

Youth Voice & Choice Webinar

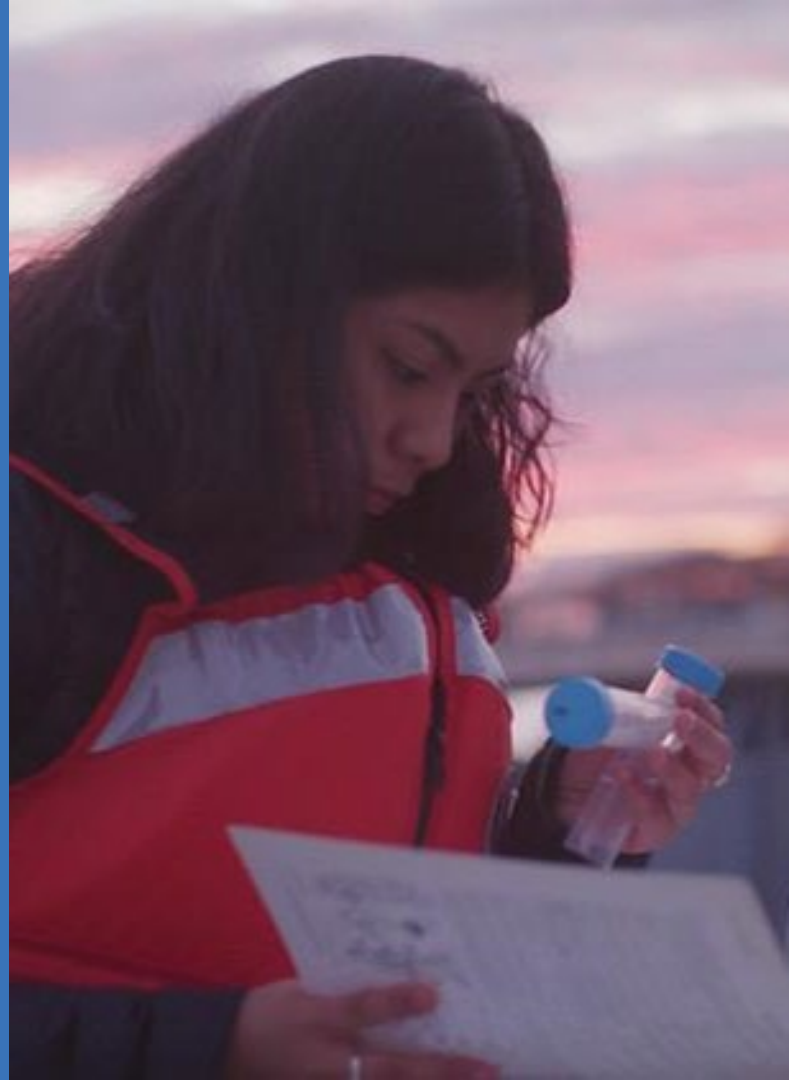


Dr. Sheronda Witter Fleming

U.S. Department of Education



**Engage Every Student is
a bold call to action to
provide high-quality
out-of-school time
learning opportunities
for every child who
wants to participate.**



The **U.S. Department of Education** is proud to be collaborating with a group of diverse stakeholders to Engage Every Student.

- ❑ AASA, the School Superintendents Association
- ❑ Afterschool Alliance
- ❑ National League of Cities
- ❑ National Summer Learning Association
- ❑ National Comprehensive Center at Westat



Join Us!



Become an **ALLY** of
Engage Every Student.



