

Youth

Introduction

During the recent Reality Check Workshops, topical experts and members of the public worked together in small groups to examine a particular topic in-depth. During the two-hour workshops they worked with a trained facilitator to complete the following exercises:

- 1) Review of Ideas. Participants reviewed all of the ideas related to their topic that were collected during the community Idea Gathering Sessions.
- 2) Critical Questions. Participants engaged in a discussion of two Critical Questions, which had been identified by the *Vision for Staten Island* Steering Committee. The facilitator recorded the results of the discussion on flipchart paper, and then helped the group summarize major areas of agreement and disagreement.
- 3) Implementation Recommendations. At the end of the discussion period, each participant wrote down two practical, specific strategies or implementation steps to help Staten Island achieve its vision for their topic.

The results from the Youth group are provided below. Note that responses have been recorded verbatim, and some errors may remain due to handwriting legibility. Responses are numbered for reference purposes only; this does not indicate any sense of priority.

Critical Question 1:

What are the most significant needs that must be addressed for Staten Island's youth population? Consider the different needs of various age groups.

1. Need safe fun place to be
2. Youth center where they can feel comfortable
3. Summer Jobs (paid or unpaid) to keep them busy
4. Tutoring programs
5. Dangers of teen drivers (texting and phones)
6. Need to be encouraged to volunteer in their communities and other diverse communities
7. Self esteem building programs
8. More arts and culture available to them
9. Social guidance for college or work
10. Youth mentorship or apprenticeship programs
11. Job training skills

Critical Question 1 SUMMARY:

1. One centralized program facility to address multiple youth concerns
2. Satellite – use the local not for profits and volunteers – older youth help run and get on the job training
3. Need to coordinate transportation
4. Marketing
5. Risk or at risk

Critical Question 2:

What facilities or programs would provide safe havens for youth and encourage them to engage in positive community life? You may address existing facilities and programs or suggest new ones.

1. Social preparation for college
2. Mentoring to address day to day issues of youth
3. Colleges be more open to their facilities
4. Environmental – natural programs – marketed better
5. Arts – but at attractable level – music, film, photography
6. Open mike to bring people who the kids will listen to
7. Need to battle attrition in existing programs
8. Strong program
9. Interaction create network to communicate
10. Adaptability

Critical Question 2 SUMMARY:

1. Need for more collaboration
2. Program adaptability
3. Diversity

Implementation Recommendations:

Consider the draft vision statement, the ideas gathered from the public, and your group's discussion of critical questions. Please recommend two practical, specific strategies or implementation steps that you would recommend to help Staten Island achieve its vision for your topic.

1. Need to have more facilities available to children and teens. Funding must be provided
2. Better promotion must be provided. Children must be reared to include in the teaching as they get older
3. Immediate attention to the youth/practical 1. Diversity in programs offered Island-wide this will foster community empowerment; 2. Youth opportunities – employment, art, apprenticeship, job training
4. Community center one stop shop that provides whole training to the complete community that provides economic empowerment, youth empowerment, cultural awareness
5. The ability for youth programs to change and adapt
6. Make sure marketing actually appears to teens and catches their eye
7. Create a site on multiple sites which have multiple programs for youth of different ages. Make it a place they feel comfortable in and a way to improve the integration of diverse groups on the island
8. Try to get different groups on the island to work together to improve and market program opportunities to a greater extent
9. More diverse and adaptable programming. Better networking between youth service organizations
10. Better and/or more facilities for teen/youth programming especially on the North Shore
11. Create one centralized facility resource center for our youth. Diverse programs
12. Collaboration between agencies, community centers, etc. S.T.R.O.N.G. program NYC Parks and Rec (Swimming, Training, Running, Outreach, Nature, Giving back)
13. Resource Center = Diverse programs, branch out to satellites
14. Collaboration with non-profits
15. People who will commit to ongoing panel of organizations that are open to sitting with one another and truly supporting a solid future. Find what they are good at and do it. Share the process, stop recreating the wheel
16. Talk to youth, hear them, build a space for them, come together so we can partner them in successful life skills and experience

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