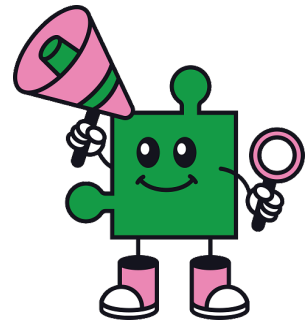


GCC Youth Voice Council

1- What is the GCC Youth Voice Council?

An intergenerational team led by youth to advocate for improvements to GCC programs through data-informed evaluation projects.

Our goal is that the GCC Youth Voice Council (YVC) members feel empowered as leaders, develop expertise, access academic language, and practice evaluation to prioritize community and youth voice to shape GCC programs.



2- Why is this important and valuable for GCC?

- GCC learns things we wouldn't normally think about and increase our capacity to do evaluation work with reliability
- We get valuable input from youth so GCC knows what's going on in our community
- A group that cares about the interpersonal things happening
- Safe spaces to have a voice and make change
- A tool to keep programming relevant to what the community wants/needs
- Nothing about them without them- we have better programming when it is informed by those impacted

3- How do we spend our time?

YVC works on a semester calendar to complete two PBL (project based learning) projects in a school year. These include projects chosen by youth for the purpose of advocating for their larger GCC community, projects requested by GCC staff to inform their work, and projects requested by the GCC Strategy Department to support in regular evaluation efforts.

PBL focuses on building skills through the process of creating vs learning to then create after. This means YVC has regular training to help youth develop the skills for the next step in their project, as well

as regular reflection time to process what they learn and want to improve on.

To achieve this, YVC meets once a week for 2 hour meetings to complete PBL evaluation projects, participate in leadership training, and amplify community and youth voices.

4- How does YVC develop leadership skills?

As part of the Teenworks job-training program, youth develop critical employability skills. Below is a chart of specific ways youth leaders will grow those skills while working in YVC.

What specific leadership skills will youth practice and grow in YVC?

- a. **MMSD Employability Skill: Shows initiative and self-direction**
 - i. understand and utilize youth voice, agency and leadership
 - ii. Goal setting and inward evaluation
 - iii. Takes ownership of space, materials, and operations
- b. **MMSD Employability Skill: Demonstrates Integrity**
 - i. collect data and community voice to inform both youth and adult leaders at GCC
- c. **MMSD Employability Skill: Collaborates with Others**
 - i. Facilitation skills
 - ii. Active listening
- d. **MMSD Employability Skill: Communicates effectively with others**
 - i. Visual communication skills: data visualization, ways to present information that grab attention
 - ii. Verbal communication skills: public speaking
 - iii. Written communication skills
- e. **MMSD Employability Skill: Applies job-related technology, information, and media**
 - i. Data collection and analysis skills [with an emphasis on qualitative data that youth feel passionate about]

5- How do we make this youth-led?

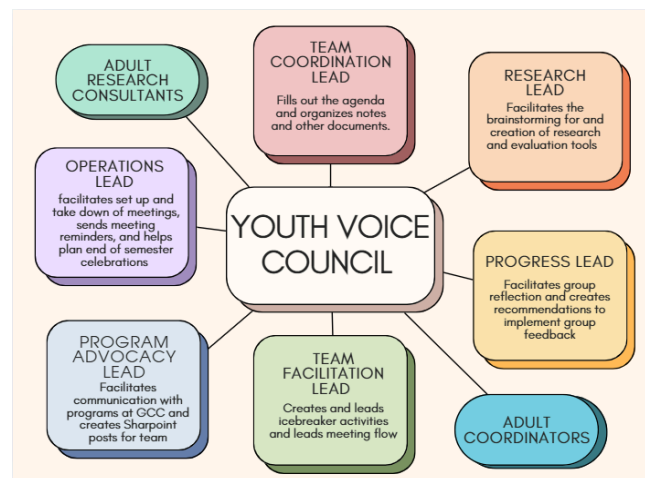
YVC has 6 core leadership roles that youth take on based on their interest and ability. These core members commit to attending and

taking ownership of a role for at least 1 semester. Additional Teenworks members participate based on availability and interest.

To be eligible for most leadership roles, youth have to commit to attending weekly meetings and agree to carry out all responsibilities for that leadership role. For the Team Facilitation Lead and Research Lead roles, veteran members (those who have participated in at least 1 prior project) will be favored.

The leadership roles include:

1. Facilitation Lead
 - Creates and leads icebreaker activities and leads meeting flow
2. Team Coordination Lead
 - Fills out the agenda and organizes notes and other documents.
3. Research Lead
 - Facilitates the brainstorming for and creation of research and evaluation tools
4. Progress Lead
 - Facilitates group reflection and creates recommendations to implement group feedback
5. Program Advocacy Lead
 - Facilitates communication with programs at GCC and creates Sharepoint posts for team
6. Operations Lead
 - facilitates set up and take down of meetings, sends meeting reminders, and helps plan end of semester celebrations



6- How do adults fit into this group?

Adult support for this group includes Adult Coordinators and Adult Research Consultants. Adult staff are present to assist in acquiring resources and figuring out logistics of PBL projects, plan training, and consult on projects so that youth leadership is best informed and empowered.

The GCC Strategy Department works closely with YVC to offer evaluation-specific training and support.