Make a **PLEDGE** to work
toward Afterschool and
Summer for all.

www.engageeverystudent.org



Check out the new
Youth Voice Toolkit
AfterschoolAlliance.org/YouthVoiceToolkit

Powered by Youth Voice: Future Directions for Afterschool





Hikma Sherka
Every Hour Counts



**POWERED BY YOUTH VOICE:
FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR
AFTERSCHOOL**

POWERED BY YOUTH VOICE: FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR AFTERSCHOOL



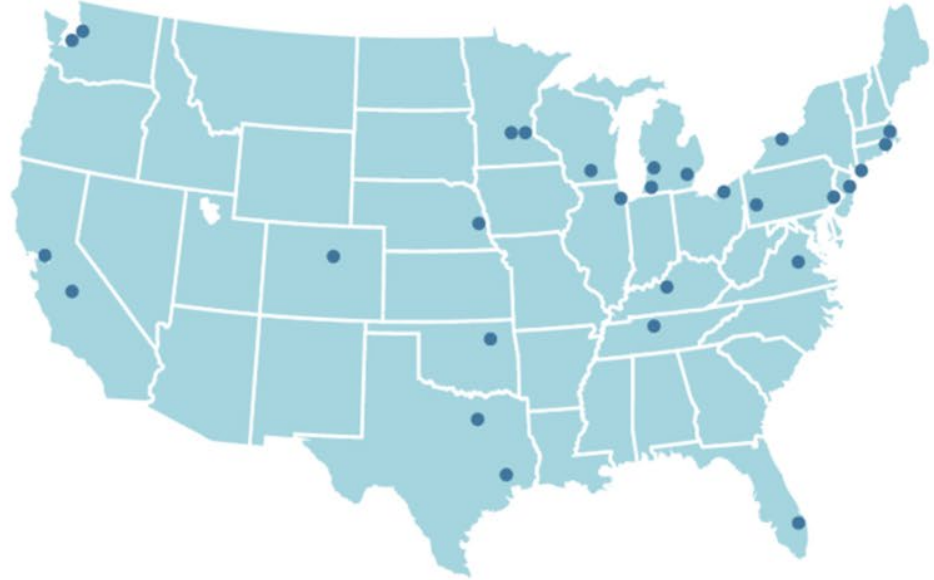
Through the generous support of:



Every Hour Counts Network

Bay Area, CA
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Pittsburgh, PA
Providence, RI
Richmond, VA
Rochester, NY
St. Paul, MN
Tacoma, WA
Tulsa, OK





youthprise

“Nothing about us without us”

Mission: Increase equity with and for Minnesota’s indigenous, low-income, and racially diverse youth.

Vision: We envision a Minnesota where outcomes for youth are no longer predictable by race, geography, or social economic status.

VISION FOR A YOUTH POWERED AFTERSCHOOL

Elevate

Elevate youth voice and leadership to advance new directions for the afterschool field

Empower

Empower young people as creators and designers of improvements to existing or creation of new after school programs in their local communities

Catalyze

Catalyze OST practice change in the context of addressing racial inequity and other issues of systemic oppression

Shift

Shift the mindset and behaviors of participating intermediary organizations to share power and more fully center systems change on youth voice

Identify

Identify promising practices to advance the afterschool field



INITIATIVE OVERVIEW

- Design Thinking, Peer Learning, & Proposal Development
- Six Communities, Six Ideas
- Youth Zoom MeetUps
- National Youth Survey
- \$100k for implementation
- Youth Powered Convening
- Participatory Grantmaking
- Amplify Youth Voice Advisory Committee

POWERED BY YOUTH VOICE: FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR AFTERSCHOOL



Design thinking & peer learning communities!

