Elevating Youth Voice for Successful Teen Programming

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with youth interns Sophie Nepiuk and Hajirah Nadeem
Elevating teen voices at the library...

- makes teen programming and services more relevant for teens, increasing participation
- allows the library to be part of a community network that increases teens’ social capital and fosters positive youth development

Positive Youth Development is an intentional approach that engages youth within their communities, organizations, peer groups, and families.
Safe Meeting Spaces

- Write conversation ground rules together
- Start each meeting with an icebreaker so everyone gets to know each other
- Take energizing activity breaks as needed
- End with a reflection
TEEN
SUBSCRIPTION
PACK PROJECT

TEEN
SUBSCRIPTION
Packs
History of YDL Teen Subscription Packs

Teens started this project in January of 2021 with a social justice pack focusing on Black Lives Matter and distributed 20 packs to local teens who signed up.

Since then, we have had the following monthly themes: Self Care, Try Something New, Climate Awareness, PRIDE, and Juneteenth.
FINDING FUNDING TO EXPAND
Creating a Group Vision

Brainstorm...
1. The vibe of the packs
2. Activities/supplies in the kits
3. Other resources to include
4. How to promote the packs

Set action steps: Who will do what by which date
Writing grants with teens

- Look closely at the goals of the funder
- Divide up the work... who’s good at research, who can write a good descriptive story, etc.
- Use words and phrases from your brainstorming session
- Write clear goals and objectives, and know how you’ll evaluate them
- Set deadlines
- Adults follow up to edit, organize, make sure deadlines are met

Short story: Free take-home activities and conversation starters for youth to de-stress, learn a skill, get creative and be the change, all while engaging communally through virtual hangouts, and in-person when safe.
Other opportunities to get funding

Neutral Zone Pitch

Our TAG teens created the presentation, practiced together in advance and each took different slides to present virtually, making sure they were aligned with the guidelines set by the Neutral Zone.

A live voting audience of their peers decided on which organizations would receive the funds after hearing all the pitches.
Generator Z is the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation’s newest grantmaking initiative built to support teens and afterschool providers to reimagine after school in ways that matter to them. This work is made possible through a grant provided to the nonprofit organization Lakeshore Connections.

Check out our application!
WORKING WITH A TEEN STEERING COMMITTEE TO DESIGN THE PROJECT
Promoting the project

- Writing a press release
- Creating a brand
Designing teen internships

Teen Subscription Packs are free take-home activities and conversation starters to de-stress while making a positive impact in the community. Generator Z is driven by teens and powered by Lakeshore Connections with support from the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation. Learn more at www.generator-z.org

yplibrary.org/subscription-packs  teens@yplibrary.org

INTERNSHIPS

Internships are part-time from early October 2021 through mid-May 2022. We will review applications that are submitted after the deadline if an opening arises.

Interns will work 8-15 hours per month depending on their role and the work that needs to get finished each week. Stipends start at $12 per hour. Other perks include stocks during the summer, and real hands-on experience you can add to your resume such as project management, product development, and graphic design, and social media for an organization.

Read the details about the internships and the teams, then click the button below to apply by September 10. Watch your email for confirmation and a Zoom link.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

With financial funding from the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation, the Teen Advisory Group is able to expand our project. We will pay stipends to other teen groups to help us fulfill our vision to get supplies to other teens so Yps and bring people together around topics that are important to you.

ABOUT THE WORK

The internships are designed for and dedicated to teens. Rising freshmen through senior seniors for the 2021-2022 school year are encouraged to apply. Ideal candidates will be passionate about serving the community, learning new skills, and working on a creative team to develop and promote supply packs and events. Interns will be assigned to one of five creative teams or the project management team described below. Creative teams will report to the month and Project Management Team. You will learn the skills you need on the job, but coming with an interest in learning about the work of a specific team is important.

Click on the buttons to read about the work of each team.

Social Media Interns
Product Development Interns
Event Planning Interns
Project Management Interns
Interviewing and hiring other teens
MEET THE CREATORS

Wandering who's working behind the scenes on the podcast? Meet more about the team of Tipiakh youth who are creating the content, chatting on the podcast, designing swag, planning events, and advertising everything.

INTERNSHIPS
Requirements & Responsibilities

Show up and be on time!

Meet deadlines!

Keep track of hours worked and sign in/out when in the library.

PRIVACY!

Ask Questions!

?????

Keep us in the loop!

HAVE FUN!

Work Collaboratively!
Each month interns... Curate and assemble 100 or more packs
Choose themes that are relevant to today’s youth, timely to what’s happening now, and highlight equity and social justice.
Write a letter for the pack and the web page about the pack and other community resources.
Design and produce buttons, stickers, and more for the packs.
Create Instagram posts

Design web pages

Record and edit podcasts

Record “unpacking” videos

Host programs

Make branded images for web pages
Skills interns have learned...

- budgeting
- web design
- social media promotion
- grant writing
- product design
- public speaking
- brand management
- event planning and coordination
- working within a collaborative setting
- working with a diverse group of people
OTHER EXAMPLES OF SUCCESSFUL YOUTH DRIVEN SPACES PROGRAMS AND METHODS
Planning steps for a youth driven program

1. Use large paper and markers to gather ideas

2. Talk in small groups about what’s most important, then share with another small group to compare notes

3. Choose one idea and write down each thing needed to make the idea happen on a sticky note
4. Put the sticky notes in chronological order as your action steps

5. Assign jobs and deadlines

6. Enjoy the event!
Annual summer teen stage

$3000 to improve teen area

TAG mission statement
Successful pitch for $1000 to plan a mental health rally that brought 8 organizations together and paid youth to make presentations
When you use Positive Youth Development methods, you recognize, utilize, and enhance young people's strengths.

This promotes positive outcomes for young people by providing opportunities, fostering positive relationships, and furnishing the support needed to build on their leadership strengths, making the library an integral part of youth development in a community.
Questions?
Resources

Online collaboration tools
- Miro boards [https://miro.com/](https://miro.com/)
- Google jamboards

Generator Z stories [https://www.generator-z.org/](https://www.generator-z.org/)

Neutral Zone Youth Drive Spaces [https://www.neutral-zone.org/youth-driven-spaces](https://www.neutral-zone.org/youth-driven-spaces)
- How youth driven is your program?
- Weikart Center Safe Youth Spaces
- Youth/Adult Partnership Rubric

YALSA
- Toolkit
- Teen Services Competencies

Youth.gov

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