



Planning with and for Youth

Kyle Alec and Sierra Hammond

10:30am - 11:30am, October 22

Virtual BC Comprehensive Community Planning Workshop 2020

Topic Overview

- When we plan for our communities' futures, we plan for the future generations, including the youth growing up now, who have incredible energy and ideas.

Key learnings

- Why engage every voice?
 - Creating a safe space, space free of judgement
 - What is in your heart? Ceremony through story-telling (teaching common respect) in circle
 - Important to let them know that they matter + there is no right/wrong answer
 - Decisions made now will impact them in the future
 - Create activities that interest them
- How can we use social media to engage youth?
 - TikTok challenges
 - Asking youth to make a TikTok on what's happening in the community
 - 1-2 minutes long, doesn't take much effort to make one
 - "Pick up garbage" and film it, as an example
 - Prize ideas: Spotify gift cards, subscription services, fast food
 - YouTube
 - Pass the Drum!
 - Finding a youth champion
 - Have them lead a social media page
 - Invest in cheap camcorder and a data plan for their phone
 - Go around interview youth
 - Prize: they can keep the camcorder + compensate for time
 - Facebook
 - Easiest for event planning
 - Event Pages
 - Instagram Live
 - Good information sharing platform
 - Issue tablets/laptops for all youths
 - Social media: always ask parents permission!
- What can we get/learn from the youth?
 - Empathy
 - Their stories are powerful, overcoming struggles
 - Children are accepting



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- Direction for their own future; youth learn new things that older generation does not understand
- Creativity of youth
- What can we give in return?
 - Guidance
 - Empowerment / encouragement
 - Time to be heard
 - Youth mentorship / leadership programs
 - Drug/alcohol free environment
 - Youth rep that sits on committees or youth council
 - Youth having difficulty with anxiety/depression
 - Self-care first and foremost → build confidence
 - Working with Elders
 - Recommendations
 - Choices: really good at building self-esteem
 - Sometimes funding for self-development from band offices
 - Local free youth counseling / mentorship programs
 - Research training
 - How to interview Elders
 - Talk to their school - credits for volunteership
 - Understanding youth are Orange and having workers also have energetic youthful energy is important
 - Other ideas
 - Quad tours of the community

Amazing Quotes

- “The Youth have great ideas” - Trace Elkins
- “Their creativity is amazing, they also have a different perspective and they are adapting in a different way” - Rochelle Francois
- “I think youth and children are a clean slate with unconditional love, for me anyways they remind me how to love like they do.” - Nirvana, Sq’ewqeyl
- “The youth perspective is awesome! Something you may overlook as an older person seen through a young person’s eyes can change any plan/issue you are dealing with.” - Katie, Nanoose
- “guest speakers to tell traditional stories in language/ cultural classes and how to use these stories to adapt to this generation coming up perspectives” - Ben Mckay



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- “give them an environment that is drug and alcohol free. They know it is a safe place to be a child. They won't have to babysit their siblings or cook” - Regina Pierre
- “Give kids time to be kids” - Kyle Alec
- “So happy to see both young folks taking the lead on things, and "older" generations interested in connecting with them. Its like we all want to connect, but are just a little awkward at figuring it out! It takes energy and courage and persistence :) ” - Janet Kivett Knight

Further Resources and Links

- Youth Engagement Checklist
 - <https://jamboard.google.com/karma/u/0/d/15rqrdpESI7h-Y9LiPUwZ4z6R1oEXh9C12OcGSdNveWw/viewer?usp=sharing>

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