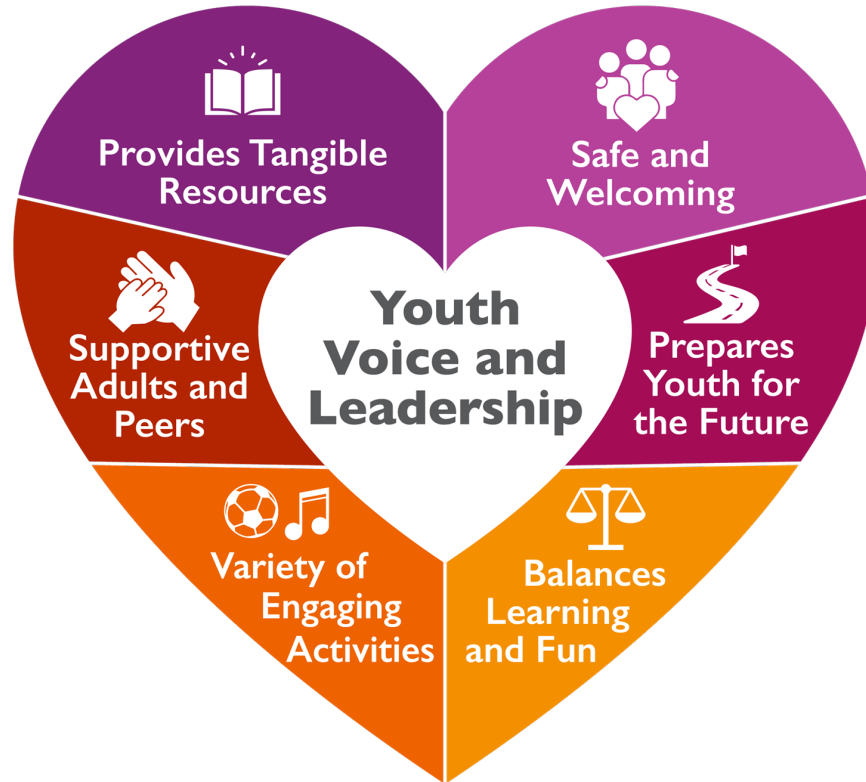


Powered by Youth Voice: Future Directions for Afterschool



"You Would Feel the Love When You Walked In"

Youth Reimagine the Future of Afterschool Programs





Youth
powered
DECEMBER 2-4 • Chicago

Coming Together to
Reimagine Afterschool



every hour counts



youthprise



YOUTH POWERED: Coming Together to Reimagine Afterschool

- December 2-4 | Chicago, IL
- 60 Youth ages 12-19 share their proposals to reimagine afterschool with youth at the center
- 50+ adult local, state, and national leaders join to listen to youth ideas
- Youth work together to award \$100,000
- Intergenerational space with youth-only and adult-only spaces
- Art Shares



\$30,000

Kalamazoo, MI

Creating structures for youth leadership, peer relationships for spaces of belonging, and inclusion for all identities (SPI).



\$25,000

Providence, RI

Youth-led summits and state-level advocacy focused on mental health, college and career readiness, and youth leadership structures.



\$15,000

Nashville, TN

A music city movement focused on youth leadership, life skills, and peer-based school supports.



20





\$10,000

Chicago, IL

Building the REC, a new youth-led afterschool space with focus on social and emotional learning, cultural awareness, performing arts, career coaching, financial literacy and postsecondary enrichment.



\$10,000

Flint, MI

Providing scholarship opportunities to fund youth driven extracurricular activity costs for young people to explore their passions.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF GREATER FLINT



\$10,000

Palm Beach County, FL

Designing Vivid Futures with arts-based college and career internships led by youth.





Guiding Values in the Initiative

- Youth-led space that promotes equity and justice, fosters participation and inclusion, promotes understanding and respects differences, transparent grantmaking, and supports young people's skill development.
- A collaborative space for idea sharing
- Keep the focus on real recommendations with real financial implications for communities and the ability for afterschool to facilitate healing and be the space that young people imagine
- Connecting learning to impact quality, systems, and policy
- Opportunity to celebrate the work!



Centering Youth Voice Throughout

- Community selection process
- National Youth Survey
- Design Thinking
- Participatory Grant Making
- Youth Zoom Meet Ups



Centering Youth Voice in Existing Practices

A stylized logo for the conference, featuring a sun with a white spiral center, divided into orange, green, and blue segments, positioned above a blue wave. The background consists of light blue wavy bands.

Let's Make Waves!
2023 Every Hour Counts Conference

West Palm Beach • May 30-June 1

For more information, [click here.](#)



CONNECT WITH US!

