

Philadelphia 2019 Convening: Through Your Eyes



Just last week we came together in Philadelphia to share, learn, and advance our collective mission of creating pathways for opportunity youth in employment, education, and civic life. We continue to be in awe of your insights, your dedication, and your progress in this work. Here we present to you the story of the Opportunity Youth Forum Spring 2019 Convening, through your own eyes.

Please take some time to scroll through the pictures and social media posts that capture these moments. And in case you missed it, we've included videos of the plenary sessions for your viewing pleasure.

Day 1: Site Visits and Opening Reception Featuring Kat Choreography

On Tuesday, April 23, convening participants scattered throughout Philadelphia to participate in site visits to city programs to gain a deeper understanding of place-based strategies, pathway designs, lessons, and challenges in developing and/or deepening comprehensive pathways for opportunity youth.



Here a convening participant is spackling at the Provision of Grace Church, YouthBuild Philadelphia Charter School project site.

YouthBuild's mission is to empower young adults (18-20-year-olds) to develop skills and connect to opportunities by fostering an environment of love, support, and respect for their whole person. The Charter School's rigorous curriculum combines an intensive academic course load with hands-on vocational skills training.



That evening at the opening reception at Comcast Technology Center, York-Pennsylvania based dance troupe, Kat Choreography, brought the entertainment in the form of an exciting dance performance.





Dancers in the Kat Choreography troupe showcase their dance skills during the opening reception.

Day 2: Talking Justice During Opening Plenary + Concurrent Sessions

The early morning plenary drew plenty of attendees with Larry Krasner, Philadelphia District Attorney, delivering a stirring keynote address about the needed changes in the youth justice system.

Andrew Moore and 1 other Retweeted



The Aspen Institute ② @AspenInstitute · Apr 24

"We think that the entire criminal justice system should be more like the juvenile system...the purpose of the juvenile system is to rehabilitate," says @philadao Larry Krasner.

Watch live: aspeninstitute.org/events/forum-f... #OYF



Larry was later joined onstage by Keir Bradford-Grey, Chief Defender, Defender Association of Philadelphia, and Kevin Bethel, Fellow, Philadelphia Police School Diversion Program, in a conversation moderated by Forum for Community Solutions Chair Melody Barnes.



To watch the full plenary, including Larry's keynote address, click here:



The day continued with concurrent and deep dive sessions on a myriad of convening topics, including fostering career pathways for Philadelphia's opportunity youth, law enforcement's role in reducing the school-to-prison pipeline, healing-centered leadership for opportunity youth, and more.



Activity Feed Post

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Taihra Jones

Apr 24, 2019

Shared from Integrating Healing-Centered Approaches into Pathways



Presenter Dr. Ginsberg who was my adolescent



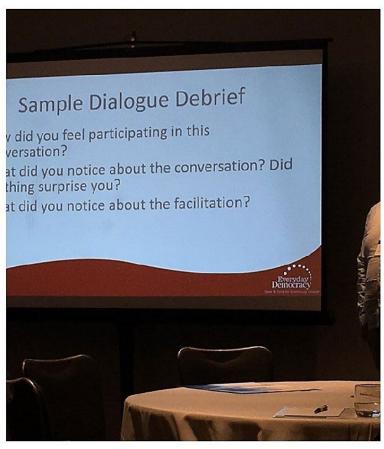
Event Feed SocialWall Notifications



Kım Oliver

Apr 24, 2019

Shared from Dialogue to Change: Organizing and Facilitating Community Dialogues

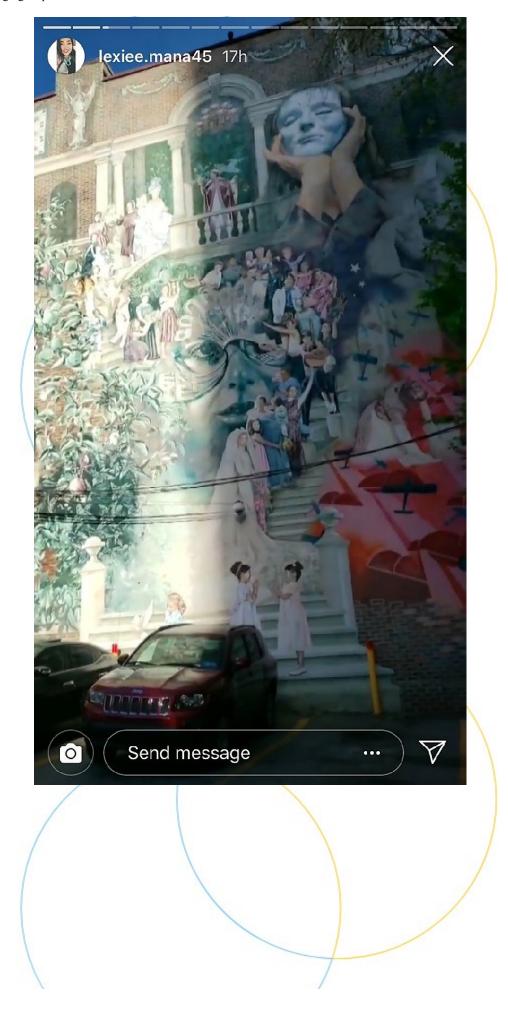


Thank you to those who participated in the sample dialogue with authenticity and courage.





