

Engaging Youth in City-School Collaboration

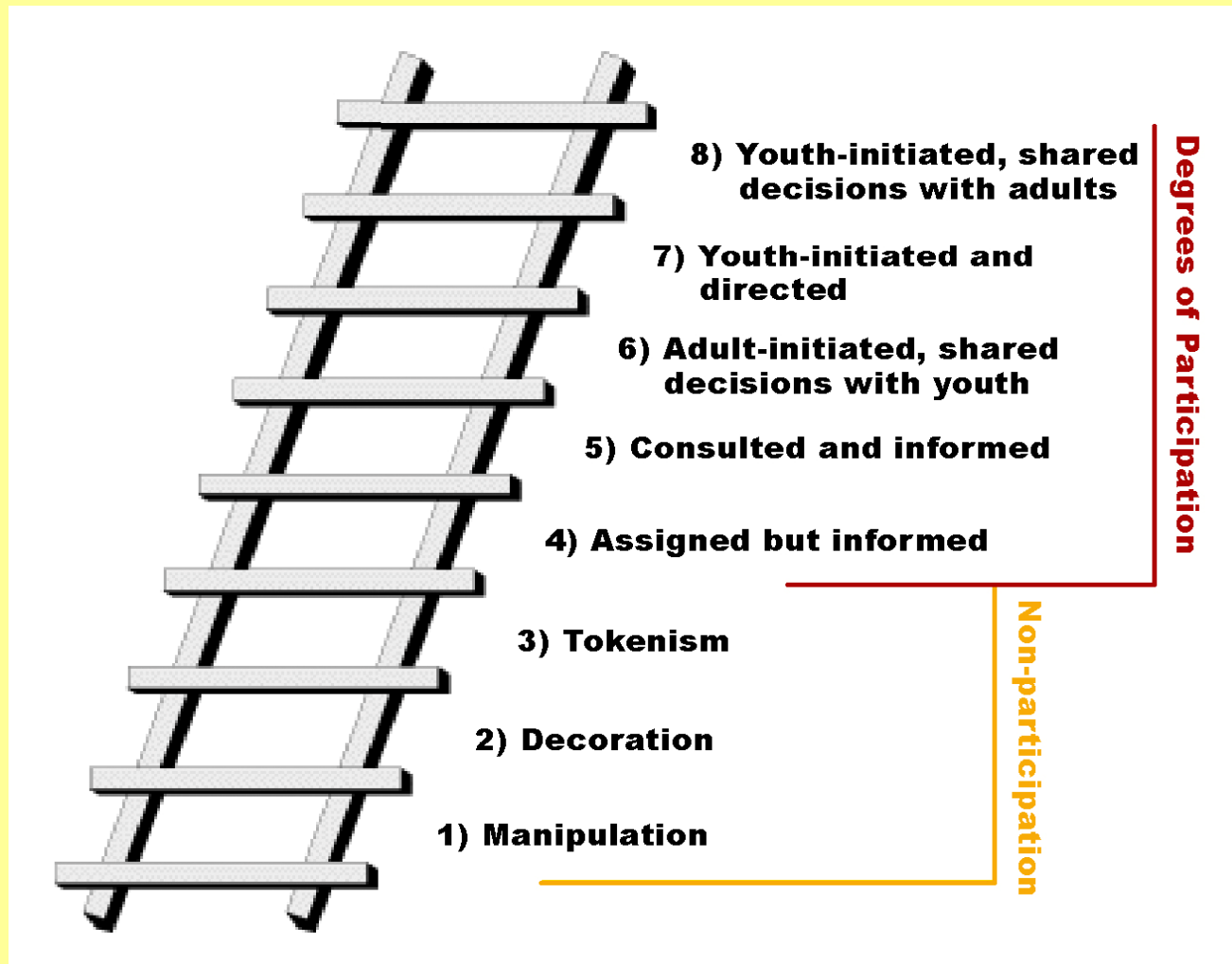
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Contextualizing Youth Participation

