

VANCOUVER'S OLYMPIC YOUTH LEGACY FRAMEWORK

The Legacy Vision

Vancouver's youth are active, healthy and engaged in a wide range of athletic and cultural activities that nurture their mind, body and spirit.

Statement of Purpose

The 2010 Olympic Games are a catalyst for bringing the health and well-being of Vancouver's youth to the front and centre of the civic agenda.

Key Messages

- **Imagine:** Create a vision for the holistic development of Vancouver's youth
- **Inspire:** Spark interest and tap into the passions of youth, particularly those not currently involved in athletic or cultural activity
- **Include:** Engage community stakeholders, including youth, in collaboratively developed, community-driven activities
- **Investigate:** Explore effective models and practices to push the creative envelope
- **Implement:** Pilot and evaluate projects that expand access to art and sport

Guiding Principles

A Holistic Approach to Health

Olympic Youth Legacy initiative acknowledges that youth health is promoted when they are involved in any of a diverse range of activities (sports and fitness, arts and culture, recreation) that enable them to identify and build on their unique interests, passions and skills and experience socially supportive environments.

Inclusion and Access

The primary purpose of the Initiative is to expand access to arts and sports activities for those youth who do not currently access existing opportunities for healthy development (for a range of reasons). The work of the Legacy Initiative is to catalyze creativity and innovation that enable youth and youth serving systems to better support diverse youth to access these opportunities.

Innovation and Creativity

The Legacy Initiative will provide research around the role of arts and sports in promoting health, examples of how arts and sports projects have been used to enable diverse groups of youth to access opportunities for healthy development and training on how to creatively respond to support youth in Vancouver.

Collaboration and Partnership

Youth and adults around Vancouver are using arts and sports to give youth opportunities to build their skills, access social support and develop their own unique skills. The Legacy Initiative is committed to building on this vast range of existing work, identifying new opportunities and bringing in new partners.

Youth and Community-driven Process

Within each of the funding streams set up by the staff group, the lead staff person will work with community partners to set up a community involvement process related to fund prioritization and allocation. Training will be provided to youth and youth workers around how to involve youth in the design, delivery and evaluation of projects, including through focused participatory action research projects.

Active Participation

The Legacy Initiative is emphasizing the importance of active, rather than passive, youth participation for example, playing street hockey instead of watching hockey, or designing a play rather than just watching one. While the passive and active may feed into each other, the active element must be present in funded activities.

Systemic Organizational Change

The Olympic Youth Legacy initiative will have a training stream to support people who work with youth to alter the types of services they provide, and the way they involve youth in that process.

Sustainability of New Programs Over Time

Vancouver has a rich variety of supports to youth, many of whom use arts and sports, and many of whom engage diverse youth populations. The challenge is to build the capacity of existing youth serving systems and to sustainably support pilots that may identify effective ways to fill gaps.

Evidence-based Practices

The Legacy Initiative will prioritize projects and activities that can demonstrate that they have had an impact on improving the ability of youth from diverse backgrounds to promote their healthy social development through accessing arts and sports activities.

Context

We do a lot already - the City promotes the health and well-being of youth through a range of programs, services and facilities

There are many active youth - 42% of youth are engaged in activities which promote optimal social, cognitive and physical growth and development

It's not enough - current opportunities do not meet the diverse needs and interest of the majority of youth

We can do more - thru Vancouver's Olympic Youth Legacy Framework

OLYMPIC YOUTH LEGACY ACTION PLAN: PROGRAMS

New Program Ideas: September 2004-March 2005

A number of pilot programs have been identified under three categories, including city programs, grants to youth and community partnership grants:

Each of the three funding streams will require its own advisory process to ensure transparency and fit with program criteria, and to ensure age-appropriateness and relevance to youth. Each stream will target youth of different ages. For example, "late nite" skating and other 'cold fun activity' will likely appeal to the younger end of the age spectrum, from age 9/10 to 15/16; while grants to youth will be for 13/14 and older, and the Participatory Action Research may be ideal for even older youth beyond secondary school-age, and the community partnerships may target a different subgroup again.

Sport and Physical Activity Program Proposals:

- Late Nite Youth Ice Skating - Friday or Saturday evenings at one location
- Olympic Ice Painting Project - youth from around the city work with artists to design, create and present ice paintings in rinks
- Athletes in Residence - over a three-month period, potential Olympians infuse excitement in the value of sport
- Young Artists in Residence - artists work collaboratively with youth, in and out of school, to identify issues and interests that will form the bases of art projects
- Outdoor Explorations - urban youth will be provided with opportunities to experience new activities in natural outdoor settings
- Cold Fun Winter Sports - broomball, curling, ringette, sledge hockey
- Active Arts - in different times and places, hi-hop, taiko drumming, break dancing and stilt walking artists will lead activities
- Mad Skillz and Drillz - skill development for soccer, basketball, baseball and football

Grants to Youth Program

In keeping with the guiding principles for the Legacy, this component will be jointly developed with youth and community organizations. It will encourage and support youth-led cultural activity that builds on existing interests and sees young people include less engaged peers in the development of projects. While initiatives are expected to include film, new media, spoken word, dance, theatre, and other art forms, they may also encompass social change activities that include cooking, gardening and other community activities.

Community Partnership Programs

This component is intended to encourage and facilitate community partnerships between two or more agencies, with priority given to involving youth in idea, design, implementation and evaluation. The City and Park Board will work collaboratively on initiatives that follow Legacy principles.