

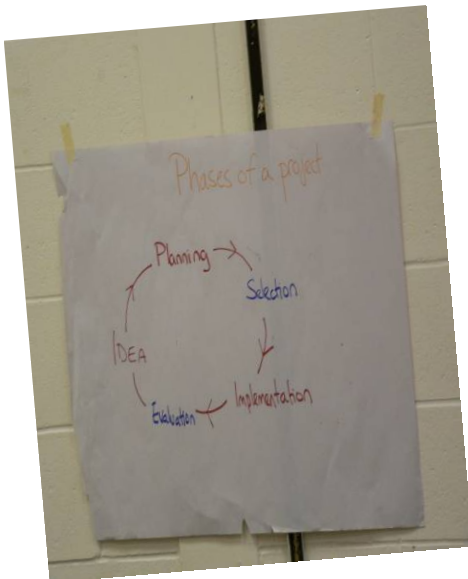


Rippling Out!

Igniting Youth-Led Action

Youth grants are one of the mechanisms YouthScape uses to support young people, especially the disengaged in taking action on initiatives and projects that are important to them.

What are Youth-Led Projects?



Youth-led projects are projects where young people are leading the way in all stages of a project from the:

- 1) Idea
- 2) Planning
- 3) Selection
- 4) Implementation
- 5) Evaluation

"A pebble cast into a pond causes ripples that spread in all directions. Each one of our thoughts, words, and deeds is like that. We won't sit down and feel hopeless. There's too much work to do."

- Dorothy Day

In youth-led projects, adults and organizations play a supportive role.

These projects help young people move from being informed or consulted to having the confidence to make decisions.

Where are Youth Taking the Lead?

To find out, examine your community and discuss how much young people are involved in different levels of decision making.

In YouthScape, we discovered that...

... In Rivière-des-Prairies, young people have more decision-making in project activities than in programs as a whole.

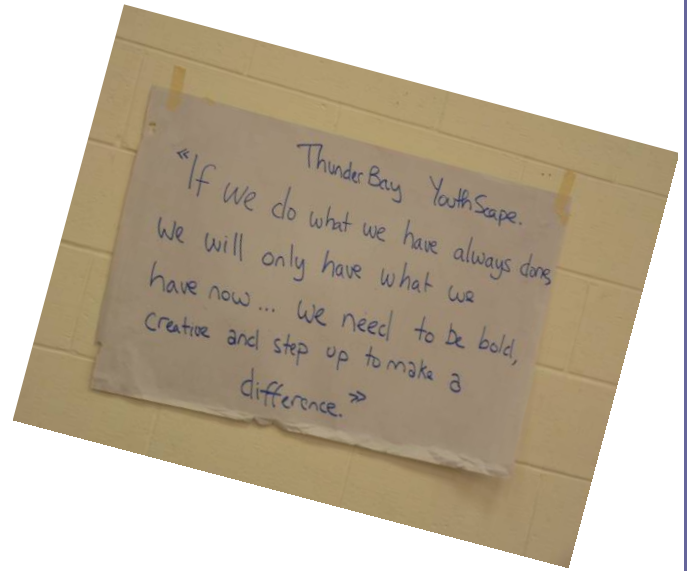
... In Thunder Bay, we found that the involvement of marginalized young people was much less significant than for the keepers.

...In Calgary, young people commented on the need to connect among youth.

Who are the Disengaged?

Disengagement is caused by a build-up of various factors. It can include everything from disinterest, lack of support at home to abuse, discrimination, mental illness, disabilities and addictions.

YouthScape is trying to ensure that disengaged or “marginalized” young people have an opportunity to be part of creating stronger, more resilient communities.



