Youth Voice in Philanthropic Leadership
Evaluation of the TCE President’s Youth Council

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Overview

- Data
- Evaluation of the goals of the PYC
- Importance of group dynamics
- Suggestions for moving forward
Data

- Survey of PYC Members
- Focus group with PYC members
- Interviews with PYC Members
- Interviews with PYC Coordinators and TCE staff
- Interview with Dr. Ross
1. **Serve as advisory body for the President**
   - Thought partner & incubator of ideas

2. **Function as ambassadors for youth**

3. **Offer mentoring and leadership development opportunities**
The PYC has provided Dr. Ross with:
• timely, candid perspectives regarding the BHC strategy;
• connections to and reminders of the very serious health-related challenges experienced by low-income youth;
• the motivation to try out new ideas;
• the inspiration to continue working on behalf of the health, well-being, and leadership of young people.
The PYC has directly and indirectly contributed to TCE’s:

- Significant investment in social justice efforts to improve the health and well-being of low-income youth;
- Media strategy targeting youth;
- Wellness outreach and education.

Note: The demonstrated success of on-the-ground youth-led efforts play a major role in driving TCE’s investment in youth.
Dr. Ross takes seriously the ideas and perspectives of PYC members
I have a voice in the work of the PYC
The PYC contributes to TCE’s broader efforts to improve health in CA
To varying degrees, PYC members serve in an ambassadorial capacity by:

- Representing PYC, their communities, youth
- Liaison to Born This Way and other foundations.
- Speaking at community and other events
- Communicating with TCE staff
- Serving as liaisons to BHC and other TCE affiliated youth-led efforts

Note: PYC members’ capacities to serve in the ambassadorial role have sometimes been limited by time, personal, or circumstantial constraints.
I feel comfortable sharing the work of the PYC with the public.
Mentorship & Leadership Opportunities

- Direct mentorship, guidance, and support of Dr. Ross and PYC Staff
- PYC as a support network
- Professional networking
- Professional development and skill building
- A deepened investment in healing and self-care
- Understanding how large foundations work

Note: The PYC is an important element of the youth leadership development pipeline.
I have expanded my leadership skills as a result of my PYC involvement.
Being involved in the PYC is a productive use of my time
The Importance of Group Dynamics to the Success of the PYC

- Dr. Ross’s commitment to hearing and responding to authentic youth voice
- PYC members’ diversity and their range of leadership skills
- Team building, trust, and openness for growth
- Outstanding group facilitation and effective logistical coordination
- Growing intentional efforts to improve coordination with TCE staff, BHC youth-led campaigns, and other TCE-funded youth programming across the state.

NOTE: It is important to recognize that TCE has devoted significant financial resources for PYC meetings, activities, coordination, and stipends.
PYC retreats and meetings advance the goals of the PYC
Suggestions for the Future

1. Regenerating the leadership pipeline.

2. Continue the ongoing leadership and engagement of current PYC members.

3. Consider recalibrating stipend to match experience and time commitment.
Regenerating the leadership pipeline

- Maintain geographic and demographic diversity of PYC members
- Continue to select members with strong leadership skills
- Ensure that PYC members maintain strong ties to BHC and other TCE supported youth programming and campaigns
- Lower the average age of PYC members
Continue the ongoing leadership and engagement of current PYC members

- Veteran members can train new members
- Veteran members can play a role in guiding and facilitating the group
- Develop a PYC network that includes current and alumni members
- Consider how PYC & Alumni can serve as a resource to continue developing the BHC youth work and building a statewide youth movement.
Recalibrating Stipend

- PYC is different from other boards because it entails significant youth leadership and mentorship (PYC members benefit)
- PYC stipend greatly exceeds stipends offered in other TCE supported youth programs
- To recognize leadership, stipend should be somewhat greater than hourly rate of TCE-funded youth jobs (or PYC members’ jobs)
- Consider varying stipend levels based on time commitment
- Reasonable stipend will make PYC sustainable and replicable
Conclusion

- The PYC can continue to build on its success in advising the TCE president, serving as Ambassadors for Youth, and supporting the ongoing leadership of its members.

- Moving forward, the PYC can contribute to the cohesion of BHC efforts and a growing statewide youth movement.

- PYC members can help keep TCE aligned with and accountable to youth-led efforts across the state.

- The PYC serves as a model for injecting youth voice and perspective into the leadership of philanthropic organizations.
Questions & Reactions
Next Steps

- Writing a short article that can be published in the *Chronicle of Philanthropy* or other venue.

- Take feedback from the PYC and incorporate it into a short research report that highlights the goals, structure, and contributions of the PYC.

  ✓ The short research report will target TCE staff, BHC-affiliates, and philanthropic organizations.