Creating a Youth-Friendly City: It’s Not Just About the Money

PRESENTER
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Youth-friendly cities:
It’s not just about the money. It’s also about...

In the long-term: Shifting culture

In the medium- to short-term: Focusing on...
• Policy
• Infrastructure
• Programs
• Resources
MEANINGFUL YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Key elements of meaningful youth engagement

• Believe that youth are capable of helping local government create a better community
• Clearly identify the role of and level of power young people will have in the process
• Create an infrastructure that provides ongoing training and support for the youth
• Listen, listen, listen

➢ BOTTOM LINE: IT TAKES WORK!

You don’t have to cede power to youth all the time nor is ceding power always a good thing!
Sacramento Youth Commission & Sacramento City Council Joint Meeting
June 9, 2020

Discussion of a framework on how CARES Act funding should be allocated to address the needs of youth and children

CLIP #1: Sacramento Youth Commissioner Erickson
CLIP #2: Sacramento Youth Commissioner Galvez
CLIP #3: Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg
Meaningful youth engagement can happen at any level of government.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

- Launched in 2019
- Encourages a two-way learning path for youth of the region and SACOG
- Provides participants with an opportunity to gain more in-depth knowledge about local government, planning, and an overall interest in the public sector as a possible career
- Provides SACOG with the opportunity to hear from youth on regional needs and be an avenue for more inclusive dialogues
When do we know that we have achieved success?

When elected officials ....

- do not have to ask if city staff have consulted with youth (in Sacramento, our Youth Commission).

- are no longer surprised by the insights and abilities of youth as they engage in policymaking.

Guiding questions for discussion

- What have you done in your city to make it more youth-friendly?

- What opportunities do you see in your city to make it more youth-friendly? What is keeping you from moving forward with these opportunities?

- How would you rate the level of engagement of youth in your city’s policymaking (scale of 1-5 with 1 – poor and 5 – excellent)? (or Where would you position your city on Hart’s Ladder?)

- What opportunities exist in your city to engage youth more deeply in policymaking? What is keeping you from moving forward with these opportunities?