Hikma Sherka (she/her)

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libby@youthprise.org

Adult-Centered vs. Youth-Centered Organizations Panel





John Weiss
Neutral Zone



Rachel Alterman Wallack
VOX ATL



Marcus Pope
Youthprise



Libby Rau
Youthprise

1998-2023



The Neutral Zone, Ann Arbor MI

- 21 “youth driven” weekly programs in music, literary arts, leadership, visual arts & education
- Drop-in
- Weekend Concerts/ Special Events
- Future Corps



What is a YDS?

A setting in which youth/teens are intentionally involved in authentic program, organizational and governance decisions and roles.

Value Proposition:

Youth thrive when they have voice and engage in genuine decision making. We empower youth by supporting organizations to develop new practices that lead to a culture of youth and adult partnerships.

YOUTH-DRIVEN PRACTICES: @ THE PROGRAM LEVEL

YOUTH DO THE FOLLOWING ...

- Set Goals and Develop Strategic Plans
- Facilitate Meetings
- Run Dialogues
- Curate Shows and Performances
- Promote Events/Projects
- Recruit and Train other Participants



YOUTH-DRIVEN PRACTICES @ THE ORGANIZATION LEVEL

YOUTH DO THE FOLLOWING ...

- Establish Norms and Expectations
- Own the Physical Space
- Participate in Staff Hiring
- Approve New Program Initiatives
- Evaluate Programs



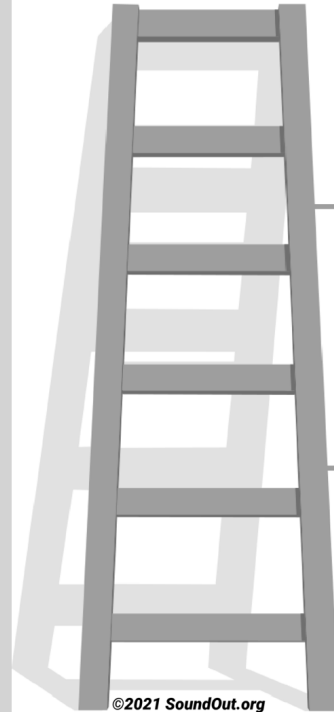
YOUTH-DRIVEN PRACTICES @ THE GOVERNANCE LEVEL

YOUTH DO THE FOLLOWING ...

- Serve on the Board and Board Committees
- Partake in Organizational Strategic Planning
- Support Community Outreach
- Fundraise



Ladder of Meaningful Student Involvement



Student / Adult Equity

Completely Student-Driven

Student / Adult Equality

Student Consulted

Student Informed

Student Centered

Student Tokenism

Student Decoration

Student Manipulation

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**Youth-Adult
Partnerships**

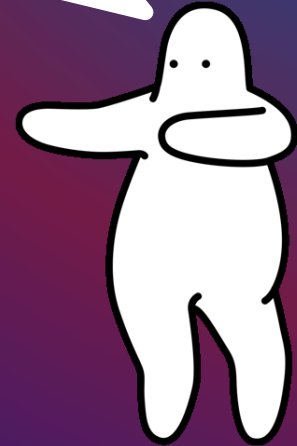
This is the 2021 Ladder of Meaningful Student Involvement by Adam Fletcher for SoundOut.org

John Weiss
weiss@neutral-zone.org



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@YOUTHDRIVEN

Join the YDS
Newsletter!



Community Conversation



Youth Voice

in programming & evaluation

with

VOXATL

About Us

VOX ATL

VOX ATL is leading a **youth-voice movement** where teens from diverse backgrounds create a stronger, more equitable community through **leadership & uncensored self-expression.**



- ★ Teens first — since 1993
- ★ After-school & summer programming for up to 150 teens/year
- ★ Atlanta Teen Voices partner opportunities.
- ★ **Training & Facilitation services to increase youth voice & impact!**

What is Youth Voice?

“Youth input” or “voice” is one Standard of **quality programming** ...

(e.g. GA ASYD QE 1 - 1.6, 1.8; QE 8; Weikart's YPQI)

.. but youth voice is more than a participant survey or activity choice!