Getting Youth to the Table

While the idea of giving out grants to young people to do projects is exciting, young people need help:

- To see the opportunities
- To understand the possibilities
- To overcome tough barriers

Barriers to getting young people to the table:

- No or incomplete information
- Inaccessible information
- Transport
- Full schedules
- Child care
- Disinterest

Strategies to get young people to the table:

- Youth-friendly ads in newspapers
- Technology (e.g. Facebook)
- Riding public transportation
- Door-to-door
- Word-of-mouth
- Personal follow up
- Agency/school follow-up and support
- Transport/food/child care

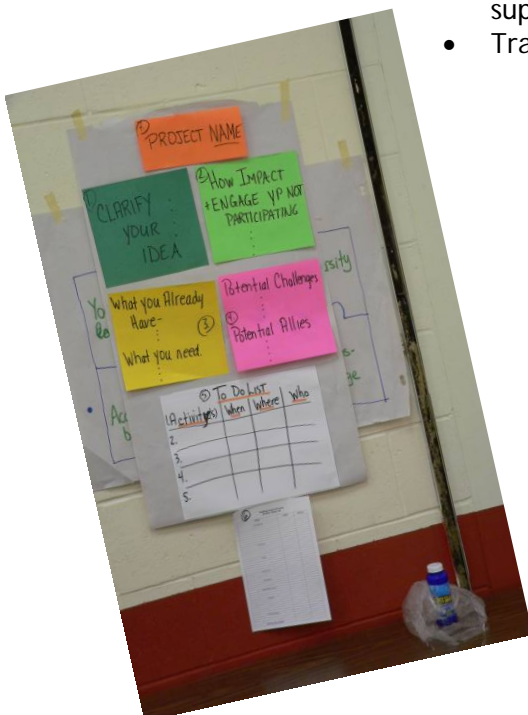
Communities Welcome Youth-led Actions

“I am jealous.”

“It is so interesting. It is close to the young people. It will bring our neighbourhoods to life.”

“It’s been a long-time coming to this stage. Can you imagine the impact on our communities?”

“Let’s take the chance for once, not kill the ideas.”



Developing Action Plans

A key step to any project is to make an action plan. This is your recipe for success.

Just like making a cake, it is important to know what ingredients you have, what you need, and how to get what you don’t have.

Action plans can be done individually or collectively.

The key steps include:

1. **The Idea.** What do you want to do?
2. **The Ripples.** What will the impact be?
How will it engage/affect you, disengaged young people, your community and other organizations?
3. **The Strengths and Needs.** What resources do you already have to make this happen? (people, \$)
What do you need? Think about the location. Also, how will you promote your idea/activity? What supplies do you need?
4. **The Challenges.** What are the potential road blocks?
(people, policies, logistics) Who could help you?
5. **"To Do's".** What are the next steps?
What are the key activities?
When will they happen?
Where will they happen?
Who needs to be there and who is taking the lead?
6. **The Budget.** What do you need money for?
How much? Can some of the pieces you need be donated? (remember what you already have)
7. **The Name.** What do you want to call your project?
Remember names have power and intent!

Leveraging the Ripples...

In moving forward, help young people to think about the opportunities to strengthen the impact of their projects...

- On their peers,
- On organizations,
- On their communities and
- On school, city or government policies.

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Supporting Youth Action

To help young people develop action plans you need to get the youth to think, ask questions, and figure out the answers.

The first step is the biggest as young people sometimes need support in pushing their own boundaries; imagining the possibilities. Always begin with a discussion to discover their passions and the issues closest to their realities.

Young people can feel they have no power to address the issues closest to them (e.g. policing, transportation, bullying, addictions, and food security). Take the time to work through the issues. Encourage them to explore different ways to address these real challenges.



"This is exactly how I imagined it. Here everyone is learning music from each other. For many it is the first time they are using a guitar. There are a whole lot of people who helped me. I see it as four wheels: first me, second the Boys and Girls Director, third an adult ally, fourth the YouthScape coordinator and driving the wheel is my mother." - Tyson Boyd, 13, Halifax Regional Municipality

The Rock Club has had 25 to 45 young people from 5 to 15 years old coming to play music for seven weeks in a row, occupying three rooms in the Boys and Girls Club in Sackville.

YouthScape is about working together to create a national movement to strengthen youth engagement and build resilient communities. Embracing bold visions for change!

YouthScape is supported by the J.W. McConnell Family Foundation as part of a youth engagement strategy to foster innovative change and build resilient communities at both the local and national level. YouthScape is coordinated by the International Institute for Child Rights and Development (IICRD). Other key supporters include the United Way of Calgary and Area, TakingItGlobal and five convening organizations from across Canada.