- Youth
 - Between 15 - 25 years, Self-defined up to 29
 - Political economy view - *'Class without power'*
- Participation
 - *Process of shared decision-making, influence, and involvement amongst stakeholders over development initiatives, decisions and resources that affect their lives.*
- UN Ordinance on the Right of the Child (1990)
- AICP Code of Ethics

Hart's Ladder of Participation



Benefits of Youth Participation

- **Democratic Process**
 - Youth participation = *Citizen involvement*
 - If we expect adults to participate, need to practice at a young age
- **Public Agencies / Policy**
 - Greater organizational sustainability and effectiveness,
 - Improved policy formation and program implementation
- **Youth**
 - Listening, respecting differences of opinion, finding common ground
 - Professional soft skills, public presentation, networking
 - Strengthen academic achievement, increase problem-solving capacity

Berkeley - Why Youth Participation?

- **Benefits to Youth**
 - Youth develop skills, experience, and contacts
 - Youth help shape the programs in which they participate
- **Benefits to City of Berkeley**
 - Youth development is a city priority
 - Could save resources, e.g. programming with consumers in mind

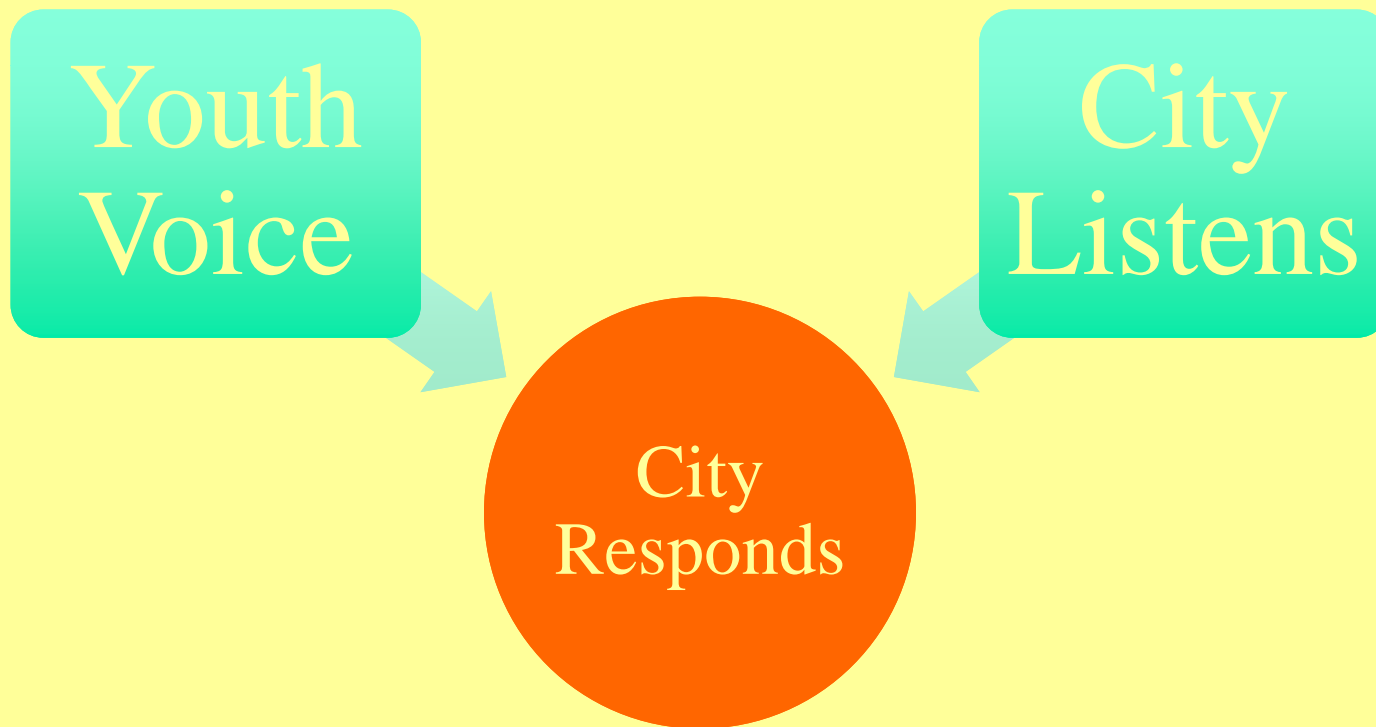
Opportunities through City of Berkeley

OPPORTUNITY	STYLE	YOUTH	IMPACT
Berkeley Youth Commission	+++ Big youth focus	++ ~18	+++ City
Participation on City Commissions	+++ Big youth focus	++ ~10	+ Program
Youth Advisory Boards - B-tech, Teen Nights	++ Big/ youth focus	+++ ~10	++ Department /Program
Various City Internships - Public Health, Mayor's Office	+ Youth integration	+ ~60	+++ City
Informal participation - Forums, Surveys	+ Youth integration	++++ 100s	++ Department /Program

Opportunities through Non-City Agencies in Berkeley

- Nonprofits, including:
 - YMCA
 - Youth Together
- Berkeley Unified School District (BUSD), including:
 - BUSD School Board Student Director
 - Community Partnerships Academy

Difficult for the City to Respond & React to Youth Input



Lessons for the City of Berkeley

- Targeted efforts needed to prove success
- Money and time necessary
- Impacting policy through pre-existing structures

Options for Improvement

- **Reinvigorate the Youth Commission**
 - Advantage: Direct contact to City Council
 - Challenge: Improved training of commissioners expensive
- **Collaborate with Non-City Agencies**
