age of applicant and artist early 20's .	University of Calgary and House of DangerKat	\$2,500	Completed
Youth Art and Gathering Project - Kaitlyn Hatch	Kaitlyn organized a series of art shows for young people connected to other organizations connected to the Lesbian, Gay, Transgender, and Bisexual (LGTB). The project targeted youth between the ages of 12 to 24 .	Miscellaneous Youth Network, an organization working with youth from the LGTB community.	\$2,500	The project was started but the results were limited. Kaitlyn decided to hold back and try again in the future.
Community Bike Project	Community Bike Repair program managed by a street involved youth - James Hamilton age 24		\$2,000	Unfortunately the day after the money was released to James, he

				claimed that his bikes were stolen and we have not heard from James since.
Youth Video Advocacy Project – Emily Campbell	A series of videos developed by youth to address the issues currently affecting them		\$2,500	Ongoing
Random Task Music Collective (RTMC)	Supporting musicians under the age of 18 years old to find places to perform. Youth in RTMC are in mid teens . Their events have reached over 150 people.	Cantos Calgary Youth Foundation Loose Moose Theater Calgary Youth Foundation – Opening Doors	\$2,500	Ongoing
A Day in the Life	Purpose of the video was to support youth with disabilities to voice their difficulties with the accessibility of the Calgary transit system. Average age early 20's .	Calgary Between Friends Club	\$1,000	Completed
Youth Theatre Project Lindsay Mullen	Workshops for young people to improve theatre skills. 16 youth attended the 2 day workshop. Lindsay Mullen age 20 .	Calgary Youth Foundation – Opening Doors	\$1,200	Ongoing

Unapproved Grants

Title of Grant	Brief Description (including #/ages of youth)	Grant Amount requested	Status of the Project	Reason
Do something – Jessica Valkman	Giving street youth Christmas gifts Age: uncertain.	\$2,500	Not granted	
Putting a face to the homeless- Brendan Bailey	Photography project. The purpose of the project was to take pictures of the homeless community and organize an exhibit displaying the work.	\$1,561	Not granted	The project did not have a plan for working with the homeless beyond taking pictures.
STAND – Michelle Chueng and Janette Koniecki	Concert fundraiser for Darfur.	\$2,500	Not granted	It was a fundraising initiative with no support from Sudanese community.
Teen Parent Connection - Jeremy Schtelzer	Purpose is to host a series of evening sessions to facilitate better connections between youth and their parents.	\$2,500	On-hold	The costs were not clear, it was suggested to do a draft plan with costs attached.
Stop the Beef- Alyx Nanji	Anti-violence initiative.	\$2,500	Not granted	Concerns regarding the safety and effectiveness of the project.
Spread the Love – Sir Winston Churchill	Making sandwiches for homelessness at the Mustard Seed.	unclear	Not granted	This project was seen as a charity project with no intention of engaging the homeless community.

Comments of Reflection/ Learning on the grants – Jorge Salazar -YouthScape Facilitator

Go Grants have become the main medium for youth engagement in YouthScape Calgary. In many ways, they achieved what was initially expected of the grants. Go Grants have provided youth in Calgary opportunities to go places, provide spaces, to gather/celebrate, design websites, make videos, and organize events around music and culture.

Positive feedback from community members include comments regarding how friendly the grant was, and how easy it was for youth to access funds. However, there are some questions of whether the Go Grants are reaching youth in marginalized communities as initially intended.

In December 2008, YouthScape hired a new youth facilitator and under the guidance of the new employee, the YouthScape Steering Committee updated/revised the grants. Currently there are better strategies in place to ensure Go Grants support marginalized youth as intended. However, all youth are still encouraged to access the funds. Decisions regarding granting are made on a case by case basis. It is felt that the purpose of the application is to support a youth to engage in community.

Re: Revisions to the Grant

The three questions below have been added to the Go Grant application to clarify the expectations of YouthScape Steering Committee is looking for the grants

1. How is your initiative youth led? Did the idea come from young people? Are young people making most of the decisions? *(Trying to encourage some thinking behind youth driven initiatives, after reviewing some of the grants we were not always sure if there were young people at the center, instead of adults coming up with the ideas and asking youth to apply for the money).*
2. Are there adults or organizations supporting you with this project? *(The YouthScape Steering Committee wanted to ensure that the project had sustainability and would be successful for the youth involved - particularly youth from marginalized communities. The YouthScape Steering Committee also wanted to ensure that there were connections being made between youth and adults).*
3. What community are you engaging with? (ie: homeless youth, immigrant youth, youth with disabilities).

Comments of Reflection/ Learning on the grants – Jenelle De Jesus- Team Leader YouthScape

Go Grants:

I think that great progress has been made with the Go Grants since last May. There is momentum behind the grants. Of course, there are still areas that need to be improved, and attention has been drawn to those areas (ie. follow up with

grantees, past and recent, spreading the word to more youth from our target groups, recruiting diverse youth for the Steering Committee, etc). From what I have heard recently, there are some changes that are taking place, which is refreshing. I think the granting program is still growing and, still evolving, and we are fortunate that we can make these changes it to what will work and is what the community needs. There is constant learning throughout this initiative. We find out what works and what doesn't; we revisit what didn't work in the past and change it, we examine weak areas and our areas of strength and move forward. I think that we have support through Elizabeth, which is really valuable, and we should utilize her more often, to bounce ideas off of and to help evaluate our plan of action and provide feedback on our areas of need.

I think changes to the Go Grant application were necessary as the granting that was done previously is different from what is done now. The questions that are on the form now, better suit the kind of granting and grantees. In the past, we were able to grant certain projects because the focus was new and still rapidly changing; There had been a need to build momentum behind the initiative and to get people excited about YouthScape. With a more specific granting focus now, changes were needed in order to meet the needs of the evolving granting process.

Other YouthScape Activities

Staff:

During this reporting period, YouthScape Calgary has concentrated its efforts on youth led Go Grants and building partnerships within the community. Jenelle De Jesus was hired in June as a summer student to serve as program support and Andrew Phung, CYFC Program Director, was asked to assist in various areas of YouthScape. As of September 200, Kim Morrison was no longer employed with YouthScape Calgary. As a result, the CYFC Program Director became the main staff person working on YouthScape until suitable staff person was hired. Unfortunately the hiring process for the YouthScape position was harder than first anticipated and the position was left open for three months. Jorge E. Salazar was hired at the beginning of December. When arriving at CYFC, his main responsibility was to meet with previous and potential partners. Meanwhile the CYFC Program Director continued to support the Go Grants and organize the Learning Symposium set for January. Since then, new community connections have been established and a new exploration process has started for YouthScape.

