

Youth Services Framework

June 13, 2022

Background

- ▶ The City has invested in youth experiencing vulnerabilities since 1979
- ▶ Transition of services to align with municipal model
- ▶ Commitment to supporting youth upstream



Purpose of Review

- ▶ Re-think City investment in youth development that aligns with other social sector support models
- ▶ Focus on services that compliment existing community assets
- ▶ Align and support other youth related City initiatives and priorities
- ▶ Continue to invest in youth with the same purpose as KYFS funding

Alignment

- ▶ Community Safety Plan
- ▶ Journey Home Strategy
- ▶ Draft Central Okanagan Poverty & Wellness Strategy



Youth Services Framework

- ▶ Contracted Urban Matters to conduct research and engagement
 - ▶ Goals
 - ▶ Gain an understanding of what programs and services exist for youth in Kelowna
 - ▶ Identify any gaps or barriers to access services
 - ▶ Review other municipal approaches to supporting youth upstream
 - ▶ Engage youth, create positive change and build resiliency
 - ▶ Development took place from August 2021 to March 2022

Engagement

- ▶ Exploration and reflection of the multiple intersecting aspects of a community.
- ▶ Understanding community needs and determining possible avenues for action required input from:
 - ▶ multiple people,
 - ▶ multiple sources of data,
 - ▶ gathering a broad understanding of the pieces which can affect people's experiences, and
 - ▶ experiences related to how systems and structures function in the community.

Engagement

| Engagement Method | Number of Engagements | Who was Engaged? |
|---|----------------------------|---|
| Promising Practice Scan of Youth Services among Local Governments | 5 Interviews | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calgary • Vancouver • Surrey • New Westminister • Maple Ridge |
| Youth Engagement –Focus Groups | 4 Youth Groups | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Westbank First Nation Youth Council • Okanagan Boys and Girls Club Downtown • Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society • Kelowna Youth Art Council |
| Youth Serving Organization Interviews | 22 Organization Interviews | |

Promising practices

- ▶ Relationship based approach
- ▶ Engage youth at every step of the way
- ▶ Ensure consistency in youth services
- ▶ Provide designated youth spaces



Key findings

Youth are ideally situated to:

- ▶ Support the development of policy and engage in planning concerning urban environments
- ▶ Educate peers and the community on safety, health, and wellness-related issues
- ▶ Monitor and improve natural environments and community infrastructure

Priority Objectives

- ▶ Increase opportunities for programs and safe spaces for youth
- ▶ Strengthen the youth serving system through community collaboration
- ▶ Engaging, enabling and supporting youth development



Action items

- ▶ Increase opportunities for programs and safe spaces for youth
 - ▶ Navigation support
 - ▶ Low barrier programs
 - ▶ Training and resources for staff
- ▶ Strengthen the youth serving system through community collaboration
 - ▶ Convene youth serving organization network
 - ▶ Build capacity within local organizations
- ▶ Engaging, enabling and supporting youth development
 - ▶ Youth Strategy
 - ▶ Build community connection and resiliency

Guiding principles

- ▶ Not about me without me
- ▶ Focus on assets
- ▶ Apply a systems change approach
- ▶ Focus on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
- ▶ Embrace cultural diversity
- ▶ Take a relationship-based approach
- ▶ Ensure consistency in services



Budget

- ▶ The existing youth services budget is approximately \$212,000
 - ▶ Youth navigator role and program delivery staff
 - ▶ Program development
 - ▶ Youth serving organization network
 - ▶ Youth Strategy development and implementation
- ▶ Additional budget requests may come in future years to support further implementation of the youth strategy



City of

Kelowna

Questions?