 - Advantage: Institutional history of youth engagement
 - Challenge: Lack of direct contact to City Council

Emeryville

General Plan Update Committee (GPUC)

- Basic Info
 - Since 2005, GPUC meets in City Hall
 - Planning commissioners, Emeryville Residents
 - Once a month, Meetings are three hours
- Youth Participation
 - Youth have held 2 seats on committee since 2007
 - Y-PLAN Alumni



Emeryville - GPUC

- Successes
 - First youth placed on civic committee in Emeryville
 - Y-PLAN alumni take next step in participation
- Challenges
 - Came into process late
 - Long meetings
 - Transportation issues
 - Long term planning process, not as tangible results
 - Unfamiliar with material, no adult ally support
 - Is there committee buy in?

Emeryville – GPUC Recommendations

- Short Term
 - Transportation stipend
 - Proper introduction to GPUC (icebreaker, tour, etc.)
 - Shorter time requirement for youth participants (2 hours)
 - Key staff and/or committee-member to review material with before / after the meetings
 - Signed contract with Committee members?
- Long Term
 - Start youth participation at beginning of next process

Emeryville – City-School Committee

- Basic Info

- Since 2005, Committee meets in Emery Secondary School atrium
- School Board members, City Council members
- Meetings are once a month, 1.5 hours



- Youth Participation

- 2 seats on City-School Committee for youth
- 1 Emeryville resident, 1 ESS student
- Students just started (1 meeting)

Emeryville – City-School Committee

- Successes
 - Mentor meets with students each week
 - City employee reviews / adjusts agenda with students
 - Members of the committee have offered to advise students
 - Meetings are conveniently located (at school)
- Challenges
 - Clear understanding of committee objectives
 - Difficulty in recruiting youth to meet requirements
 - Continuity into next year (graduating seniors)
 - Risk of assigning young people too many tasks
 - Ensure comfortable dialogue with City Officials

Emeryville – City-School Committee Recommendations

- Short Term
 - Outline student role after first year of participation
 - Continue meetings with mentors / city representatives
- Long Term
 - Make sure youth input is taken into consideration and implemented
 - Students assist in transition with next year's representatives

Respondents

Angela Gallegos-Castillo, City of Berkeley

Stephen Wesley, Emery Unified School District