These talks included rebuilding connections with:

- YWCA – Youth Advocate program
- Urban Youth Worx
- Two Wheel View
- Boys and Girls Club
- Between Friends
- Calgary Board of Education, Aboriginal Liaison Councilor

- The City of Calgary - Children and Youth Services
- Calgary Health Region
- Teen Zone
- Momentum
- Calgary Foundation
- Youth Inclusive Neighborhoods
- Doorway
- Calgary Board of Education

Currently the YouthScape Facilitator has taken over responsibility of the Go Grants, the Steering Committee and the Adult Management Team. The facilitator has also started a project with The City of Calgary and Boys and Girls Club called "Bounce Back". The other main focus has been to develop a partnership with the Calgary Board of Education and their Discovering Choices program which supports youth who have dropped out of school.

Youth Steering Committee

The YouthScape Steering Committee is currently made up of 6 members ranging from ages from 17 to 26. The majority of the group is in their early 20's. At times, it has been difficult to get the group working together due to busy schedules and uncertainty about their roles on the committee however, there was a new sense of commitment and energy from the group after attending the National Gathering in Banff; they have a greater understanding of YouthScape. The current Steering Committee is very invested in the Go Grants. They were really excited by the opportunity to revamp the application in order to reach more marginalized youth. Now that the improvements of the grant application have taken place the Committee wants to start working on another forum for YouthScape. Through the Youth Forums they want to both promote the Go Grants and increase the membership of the committee.

Upon reflection one could argue that the Youth Steering Committee has become the governance model for the Go Grant. The process is simple: - youth apply for the Go Grants; the YouthScape Facilitator does an initial revision and passes it on to the committee for a decision.

Adult Steering Committee:

The initial table made of diverse stake holders has slowly been disbanded. The City of Calgary, represented Doug Borch; the Burns Foundation, represented Michelle Clark; and the United Way of Calgary and Area have remained on the table. The current group was renamed the **Adult Management Team** and is responsible for the overall vision of YouthScape. This is to ensure YouthScape has a community voice and is not simply a program of Child and Youth Friendly Calgary. The main reason why the original table is not longer existent due to too much time spent talking about concepts and

asking ‘what we are doing’, ‘what is YouthScape trying to accomplish’. At that time there was no concrete action coming out of YouthScape and individuals felt that their time was not being properly utilized.

Bus Pass Transit Project:

In 2008, two young people asked “Why are the bus passes designed by adults”? After hearing this we connected with Doug Borch at the City of Calgary. Doug brought together representatives from the Calgary Board of Education, Calgary Separate School District, and Calgary Transit. This question was posed to the group and no one could provide an answer. This was the catalyst for the Calgary Transit Bus Pass Showcase. The main goal was to create an opportunity for children and youth to submit a design for a Calgary Transit Bus Pass.

After 6 hours of meetings the Calgary Transit Bus Pass Showcase was born. The idea is very simple but the potential for change in the community is high. This isn’t just a chance for children and youth to create art, but rather, it’s an opportunity for children and youth to have their say.

As of April 2009, over 260 submissions have been received. There has been overwhelming support from schools and the community. Currently, we are in the process of bringing together youth, bus drivers, and other key individuals to select the final 16 designs that will be used as Calgary Transit Bus passes. All partners involved have been pleased with this process and discussions related to how children and youth can have an even greater role in within Calgary Transit has already begun. Everyone believes that this is just the beginning of something big in Calgary.

Forums:

Over the past year, there have been three Forums. Two were conducted in the previous reporting period with the purpose to promote the Go Grants and try to encourage adult youth relationships. The third forum, and the one we have chosen to highlight in this report was the Forum organized in partnership with the Arusha Center; the Calgary Foundation; and Child and Youth Friendly Calgary (representing Go Grants and The Calgary Youth Foundation). It gathered more than 60 community members; (most of people in attendance were past grant recipients). It provided them the opportunity to talk about their work and discuss the importance of the how grants are allowing them to complete their projects and strengthen their community capacity.

The Forum received a very positive response from those who attended one comment is quoted below.

“I wanted to hear what other ideas were happening in the community, connect with new and interesting folks and see what funding opportunities there are in Calgary. All answered. Thanks, and enjoyed the snacks and refreshments and the chance to talk in small groups”. Lisa - participant

Comments of Reflection/ Learning from the Forums – Jenelle De Jesus- YouthScape Team Leader

Idea Factory (the Forums):

I had attended to listen to the grantees of the small community grants. It was valuable to see three organizations come together, to showcase and celebrate their achievements, to connect on the similarities and to build on the differences. I do believe that small grants have an impact on the community because they have the opportunity to inspire growth. Also, they give ownership to those in the community, so that they are able to make a difference and to contribute their passion and talent.

Bounce Back:

This project held in partnership with The City of Calgary – Community and Cultural Development, the Boys and Girls Club – SCRIPT and YouthScape – CYFC; involved a group of professional artists from the Hip Hop community. The objective of the project was to make a music video with homeless youth that depicting the reality of living on the streets of Calgary. Through the medium of Hip Hop, young people were given an opportunity to express themselves and improve their life skills. The music video will be presented at the Live Style festival on May 1st. Live Style is the Calgary Urban Arts Festival and it provides an opportunity for young people to enjoy Urban Arts and connect with the Urban Arts community. It is anticipated that there will be between 600 to 1000 people in attendance at this year's festival.

Discovering Choices:

Discovering Choices are outreach schools (for youth who have been suspended from the mainstream system) with five different branches throughout the city of Calgary. As a result of a connection provided by a staff person from the United Way of Calgary and Area, a partnership between YouthScape and Discovering Choices has begun. The purpose of this partnership is to provide an opportunity for the students accessing Discovering Choices to have a space for their voice. There have been suggestions that this voice could be heard through a student council model. The plan is to begin with the downtown school with hopes of later growing to other sites. We will provide presentations with the hope that this will trigger their critical thinking and increase their interest for involvement beyond the school curriculum.

Comments of Reflection/ Learning from other activities – Jenelle De Jesus- YouthScape Team Leader

National Gathering:

That weekend was AWESOME! Thought-provoking, inspiring and informative.... It was incredible to hear stories about the amazing things that are happening across the country. The sessions were informative as well, and really useful for ideas and providing connecting ideas to practice. It was a great venue, meetings and session. The meeting rooms, large group rooms and the additional spaces available made connecting with others more natural (the café, the pub, the gym/ recreation center and the dining room area).

I learned a lot that weekend and it was the experience as a whole, although most stemmed from one experience that resonated with me and has me thinking differently, rather than one particular moment or piece of information. I learned

about different ways to get involved, various ways to reach out and impact our community but most importantly, I learned about the inspiring things that youth in our country are doing to impact their communities in a positive way and the pieces that were present in their lives at the time to make that happen.

