

THE CITY/COUNTY YOUTH ENGAGEMENT TEAM

The City of Portland and Multnomah County Youth Engagement Team (C/CYET) consists of city and county staff who are actively involved in engaging youth, as well as staff who oversee youth engagement efforts. C/CYET exists to:

- Ensure that staff are well-informed about the extent and variety of youth engagement efforts across the city and county, and alert to partnership and funding opportunities
- Promote and encourage youth voice and perspectives as an integral part of city and county initiatives and policy discussions
- Provide support to city and county staff and programs wishing to increase their capacity and skills around youth engagement
- Support team members' youth engagement efforts by sharing expertise, information and contacts to maximize effectiveness

The City/County Youth Engagement Team is currently comprised of youth and staff from the following programs: The Multnomah Youth Commission, School Based Health Centers, Library Teen Councils, Portland Parks and Recreation Teen Services, Portland Office of Youth Violence Prevention, Multnomah County Department of Juvenile Justice, Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability Youth Planning Program. Additional staffing and support is provided from the Office of Multnomah County Chair Jeff Cogen and Portland Mayor Sam Adams.

Multnomah County School Based Health Clinics

In 2010-11, the School-Based Health Center program partnered with the Multnomah Youth Commission and Cascade AIDS Project's Teen2Teen program in creating Youth Advisory Council's at our high school sites. The Youth Advisory Councils are giving youth a voice in our program, their schools, communities and even state wide. Some examples include:

- 1) Our YACs partnered with Teen Services from the Multnomah County Library to utilize the library's Read While You Wait program. With input from YAC members, reading materials were chosen for clients waiting for their appointment in our health centers.
- 2) To celebrate School- Based Health Care month, YAC members traveled to Salem to meet with their elected officials. In partnership with the Oregon School-Based Health Care network, youth were able to share their stories about how health centers impact their lives and their schools. Multnomah County youth engaged with youth from around the state, and Gov. Kitzhaber spoke to the group, as well.
- 3) Via focus groups, we utilized youth input to modify our internal customer satisfaction survey.



Youth marching to the Capitol building to kick off School-Based Health Care month.

We value youth as an essential partner with our program. Our program partners with community groups and youth-service-agencies around the county, sharing the goal of giving youth a voice in their future.

Multnomah County Library

Multnomah County Library provides multiple types of youth engagement opportunities to maximize the chance that youth will be able to find projects that fit their interests, skills, and available time. Youth were involved in a variety of ways over the past year:

- Volunteering with the Summer Reading program, which reached over 95,000 babies, kids, and teens
- Serving on the Library Advisory Board
- Earning service hours on a short-term basis in Community Service Crews
- Participating on teen councils, which meet regularly at twelve library locations



Teens and kids at the Midland Library's Follow the Reader program

Teen council members worked on many projects throughout the year, including but not limited to helping younger children with reading, sponsoring and judging a writing contest for fellow teens, reviewing anime and manga, hosting open Pokemon play sessions, and teaching origami to families and seniors.

Youth Planning Program

This innovative program at the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability was created, through the advocacy of the Youth Commission; hiring youth ages 14-25 to train as urban planners. Youth Planners outreach to, research to understand, and report the voices of youth in Portland to influence the decisions City government makes for up to 25 years into the future. The YPP is in the fourth year of programming and has accomplished the following:

Portland Plan

- Engaged over 200 youth in Phase III outreach to give input about the draft plan, via small group discussion and survey collection.
- Created My Voice, Our City survey reaching 166 youth both in person and online.
- Created report and recommendations for changes and amendments to draft objectives and actions from the youth perspective. The report will be presented to the Planning and Sustainability Commission in Fall 2011.

Youth Engagement Manual Training

- Strengthened youth-adult partnerships within City of Portland and community partners with youth-led. Youth Planners trained City of Portland staff, adults that want to work with youth as well as other youth who could in turn train their adult partners.
- Developed assessment tools for identifying current levels of youth engagement and other presentation/training tools for Youth Engagement Manual.
- Receiving ongoing information requests and interest for more training from local and national partners.

Community Partnerships

- Awarded seven Youth Action Grants to groups of youth-adult partnerships, working to implement Our Bill of Rights: Children + Youth in their neighborhoods or at their schools. Provided additional technical assistance in organizing and youth-adult partnerships to 4 out of the 7 grantees.
- City County-Youth Engagement Team- worked to gather information and keep agencies connected and informed. Partnership was effective to increase and enhance youth voice and participation across partner agencies.
- Developed new partnerships with David Douglas School District and High School to begin community mapping “Youth Atlas” project in Fall 2011.

National Partnerships

- Strengthened partnership with Young Planners Network (YPN, a national network of youth in planning) as an emerging chapter, supporting the YouthPass program to present at the National Safe Routes To School Conference in August 2011.
- Conducted a YPN exchange between youth planners from Portland and Chicago, including shadowing District Planners, neighborhood tours, youth-led workshops, and blogging daily activities on the web to promote youth in planning nationally.
- Engaged national partners in skill trading, development and support of youth engagement work through workshops at the 2011 American Planning Association’s National Conference in Boston. The team shared strategies and best practices to empower diverse groups of youth with examples from previous youth in planning efforts which include Portland Plan, 122nd Pilot Project, Youth Action Grants, and successful youth-adult partnerships. Youth Planners led a team of youth and adults to present “Youth Planning in Planning Practice” Workshop to planners from all over North America.

Youth Summer Works

- Hired two Summer Works interns who contributed to community outreach for the Portland Plan through the creation of the My Voice, Our City survey and small group discussions, engaging diverse groups, tabling summer events, and identifying ways to get more youth informed and involved in planning and sustainability projects going on citywide (Build It Green!, ReThink, Portland Plan, Historic Preservation, etc)
- Assisted the Multnomah Youth Commission to do original research about how youth groups in community based programs around the city get involved and organized. Conducted 5 one on one interviews, 5 focus groups, and completed a report that will support Our Bill of Rights: Children + Youth efforts to increase the voice of youth in government and community decision making.

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