After a long day, convening attendees took a stroll around Philadelphia during a mile-long mural walk.



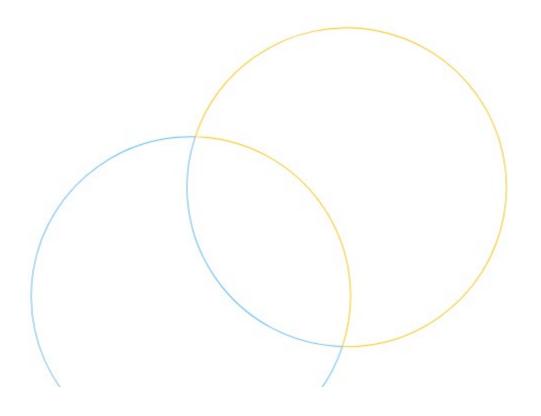




Participants of the mural walk gather to take a picture in front of one of the murals.

Final Day: Connecting Youth in Philly and Continued Learning Sessions

Chekemma Fulmore-Townsend, President and CEO of the Philadelphia Youth Network, moderated a discussion about systems to align opportunity youth in Philadelphia, with local leaders H. Patrick Clancy, President and CEO of Philadelphia Works; Justin D. Davis, Human Resources Manager of Gap Inc.; Sheila Ireland, Executive Director, City of Philadelphia Office of Workforce Development; Cheryl Feldman, Executive Director, District 1199C Training & Upgrading Fund, and Dr. Donald Generals, President of the Community College of Philadelphia.







Shanice Turner

6 days ago

Shared from Morning Plenary: Building a Workforce System for Young Adults in Philadelphia





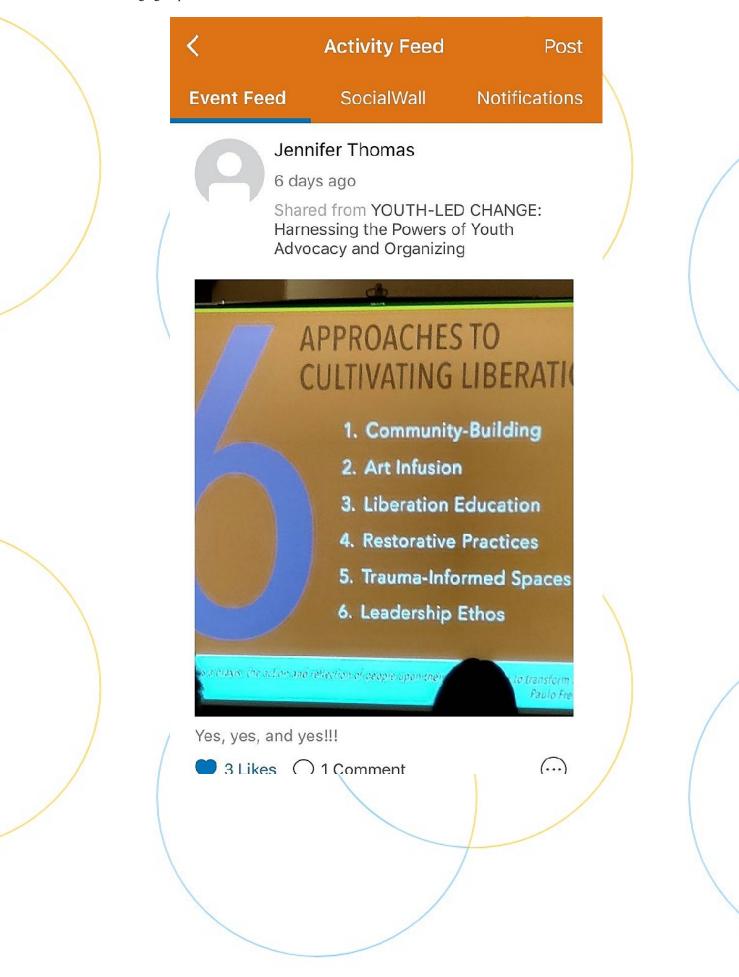


To watch the entire discussion click here:



Concurrent Sessions for Learning and Sharing

The final day continued with several concurrent sessions that covered a range of topics including the power of youth advocacy, inclusive practices for LGBTQIA populations, and creating opportunities for all youth.





Forum for Community Solutions @AspenFCS · Apr 25
Learning more about the Philly context during a Thursday concurrent session.



Closing Plenary: Fireside Chat with Lisa Hamilton, President and CEO of Annie E. Casey Foundation

Among her comments, Lisa discussed the importance of listening to youth, and the power of youth-led change.



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Thank you to all of our partners, collaborators, youth leaders and funders for making this convening a success. We hope to see you in Aspen this coming fall. Until then!

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