I understand YouthScape to be a national movement towards building stronger communities. It's about pulling people together, and using their talents and interests to move towards reaching a higher potential. It's about seeing the best in everyone and encouraging people to share their strengths, regardless of differences in order to make a positive impact on their communities. It's about starting small, and growing towards impacting a larger whole.

Currently, I see my involvement in YouthScape as an "active observer". I'm not as involved as I used to be, but I am still really interested in the initiative and it's progress. I try to get involved where I can, but I think that, in the direction that my life is moving, I can see myself in more of a support role, rather than one actively engaged. So, in the future, I am hoping to be able to use my experience in my profession and the connections that I make (if applicable) to support the future of YouthScape.

I definitely believe that it is meaningful. It is the future of our communities that we are building and that impacts all of us... it will be what we make of it.

Section C

1.0 Mechanisms

1.1 Granting

Youth granting is not new for CYFC; we facilitate both the *Calgary Youth Foundation Grants* and *Opening Doors*, both of which involve a youth-led decision making body. However, the Go Grants differ from the other two granting programs in several key ways, including: 1) the target audience for the grants (marginalized youth), 2) the level of support involved, 3) a focus on ‘rippling out’ or impacting larger systems, and 4) the connection to adult allies and/or system gatekeepers/‘door-openers’. Each of these shifts has required learning and adaptation on our part. Here are some of the key insights we’ve had:

- **Seek out grantees - Don’t wait for them to come to you!**

The recruitment process for these grants requires a much more active approach. With the other grants that CYFC is involved in, we are able to simply advertise via word of mouth, posters and flyers. With the Go Grants, we cannot rely solely on those strategies. Our active recruiting strategies have included: approaching young people on the C-Train, contacting them through Facebook, hosting forums, doing school presentations, involving other youth-serving organizations in the recruiting process, building relationships via involvement in programs like Bounce Back, attending youth events (e.g., Live Style), following up on leads from video postings (e.g., the transit video), working with other granting programs to co-facilitate forums (e.g., Arusha, a social justice organization).

- **Support applicants in developing and extending their ideas**

A lot of the applications we received were for “one-off” projects (e.g., a block party) that were very similar to youth-led events that were already taking place in Calgary. We found that by supporting young people in the development process, we were able to help them extend their thinking. We also found it helpful to talk through key questions with the potential candidates in person or on the phone before giving them the granting application. This goes a long way towards building their confidence: by the time they sit down to complete the grant application, they have already thought through all of the questions.

- **Leverage other opportunities**

One of the key ways we have supported young people is by connecting them to other granting opportunities. Random Task Collective, for example, was able to use a Go Grant to put together a series of music showcases for

under-age bands, but they were also encouraged to apply for a grant from Opening Doors (a ‘spaces’ grant that defrays the cost of venues for youth-led activities).

- **Follow-up and ongoing support is critical**

The young people we are working with have significant challenges that impact their ability to follow through on their commitments. For this reason, they require significant support to be able to cultivate and implement their ideas. Sometimes the help that is needed goes far beyond project support, and extends to basic needs and stability, as in the case of Chrisinda (see Section D, Story #2). Even with grantees whose lives are more stable, we have found that they need a strong support system to stay on track.

- **Funds should be tied to milestones and released gradually**

After losing touch with our first grantee, James, before completion of his project, we realized that funds should be released gradually. We now work with grantees to break their projects down into smaller steps or goals, and then we tie payments to the achievement of each of those milestones.

- **Take risks**

One of the reasons that these young people are generally excluded from traditional granting systems is that they pose a higher funding risk: lack of stability and high levels of transience increase the likelihood that projects will not be completed as promised and/or that we will not be able to stay in contact with the individual to follow-up with them. (It’s hard to track someone down when they have no fixed address...). No granting program focusing on marginalized young people will be successful unless there is a built-in tolerance for risk – so this needs to be intentionally cultivated.

1.2 Staffing

Staffing is key, and we have learned some important lessons about what qualities and competencies are most important for the coordinator of a youth engagement initiative. In hiring our first coordinator for YouthScape, we were very focused on the systems change aspect of the initiative. For this reason, the candidates who seemed most promising were those who had could articulate a clear understanding of systems dynamics and connect this to working with young people. We were also interested in someone who had a good understanding of the youth-serving sector and extensive experience with project management. Of course, each of those competencies is important. However, we discovered that, while necessary, they are not sufficient, and are not the most important qualities to seek out. The capacity to engage effectively with others is probably THE most critical quality in a YouthScape coordinator, as no amount of systems change knowledge can help you when you have no one to work with.

Hiring usually involves trade-offs, so it is important to have a clear sense of priorities. When we had an opportunity to hire another coordinator into the position, we placed the highest priority on facilitation and engagement skills. First and foremost, we wanted someone who could build successful relationships with young people and adult partners. We also looked for someone with experience working with marginalized young people so that they had a working knowledge of some of the challenges and opportunities involved. While systems thinking is important, we found that it is something that can be easily sourced through other adults in the initiative. For example, the coordinator is able to bring thoughts and questions to the management meetings, and team members are able to offer ideas around how to scale up those opportunities, or connect them to other initiatives in the community.

As a way of plotting our trajectory in terms of shifting hiring priorities, we have attached two documents: the job posting used at the start of the project, and the job posting created in November 2008. (Appendix A and B)

2.0 Principles

The two principles that have generated the most learning for us are “focus on action-oriented projects” and “effecting systems change.” Our progress in both of these areas is briefly outlined below.

2.1 Focus on action-oriented projects

There are a few reasons for focusing on action-oriented projects. One is that it helps to build momentum and energy. We saw this on the first night of our Bounce Back project.¹ The natural inclination might have been to spend all three hours of the first evening developing relationships and putting the young people at ease. However, we tried a different approach. After an hour and a half of interactions, the young people chose an artist to work with. They then created a short piece, performed it, and videotaped it. We ended the evening with a viewing of the video they had just created. This was a bit of a risk. We worried that the young people might not feel comfortable performing in front of their peers (not to mention a bunch of adults they had just met!) on the very first night. With support and encouragement, however, they all rose to the occasion. The energy that was created by actually accomplishing something on the very first night was remarkable, as was the pleasure the participants took in watching themselves on TV later that evening. We sometimes underestimate the speed at which projects involving young people can move; as a consequence, we end up belabouring the process in a way that ends up dissipating the energy.

