

Collaborating with Young People

Wednesday afternoon 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Young people have valuable insights and perspectives to contribute to improving their communities, and we all benefit when youth are equipped with the skills needed to identify strengths and explore solutions to societal problems. Unfortunately, youth are often left out of data collection and decision-making processes. NNIP's 2019 publication [Mobilizing Youth: Engaging Young People in Making Community Change](#) documented past ways partners supported youth voices, demonstrating one of our goals to improve use of data in advancing racial equity: to incorporate community voice and collaborate with residents on research design, data collection, interpretation, and dissemination.

Today, NNIP Partners continue to take innovative approaches to engaging young people, introducing youth to the power of data in organizing, planning, and advocacy as places recover from the pandemic and plan for the future. Advice from these partners includes following student's curiosity and sourcing funding to compensate youth for their time and work. We know that partners have different organizational and community contexts and need to consider how this may fit into their strategies for using data to advance equity.

The purpose of this session is to share a variety of experiences of local partner organizations who engage youth with data and to encourage other partners to consider how they can contribute directly or indirectly to lifting up youth voices.

In this panel, three speakers will share their perspectives on engaging youth in their cities. **Marc McAleavey** from the Polis Center in Indianapolis will moderate the session. After the short presentations, we will have an opportunity for the audience to ask questions and discuss what they learned at their tables.

- **Victor Amaya** from Data You Can Use in Milwaukee will start us off by sharing lessons from their “data chats,” a series of discussions about the accuracy and impact of quantitative data on the lives of Black youth and possibilities for supporting the development of resources to support Black youth.
- **Kate Eikel** from Connecticut Data Collaborative in Hartford will describe their experiences in the Youth Data Fellows program, which provides young people with the tools and experience they need to create a project to analyze data about their communities.
- **David Harris** and **Jacob Virges** (Oakland) will discuss the Deeply Rooted Fellows program that supports the city's 2045 [General Plan](#) through researching young people's aspirations for the city and challenges young people face, alongside their proposed solutions.

Discussion:

- Do you have examples of engaging young people with data in your own cities?

- What new roles could your organization play in engaging youth in collecting and applying data for community action, whether directly or collaborating with organizations that do?
 - What would the benefits be? What are the barriers do you see to getting involved?
- How can we engage youth to redefine our concepts and indicators of youth development and wellbeing?
- What are potential activities on youth engagement that could form the basis of a cross-site project and provide examples for NNIP partner cities and other places?

Strategic Framework Connections:

Goals:

- National networks, organizations, and agencies actively promote and invest in the use of data influenced by NNIP values and examples.
- A stronger and expanded NNIP network supports influence and impact in NNIP cities and nationally.

Strategies:

- Expand the roles and engagement opportunities of NNIP Network members.
- Strengthen the exchange between the network and Urban Institute experts and offices.
- Increase visibility and understanding of the network's values, approach, and insights among our target audiences.
- Resource the plan with diversified funding.

Resources:

[Youth Data Fellows](#) | Hartford Data Collaborative

[Twenty Local Youth Selected to Lead Youth Outreach for Oakland General Plan Update](#) | City of Oakland & Urban Strategies

[Black Youth Achievement in Milwaukee](#) | Data You Can Use

[Youth Engagement in Policy, Research, and Practice](#) | Urban Institute

- Toolkit covers various methods of youth engagement, the benefits of youth engagement, various tools for youth engagement, questions to ask yourself before, during, and after youth engagement, and if youth engagement is the right fit for your project