Youth Work Methods Pyramid of Program Quality



What is Youth Voice - from Teens

In OST, meaningful youth voice means **engaging young people actively in the design, implementation, and evaluation of programs and services aimed at supporting them.**

Youth voice is an essential component of diversity, equity, inclusion (DEI) and a sense of belonging for all.



Youth Voice Must be Meaningful

Prioritizing youth voice must be intentional.

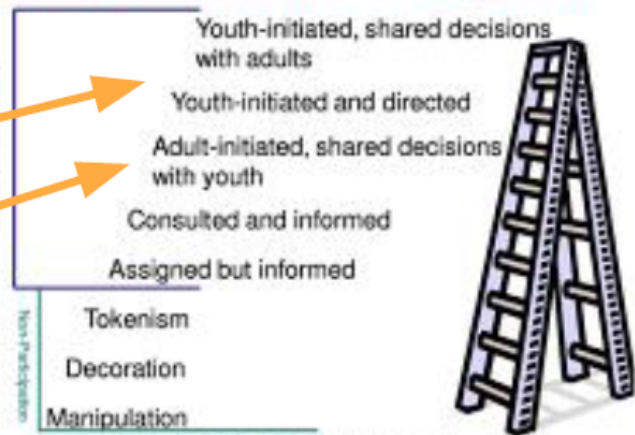
Consider the purpose of the program or event to determine the purpose of youth voices to inform it.

- An event designed to attract and engage youth participants may have more youth voice and leadership involved than an event designed to inform and inspire adult supporters.
- Each type of event benefits from **meaningful** youth involvement.

Commit to ensuring youth voice is authentic & meaningful.

- If there are non-negotiables, state those clearly before inviting youth voice so everyone is set up for success*.

Ladder of Youth Participation



Adapted from Hall, R. (2000). Children's Participation: From Tokenism to Citizenship. Florence: UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre.



*See [“tips from teens” video](#) for other ways to set everyone up for success!

First - Create a Culture of Youth Voice



- Real engagement requires relationship-building over time
- Commit to (and train for) power-sharing
- Ground Rules and other norms create brave and protected spaces
- Communicate time commitment & payments if available



Include Youth Voice Throughout

Before

Youth can be involved in planning the activity, program outcomes, and a evaluation tools

What - So What - Now What

(e.g. identifying skills desired or planning self-assessments, SMART goal setting; create Vision Boards, training teens as peer leaders ...)

During

Invite youth to speak up about how things are going; engage youth on evaluation teams.

Formative Feedback

(e.g. reflective closings each day or monthly check-ins with “glows & grows” or other formative feedback activities)*

After

Empower youth to help lead evaluation activities; use their input to make changes.

Celebrate, thank and assess together!

(E.g. revisit our goals or vision board, impact and interactive skills assessments)

Stay in Touch!

VOXATL

For more resources from VOX ATL and original teen-created content, please visit VOXATL.org.

For more experiences like this one:

- [Vibing in the Virtual Space](#) video playlist on VOX ATL YouTube
- [Guide on the Side](#) video playlist on VOX ATL YouTube
- [Guide on the Side](#) page on VOXATL.org

To schedule a customized training, email Rachel@voxatl.org.

Connect with us on social media! [@voxroxatl](#) & [@atlwordworks](#)





QUESTIONS FOR YOU

- What do you already do that moves towards being more youth-centered?
- Is there one thing you could change that would have a big impact on being more youth-centered?

Youth Voices Panel



Kevin Lima

U.S. Department of Education





Jamora Arroyo-Jefferson

Miami, FL



Spencer Harrison

Pryor, OK



Angie Mejia-Sierra

Oakland Park, FL

Closing Remarks



Bryan Joffe

AASA, The School Superintendents Association



Thank you for attending today's
Engage Every Student Webinar.
Help us continue to refine future engagement
opportunities by completing our short
evaluation using the link in the chat.