This has been an important learning for us. Much of our first year was spent planning and trying to lay the groundwork. While planning is important, the development of innovative ventures requires action. If you’re not trying things, you have no data to work with – and planning in the absence of any data is generally ineffective. We have come to

¹ The Bounce Back project offers homeless youth an opportunity to work with hip hop artists and a professional videographer. The group comes together three times a week for six weeks and culminates in the shooting of a music video that they create. The video will premiere at Live Style, the urban arts festival in Calgary.

understand the value of quick iterations – trying something, reflecting, and refining (or changing direction, if necessary). This has guided our work over the past few months as our coordinator has focused on concrete action-oriented projects that will help to push our collective learning. The temptation has sometimes been to work out processes and try to figure everything out before ‘jumping in’ – and this would certainly be a more comfortable way to work in many ways. But there is value in learning by doing.

2.2. Effecting systems change

If there is one principle that the Calgary team held up as something that distinguished YouthScape from other youth engagement initiatives, it was the principle of effecting systems change. The following two sentences had a significant impact on the way we shaped our work: *“Projects that simply involve activities for youth will not be supported under this strategy. Grantees must be able to demonstrate that they have a project or program that will effect change in relation to a community issue, a space or an institution.”* We selected a system of focus (transportation) for the first year. The rationale for that was two-fold: 1) We needed to bind the initiative and find a way to talk about it in concrete terms (it was too vague and open-ended for most people to wrap their head around), and 2) We thought a unifying theme would help to connect all of the smaller grants and initiatives so that young people would be able to more effectively scale their efforts up to effect systems-level change. While it is clear that this approach did not work, it is difficult to determine why because of the number of interacting and confounding variables involved (e.g., staffing, loss of partners, lack of relationships with/access to the young people we wanted to be working with). It is possible that the same strategy might have worked in another context with another coordinator or another theme area. While the relative value of that approach remains ambiguous, there are some clear learnings that emerged from our efforts to focus on systems change. They are:

1. We need to develop language, metaphors, and examples that communicate the dynamics of systems change in a compelling way. Systems change is difficult for most people – adults and youth alike – to wrap their heads around. For many, it seems abstract, conceptual, and removed from anything that individuals have influence or power over. One of the reasons we chose transportation was we wanted to try to give some shape and tangibility to the idea of a ‘system.’ This did help to some extent, but more was needed. One of the ways that YouthScape can contribute to the learning’s of a broader community is by articulating some of the clear and compelling ways that we have framed systems change. (This is something that we’d be interested in hearing about from others).

2. Systems change is not a conversation starter... One of the things that we learned was that when we started by talking about systems change, people were often scared off. The capacity to think about systems change and believe that you have the power to affect that kind of change is something that needs to be developed. For this

reason, we switched our approach. We focus *first* on the things a young person is passionate about, and then, over time, work with them to understand how their passions (or frustrations) are embedded in larger systems that enable or constrain. This means starting *where they are at* – even if the initial project is *not* something that will “*effect change in relation to a community issue, a space or an institution.*”

3. Build on existing points of energy. In our efforts to be ‘innovative’ we convinced ourselves that we needed to build something ‘new’. The truth is that systems change is a very slow process. Tipping points don’t usually happen within a matter of months or even years. They build gradually. In a three year initiative, then, it makes more sense to nurture existing points of energy than to try to create wholly new ones. When we released ourselves from the expectation of having to build something brand new, we were finally able to create traction.

4. Baby steps... Most systems are fairly entrenched in the status quo and fairly resistant to change. It’s critical to understand this and to pace yourself accordingly (otherwise you will become discouraged and disillusioned fairly quickly). In working with Calgary Transit, we recognized that the end goal of having meaningful youth input within that system was a long way off; young people and their adult allies would need to work with Transit on smaller, less threatening projects to slowly build trust, understanding, and capacity. The Buss Pass Showcase is like a foot in the door; walking across the threshold and reaching our ultimate goal will take some time.

3.0 Connecting the Dots

3.1 Calgary Transit Showcase

After hearing about YouthScape Calgary’s system focus at a school presentation, two young people approached us with an idea. They said: “Young people have to use these ugly bus passes every day. We’re sick of looking at them. We think youth should be involved in designing new ones.” This seemed to be a good foray into the world of Calgary Transit, so we jumped at the opportunity.

The redesign of bus passes seemed like a simple enough task initially, but the complexities soon became apparent. First, you have to get Transit on board – a significant feat in itself. Then, you have to deal with design issues of security and replicability. (Bus passes are designed and distributed in such a way that they cannot be easily counterfeited – this had to be built into the design). Then, you need to get the word out to as many Calgary youth as possible, which means dealing with another vast system: education.

YouthScape staff and partners (Doug Borch, City of Calgary) worked together to ‘connect the dots’ for this seemingly simple idea to come together. Andrew and Doug worked with Transit and both school boards (Public and Catholic) to open system doors and make this project happen. In many ways, it’s a great illustration of the power of youth-adult

alliances. The bus pass project is not something that young people could have achieved on their own; they needed to be supported by key connectors who could help them negotiate system barriers.

So far, the showcase has proved an enormous success: we have received over 200 submissions. An even greater measure of success, though, is that transit workers and young people will be working together to select the winning submissions. We hope this is just the beginning, and that we're able to connect a few more dots within the Transit system: our ultimate goal is to help young people achieve a meaningful voice within Calgary Transit, and develop ways for them to help shape one of the systems that affects almost every young person in Calgary.

3.2 'Connect the Dots' Puzzles...

There are a couple of 'connect the dots' puzzles that we're trying to piece together right now. One is how we meaningfully link the grants to broader YouthScape activities and objectives. We want to make sure the grants do not remain stand-alone pieces. Any way we can leverage the grants and connect them to one another and/or to other activities and initiatives will help to increase the power and impact of smaller projects. Now that we have dropped our system focus, this is proving to be more of a challenge. However, we are making every effort. As an example, we connected one of our grantees (who is interested in filmmaking) to the Bounce Back project so that she can be learning from the professional videographer in that program and broaden her understanding of the issues facing homeless youth. This will hopefully have a positive impact on the videos she produces with her YouthScape grant.

The other 'connect the dots' challenge concerns our Youth Steering Committee (YSC). The YSC is a highly engaged, enthusiastic, and gifted group of young people. Since the national gathering, we have seen their investment in YouthScape Calgary increase, and they want to become more and more involved. While this group is a huge asset for YouthScape, its members are not reflective of the kind of young people that we are hoping to reach. For some time, we have been saying that we need to achieve greater diversity in that group. However, this is not a simple 'connect the dots' situation. Integrating street-involved young people into this group of high achieving, confident, mainstream youth is fraught with challenges. We have come to realize that we may have to have different groups with separate functions and/or facilitate another way for marginalized young people to guide the initiative. We could use some support in sorting through this puzzle, and specifically in figuring out 1) how to make the most of the current Steering Committee and 2) how to ensure that we have representation from marginalized youth in our decision making bodies. *How do we connect the dots?*

Working with Street-Involved Young People:

Challenges, Questions, and Learnings

This year, YouthScape Calgary has worked hard to develop granting opportunities with street-involved young people. Homeless youth experience significant systemic barriers, as such the opportunities for systems-level change initiatives are many. However, there are also a number of challenges involved in working with these young people. We'd like to briefly share three stories that highlight some of these challenges in the hope that other YouthScape communities can learn from our experience and offer strategies that they have found to be effective.

James

Our very first grant went to James, a street-involved youth who wanted to set up a bike borrowing program at the Back Door.² He saw this as a way of keeping young people out of correctional facilities. (Many young people are incarcerated when they cannot pay the fines they incur for riding public transit without a ticket – in fact, one of the young people in our Bounce Back program was sent to the Young Offenders' Centre just last week for failing to pay \$1000 in transit fines ...). We were very excited about the opportunity to fund a proposal that was so well-aligned with our system focus (transportation). James had put a lot of work into researching his ideas, and we were impressed with his initiative and drive.

James received a lot of support to develop his idea; our coordinator worked with him to research models, identify potential partners, and work out a budget. Once the plan was fully fleshed out, James was given the funds to purchase bike tools, locks, and a cycling trailer. A few weeks after the initial purchases were made with the YouthScape grant money, we were told that James had experienced a significant setback: he called to say that his bike, the trailer and all of the tools had been stolen. It was difficult to know how to respond to the situation. To be perfectly honest, we couldn't be sure that we weren't being 'played', and this was a concern. We didn't want to be naïve, but at the same time, we wanted to give James the benefit of the doubt. After some debate around how to respond to the situation, YouthScape worked with James to redesign his plan in a way that would not require the use of the trailer and tools. This seemed like the best way to go, as the project could proceed without any further allocation of funds. It also demonstrated our continued commitment to work with James. After some more planning and negotiation, things seemed to be back on track. James even came to our first forum in July 2008 to tell his story and offer encouragement to other potential grantees. (James' presentation is reprinted in Appendix x).

² The Back Door is a support and transition program that helps street youth integrate into mainstream society.

Unfortunately, not long after the forum, we lost track of James.³ He did not respond to email, his cell service had been terminated, and none of the staff at the Back Door or any of the youth shelters had seen him. Nine months later, we still have had no word. This was a very sad loss for us.

Through our experience with James, we learned something about the nature of the challenges we might experience in working with street-involved youth. This led to changes in follow-up activities and fund allocations: we increased the frequency and quality of contact with grantees and learned to release funds gradually as agreed-upon milestones are achieved. But the incident raises questions about how to keep track of grantees who have no fixed address. It also has us wondering whether we need to consider granting to young people who have demonstrated that they have stabilized (e.g., are regularly attending school, are not accessing the shelters). What level of risk should YouthScape accept? How do we assess that risk and weigh it against potential benefits?

Chrisinda

The young people that we are working with experience significant challenges that can impact their ability to follow through on their commitments. YouthScape talks about offering project support and connections, but the support these young people need often goes far beyond that. For example, one of our grantees, a street-involved youth named Chrisinda, was funded to help develop communication skills among her peers and build youth-adult partnerships to support homeless youth. Chrisinda had considerable support from a youth-serving agency in town (The Back Door). In addition, a CYFC staff member was in weekly contact with her. For the first few weeks, Chrisinda followed her implementation plan, and was very committed to the work she was doing. Then she suddenly disappeared. At first, no one could track her down. After about a month, she finally resurfaced. Our contacts at the Back Door let us know that Chrisinda had experienced a crisis and had used the grant money to support herself. Chrisinda felt embarrassed about not being able to meet her commitments, but the challenges she was facing were simply too overwhelming.

From Chrisinda, we learned that the types of support that these young people need often far exceeds what is normally associated with project support – including supports to help them meet basic needs, overcome addictions, develop life skills, and manage their fears and emotions. We struggle sometimes with the question of whether it's reasonable to expect that these young people, whose lives are fairly chaotic and unstable, to be able to focus on projects and carry through on their commitments. However, the engagement process has the potential to build skills and confidence – so it has a part to play in helping these young people to creating pathways to stability and re-integration.

Chrisinda is currently being supported by Back Door staff who are working with her to help stabilize her situation; she has been assured that she is welcome to continue the project once she's back on her feet.

³ This may be attributed, in part, to the fact that we lost our coordinator about the same time and were in transition, so James was not receiving the same level of support that had been offered earlier.

Bounce Back

Bounce Back is a program that brings homeless youth and hip hop artists together three times a week for six weeks.⁴ The artists work with the young people to help them express themselves through various disciplines, including hip hop dancing, beat box, rap, and slam poetry. The project culminates in a professionally produced music video featuring each of the youth and their collective creation. The video will premiere at Live Style (an urban arts festival in Calgary) on May 2 in front of a large audience at the Jack Singer Auditorium. We saw this as a prime opportunity for YouthScape to develop relationships with these young people with the hope of building their confidence and cultivating granting opportunities after the six week program is over. We also saw an opportunity to add value in three ways: 1) help to facilitate youth engagement⁵, 2) build self-advocacy skills, and 3) offer support and ongoing engagement opportunities after the program finishes.

There have been many successes – but success is calibrated differently for these young people. For example, the fact that some of them have attended fairly consistently is a significant achievement. (Some of the shelter staff say that they have never seen these young people engaged in such a sustained way). Unfortunately, however, the number that we have been able to engage on a regular basis has been fairly small (5-7).

In an effort to encourage as much participation in the program as possible, the program partners decided to offer a stipend (\$100 for completing the program). We recognize the challenges associated with getting street youth involved in healthy recreational activities, therefore, we are supporting the stipend through a YouthScape grant. However, the decision has not been a comfortable one. There is some concern that these types of incentives ultimately squelch the capacity for self-motivation and diminish the intrinsic value associated with recreation and self-expression - i.e., Does this create the expectation that young people will be financially compensated for everything they do? Are they likely to participate in subsequent activities if they are not paid? Are we creating unrealistic expectations? Are we creating unhealthy dependency on external motivators/rewards? If we didn't provide the monetary incentive, would we be unlikely to attract young people to the program?

See the attached media CD for music produced by Bounce Back

Questions for other YouthScape Communities

⁴ Bounce Back is a partnership with the City of Calgary and the Boys and Girls Club of Calgary.

⁵ There was some concern that the project might become about producing the video – i.e., the need to create a quality video might trump the need for meaningful youth engagement. Jorge was brought in to ensure that the team of artists and videographers was augmented by someone with facilitation skills.

We've shared some of our challenges and learnings. We'd like to hear from other YouthScape Communities on the following questions:

- What are you learning about working with street-involved youth?
- How do you address challenges associated with transience and instability?
- How do you cultivate motivation?
- What decisions have you come to around honoraria and other incentives?

Building Community and Creating Spaces:

The Story of *Random Task Collective* And the *Collective on Sundays* Project

Before you read a word of this, [listen to this](#). You're listening to Random Task Collective, a band of 15 and 16 year olds headed up by Connor-Harvey Derbyshire. Obviously these guys have talent. But talent isn't enough when you're 15 years old and you're trying to convince music venues to give you a shot. Too often, young bands are written off; people assume they don't know what they're doing, and they worry that their audiences will be disruptive, disrespectful, or destructive. "I think one of the issues is sometimes there's a history or a misconception that a young band can't get it together or that they don't understand how to approach people professionally with a bit of a plan ..." says band manager (and proud mother) Patti Derbyshire.

These were some of the barriers that stood in the way when Random Task Collective (RTC) decided to create a monthly



Random Task Collective

showcase for under-age bands called *Collective on Sundays*. YouthScape Calgary has supported this vision with more than just money – we were also able to help with strategies, connections and credibility. Patti Derbyshire says YouthScape helped to break down barriers with venue managers by demonstrating that this band has a larger community behind it. The reputation of CYFC, and the advice offered by Andrew and others, helped to convince venue managers at [Cantos](#) and [Loose Moose Theatre](#) to take a chance on these young people. The results have exceeded anyone's expectations. Both Cantos and Loose Moose are sold on the idea, now that they've seen a few showcases in action. They want to continue to feature



Susie Forsyth, one of the young artists featured at *Collective on Sundays*

So far, audiences at *Collective on Sundays* have ranged from 60 to 110 people

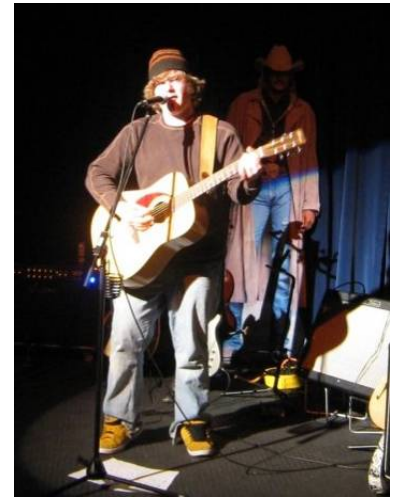


young bands in their venues.

Word is spreading... The success of *Collective on Sundays* has led to other opportunities. Recently, RTC and the other *Collective on Sundays* artists were approached by Rogers and Youth Week to host the “Collective Slam” at the Calgary Stampede Corral on May 2nd. RTC will also be heading up the first ever youth stage at the [Sled Island Music Festival](#). What’s perhaps most exciting about the Sled Island opportunity is that the sponsors for that stage (Alberta Dairy Producers) see a lot of value in the model that RTC has created, and they’re wanting to replicate it in other cities. Talk about a ripple effect!

Another way in which this project is creating ripples is in its focus on community development and capacity building. *Collective on Sundays* is about more than just performing. Connor and RTC are committed to creating a community of young artists, peer mentors, and adult coaches. One way this plays out is that *Collective on Sundays* features an adult ‘guru’ at each showcase. The guru is someone who has experience in the music business and can offer coaching and advice about building sustainable music careers. The topics for the first six showcases include:

- Who you need on your team
- The life of a professional musician
- The parent’s role in supporting a young artist
- Graphic design
- Marketing on a shoestring
- Taking care of your music



YouthScape Calgary is privileged to be supporting such a caring, driven, talented group of young people and adult allies.



Interview with the featured artist, Carly Henry

What happens at

Collective on Sundays?

The Collective on Sundays program usually goes like this:

- RTC opens with a couple of songs
- Slam song: RTC and the guest band perform a song together
- RTC interviews the featured artists
- The featured band does a 40 minute set
- The adult 'guru' talks about some aspect of the music business with the audience for 15 or 20 minutes
- The program closes with a final

Interested in finding out more? Check out:

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=21126858248&ref=ts>

We have also attached a summary report from Connor, as well as a Collective on Sundays poster. The attached media CD also includes pictures and music from RTC.

YouthScape Grant Report - Random Task Collective

Connor Harvey-Derbyshire - April 20, 2009

Project Summary: Our idea was to host a project called the *Collective on Sundays*. The project is designed to present music showcases with youth bands and artists once a month in the City of Calgary. Almost one year later the *Collective on Sundays* remains the only non-competitive, cross genre, community-based program where youth artists can:

1. Perform on professional stages and gain exposure to new audiences
2. Access resources and coaching about sustainable music-related careers
3. Access resources and coaching about building a fan-base
4. Meet other youth artists and develop a network of other professional musicians
5. Identify and book other gigs beyond the showcase

Intended Outcomes: The *Collective on Sundays* has programmed six showcases:

Date	Artist	Genre	Attending	Resources	Extra Shows
January 25 th	Ruben Young	Pop	110 Loose Moose	Who you need on your team (P. Derbyshire)	Yes (4)
February 22 nd	Susie Forsyth	Indie Acoustic	60 Cantos	The life of a professional musician (Jay Sinclair)	Yes (4)
March 29 th	Carly Henry Lucas Chaisson	Country Folk- Blues	66 Loose Moose	The parent's role in supporting a young artist (Bob Ell)	Yes (1) Yes (2)
April 29 th	Frantic Artillery	Hip Hop	TBD Cantos	Graphic Design (Kelsy Norman)	Yes (3)
May 24 th	Naked Nutrition Contrast	Alt Rock	TBD Loose Moose	Marketing on a Shoestring (Dan Monk)	No
June 12 th	Sarah Clark Calum Graham	Soul Classical Guitar	TBD Cantos	Taking Care of Your Music (Ashley Carpenter)	Yes (2) Yes (2)

The Collective on Sundays has developed a process and materials for:

- A call for bands and artists
- An application process (i.e., overview of goals of the program, application form, way to collect artist music/audition, show materials, review process)
- A publicity strategy, artwork, templates and distribution system for print materials targeted at Youth audiences
- An Facebook Group and online advertising process
- A program pattern for the showcases that audiences enjoy
- A volunteer schedule for showcases and roles

- A safe place where youth audiences can gather once a month to experience some of Calgary's best up and coming musicians

Unintended Outcomes:

- Enthusiastic commitments from our two venues Cantos Music Foundation and Loose Moose Theatre to continue to host youth events through 2011. Both venues agreed to try the program but because they are well run with great music, both venues have told us will renew the series if it runs again.
- A media sponsor. Melissa Dunphy from X92.9 has promoted the series on air for 12 weeks and continues to do so on their website.
- We have 16 print media outlets in and around the city that allow us to post our publicity for each show.
- A partnership with the Sled Island International Music Festival. We had planned to do an all artists showcase at the end of June. Sled Island has agreed to make this a part of their all ages programming for two shows on Friday June 26th – 7pm and 9:30 pm. Along with the concert, the Collective on Sundays will also exhibit Sled Islands High School Poster contest competitors and finalists that evening
- Random Task Collective was approached in February by Rogers Communications, key partners in CYFCs Youth Week programming. Together with all Collective on Sundays artists, Rogers, Youth Week and RTC will host the Collective Slam at the Calgary Stampede Corral on May 2nd.
- Multiple invitations for additional shows, concerts and events for many of the artists programmed this year.
- Presentation at CYCF AGM and Alberta Music's 'Business 101' sessions in Calgary about the program and benefits for youth performers

Although we have a number of showcases in the coming months, we consider the events a success. We have many new bands approaching us and hear on a regular basis that people are blown away by the caliber of artists and the production quality. Our artists are thankful and have become friends and professional peers – another outcome, we have music friends to jam, write and compose with.

We are very thankful for the support of the YouthScape Grants program, as without it, the Collective on Sundays would still be a dream or be operating perhaps one or two showcases alone.

Sincere Thanks,

Connor-Harvey Derbyshire

Random Task Collective

The Collective on Sundays

See Appendix 3

Ernest Morrow Junior High School

In early September Child and Youth Friendly Calgary received an email from a teacher named Christie Chan from Ernest Morrow Junior High. Christie was asking for help with her leadership class. Andrew Phung and Sylvia Galica (YVC Program Coordinator) met with Christie and her class. Typically, when working with schools CYFC will apply the YVC in Schools in model where students seek out volunteer opportunities in their school and community. During this meeting Andrew and Sylvia heard comments and stories from the students related to their school environment. The main theme coming out was that the students felt that their school lacked pride and any connection between teachers and students. The students saw their school as a disconnected system where teachers and students were two separate groups.

Also, Ernest Morrow is located in the Forest Lawn area of Calgary. Forest Lawn is a considered a marginalized community as there is a high immigrant population and a large supply of low income housing. Students at Ernest Morrow expressed their frustration in the lack of pride inside and outside of their school. They wanted to create a change inside of their school which could possibly lead to change in their community.

After meeting with Ernest Morrow it was clear that though the YVC in Schools model would be a fit, the YouthScape model would be better suited. The students are looking at creating a resilient school while YouthScape aims at building resilient communities. Andrew applied the “forum” process to this class. The “forum” process asks the question “What’s your beef”? It also works with the students to come up with solutions. After this session the students were encouraged to apply for a YouthScape Grant. A few days later a grant application was submitted and the school was approved. The students wanted to create a place where students and teachers worked together. Their long list of ideas would typically be overwhelming for any school or group but these youth were driven to create the change.

Here is a list of things that the students and teachers at Ernest Morrow have accomplished:

- **Cafeteria Mural:** A mural designed and painted by students and teachers. The theme of the mural is to encourage creative thinking but also healthy eating.
- **Teacher Bulletin Board:** The youth wanted to recognize their peers within the school. They also wanted to showcase what each individual teacher was doing within their class. A bulletin board was put outside each classroom to showcase work by students but to also give each classroom a unique identity.
- **Student Resource Bulletin Board:** Students wanted a common place where students and teachers could post important information and unique opportunities. This resource board is centrally located and is updated by both the students and teachers.

- **Recycling:** Going Green is an important issue among today's youth. The teachers and students at Ernest Morrow wanted to create a green movement within their school. Each class now has colorfully decorated recycling bins.

The school environment at Ernest Morrow has completely changed. The students hold their heads high and the relationship between teachers and students has grown into a unique partnership. Ernest Morrow now has a caring spirit where everyone feels involved. The students want to continue creating change within their school. Current projects that are working on include:

- **Fundraising:** Students would like to add a fundraising component to their school. In previous years fundraising was actively done but this has since stopped. They'd like to fundraise for organizations and causes that affect Forest Lawn.
- **Plans to go outside:** Many students have become frustrated with the lack of relationship with the students of Jack James, the high school nearby. Students are hoping at creating nurturing relationships between the high school by collaboratively working on a community garden and picnic area.

Ernest Morrow has undergone a big change. Students and teachers now work together and the school sees itself as a community. This first step has opened the door to bigger and better things. Students are now confident and see how their hard work can affect systems around them. Moreover, the teachers within the school now trust the process and have welcomed in an outside organization to assist them. In past years this would not have been possible. The next step is to find ways of replicating this model in other schools. One aspect of YouthScape that hasn't been addressed is creating a grass roots movement within the schools and expanding outward. The changes at Ernest Morrow School are an example of how the YouthScape model is effective within schools and will hopefully be continued in the next school year.

(See the attached media CD for Video produce by Ernest Morrow)

Section E: National YS Community

Section E: National YS Community

Creating a legacy for YouthScape will be an important task. An initiative of this significance should be documented and shared so that it can create a greater impact in the field of youth engagement. YouthScape Calgary has seen its share of positives and negatives. As previously documented there have been situations that have held back the YouthScape initiative in Calgary. Due to these setbacks we are realistically entering the second year of our project. However, we do believe that working towards a legacy is important to everyone involved. Everyone involved with YouthScape Calgary feels that we are finally in a position to bring together all of the pieces within the community.

As shown in the Calgary Bus Pass Transit Showcase and the Bounce Back Project, our partners and allies are on board with us. Now is the time to leverage these relationships and move towards the systems change that has been discussed.

Listed below are descriptions of what we feel should be the role of specific partners over the next year:

National YS Community: The National YS Community is coming together and we feel that we are stronger than ever. Sharing is at its highest and the insight being provided is truly adding to the initiative. All cities have encountered setbacks in their projects but these setbacks have made each individual city stronger. The experiences being shared are truthful and honest. This type of sharing promotes risk taking and new ideas. Failure is good if you can learn from it. Nationally, YouthScape is at the point where we've taken our setbacks and failures and have used them to become smarter and more resilient.

The role of the National YS community is to collaborate, share, and support. During this past year we've turned to the other sites numerous times to discuss ideas, share stories, and learn from what they were doing. The National YS Community creates a sense of "We're not on the island alone".

IICRD: The role of the IICRD is continuing to evolve. Initially, the IICRD was seen more as a facilitator and as support. Throughout the project we've received names of individuals or organizations that were potential contacts as well as information on non YouthScape but youth related engagement projects across Canada. The IICRD also facilitated all learning and one on one calls.

We see their role continuing to evolve and moving towards the point of connecting the pieces. The IICRD is in a position where they see all of the Lego pieces in front of them. Some pieces will be used while others may be left out. But, the IICRD will bring together the pieces to create some sort of lasting legacy. For example, all of the sites have been involved in some sort of project dealing with films or filmmaking to engage young people. The IICRD could bring all of the learning's related to this filmmaking theme together.

We welcome the IICRD and value their support throughout this process. They've pushed the sites to learn and to innovate.

Developmental Evaluators: The role of our Development Evaluator is to support, guide, and connect. Each of their roles on their own is important but together they are invaluable. Our Developmental Evaluator has consistently made herself available to assist in forum events, report writing, and meetings. Also, she's been involved in the decision making process for the YouthScape Initiative. Finally, her experience and long list of connections have aided us in developing relationships with individuals and organizations locally and nationally.

Due to the ever changing nature of YouthScape we feel that the role of our Developmental Evaluator should remain unchanged. It is this skill set that helped YouthScape Calgary get back on track and we hope that our Development Evaluator will continue to do the big things as well as the little things that keep us going.

United Way of Calgary and Area: We've been fortunate to have funders who have wanted to be involved in the project. From the beginning our contacts at the United Way have made themselves available to us. As the project move forward the United Way of Calgary and Area continue to support us. We welcome their support and value their input.

Taking it Global: Our experience with Taking it Global has been limited. YouthScape Calgary does have a membership for the TIG site but we have not used it on a regular basis. At this time we are unsure of the role of TIG. The partners listed above have been invaluable to the YouthScape initiative in Calgary. We wouldn't be where we are without their support. Even with all of the setbacks we feel that we are in a position to move forward and to make change. Some themes have already emerged and we are ready to being contributing to the YouthScape legacy.

WORKPLAN (SIX MONTHS)

STAFF

- CYFC Program Director will begin to limit involvement with YouthScape but will continue to take lead role on Transit Bus Pass Showcase (April 09)
- CYFC Initiatives Director in conjunction with YouthScape facilitator will take responsibility for the day to day operations of YouthScape (April 09)
- CYFC will be responsible to hiring YouthScape summer student (May and June 09)
- Summer student will start and work on the YouthScape project until the end of August. Role of summer student yet to be determined (June to August 09)
- YouthScape Facilitator, CYFC Initiatives Director and YouthScape summer student to come up with a comprehensive year plan and program goals for YouthScape (May to September 09)

YOUTHSACPE YOUTH STEERING COMMITTEE (YYSC) and ADULT MANAGEMENT TEAM (AMT)

- YYSC to continue to review and approve Go Grant (ongoing)
- YYSC to develop and implement new strategies for the promote of Go Grants (June to October 09)
- Increase Go Grant applications (May to October 09)
- YYSC to plan two summer forums (May to September 09)
- Recruit at least two new members for YYSC (June to October 09)
- AMT YouthScape planning session (June 09)
- Recruit at least two new members for AMT (June to October 09)

FORUMS

- Begin discussions with YouthScape Steering committee members to plan two summer Forums (Dates to be determine) (May 09)
- Youth Steering meeting to plan Forums (ie: identify audience; identify purpose to Forums; select dates; select venues) (May 09)
- Promote Forums (June 09)
- Develop evaluation component for Forums (June 09)
- Host Forums (July to August 09)
- Complete evaluations and write up for Forums (July to August 09)

BOUNCE BACK and transition to RAP 4 REASON

- Recruit and organize youth for project (April 09)
- Meet three times a week to plan project, write music and shoot video for Live Style festival (April 09)
- Support youth to ensure success when attending meetings and making video (April 09)
- With other members from adult staff team plan graduation ceremony for youth from Bounce Back (April 09)
- Order appreciation gifts (April 09)
- Begin discussion with other community agencies about follow up after Bounce Back (April 09)
- Enter discussion with community group about Rap 4 Reason (April 09)
- Support youth to present video at Live Styles (May 09)
- Complete graduation ceremony (May 09)
- Begin discussions with youth about engaging in Rap 4 Reason (May 09)
- Invite youth to planning sessions for Rap 4 Reason (May 09)
- Plan and recruit additional youth for Rap 4 Reason (May 09)
- Implement Rap 4 Reason (June to August 09)
- Complete follow and next steps for Rap 4 Reason and Bounce Back (August to October 09)
- Try to get youth involved in Bounce Back involved in the YYSC and attend other youth summits happening through the year (Ongoing)

DISCOVERING CHOICES

- Begin weekly meetings with student (April to May 09)
- Explore and make partnerships with other Discover Choices Schools in Calgary. Explore other ways for them to be involved with YouthScape (May to September 09)
- YouthScape to will ensure to engage in conversations with both staff and students (ongoing)

CALGARY TRANSIT BUS PASS SHOWCASE

The Calgary Transit Bus Pass Showcase is coming along and we are now in the selection process. The next few months will focus on the selection and implementation of the designs. An event showcasing all of the designs will be held in August. The next step is to work with our partners to find another opportunity for children and youth to be involved or to have a voice within the system of Calgary Transit. The following is a timeline outlining the next 6 months of this project:

- Schedule and organize selection meetings with bus drivers, youth, and a graphic designer (April 09)

- Select 16 designs to be used as bus passes. Back up designs and honorable mentions will also be selected (April 09)
- Children and Youth with selected designs will be notified and given the opportunity to meet with a Calgary Transit designer to work on the final version of the bus pass they designed (May 09)
- Final versions of each design will be sent to the printers (June 09)
- Youth from the Mayor's youth council will begin working on the Transit Showcase event where all of the designs will be showcased and the selected designs will be announced (June 09)
- Planning will also begin on the press conference event to be held at City Hall (July 09)
- Planning will continue on the Transit Showcase event (July 09)
- Recognition items will be created for the selected designers as well as their school/community/adult supports (August 09)
- Press conference at City Hall where all of the selected designs will be on display (August 09)
- The Transit Showcase event will be held at Sunridge Mall. Everyone who submitted a design as well as members of the community will be invited to attend (August 09)
- Andrew and Doug will reconnect with the CBE, CSSD, and Calgary Transit to see if there are more opportunities for Children and Youth to be involved in Calgary Transit (September and October 09)

OTHER YOUTHSCAPE PLANNED ACTIVITIES

- Participate in Youth Leadership program for the Coalition for Equal Access to Education. Currently YouthScape is exploring taking part as participants and as facilitators (July to September 09)
- Host YouthScape forum inviting the larger community to reintroduce our vision and the potential activities for the next two years (July to October 09)
- Developing partnership and project with USAY (ongoing)
- Reconnecting with communities partners through project (ongoing)
- Develop partnerships and project with immigrant youth through the Coalition for Equal Access to Education
- Develop projects in regards to community living
- Continued communication through all funders for YouthScape

