

LBCAY Stakeholders' Meeting 12/12/2023
Long Branch Community Center
Meeting Notes

Present: Kent, Seble, Lisa, Anthea, Vanesa, Randy Drury, Matthew, Denise, Alize, Jacob- Identity, 2 people from Parks & Rec

We had a brief recap of the last quarter of 2023, showing the P4L survey results, and the projects that students presented at their final and 7th session.

Matthew gave a recap: The "Financial Literacy" program was for 7th-12th graders, was Tuesdays 3.30-5.30 pm for 6 sessions with a 7th session that was the final presentation. Kids learn financial literacy through both the factual approach and through spiritual values about money. About 35 members of the community and families came to the presentation. There were 14 students at the initial class and 12 who completed up to the final class.

Jacob gave a recap of Identity's role in the second part of this after-school session, which was entitled "College Readiness". He had 10-12 students a week. They looked at scholarships, universities in the area, dual enrollment, resumes, conflict resolution. He used games as an approach for them to become involved. The final class is December 21, 2023.

Vanesa described how for the 3rd year consecutively a college tour was offered for students. They arranged bus transportation from NHEES to Montgomery College. Gloria, the Community Liaison at the school, who connects the kids as well as interested adults with the college, led the tour. There were about 20 participants mostly from high school, Blair, some from Middle School. Two college students were invited to share their experiences. It was very good. People could see the facility and the Arts Center as well as the Financial Aid Center.

Alize was asked to comment on her observations of the class and the college trip. She said: "It's all been very useful. The financial literacy really trains you how to think about money." Bank accounts are so useful, she learned all about them in her project and even took this information home to her household. There are so many tools that can save you a lot of money. There are internships. The MC field trip was great, and it was free!!! Students shared what to do, what not to do. She is very grateful. She has more clarity and she appreciates the whole team.

Vanesa added that it was very good that the kids took home very good information to their families from the financial literacy class.

Lisa spoke about the "Don't Pollute" program. CHEER ran a program with Nature Forward for about a year. Before that she had worked with N.F. to engage community learning about streams and what life lives in the area. This year they have worked with teens, working with different partners, including EPA, Montgomery Parks, Anacostia River Keepers. In their program this year, the students developed some surveys about plastic bags and trash issues in the stream. There were 50 survey responses, it was conducted in the community. Results weren't

what was expected, ie: it seemed people were bringing their own bags, but that is not always happening. So they're doing a followup.

Denise: Social justice integration with their work. Students make posters, posters will be reproduced in larger format into murals for indoors at a school potentially. One option might be podcasting. Of the 3 R's, two additional are Repurpose and Repair! They are looking for projects, making string out of plastic bags for example to use to crochet or for bookmaking or collage.

Then we looked at 4 questions on 4 flipcharts, and participant stakeholders made comments:

1. How do we continue to elevate youth voices in our individual programs?

Youth ambassadors at outreach events and high schools.

Forming student executive boards – waterfall approach of focusing/training student leaders to then have them lead and train their peers. And to be a group that organizations can call upon for feedback and guidance.

Yes!

Yes!

2. How do we provide meaningful opportunities for engaging youth as part of the LBCAY process moving forward and how do we expand participation to include new youth?

Consider partnering with school clubs for defined projects for more engaged youth, ie: Difference Makers, Climate Action Club.

Promote more group discussion with the participants (youth)

Send home thank you letters to participants – letters of support, recommendation letters whenever needed.

3. What are the potential benefits for your organization to participate in LBCAYA and how can we engage more stakeholders?

Providing assistance on directions to take (eg. After school programs)

Have stakeholders share their own work and mission statements, not just the names of their organizations and who they are.

Possibly change meeting times to accommodate different schedules

Have meetings in different locations (eg. CPBC)

Send out meeting info well in advance to get better attendance & participation

Networking/Collaboration (opportunities) - providing for this at meetings
Be collaborators, not competitors – programs & grants
Sharing info with each other
Share lessons learned / experiences.
Partnerships, without re-inventing the wheel!
Collaboration/We can invite other organizations that work with youth in LB to an OPEN HOUSE showing our work so far.

Furthering mission in reaching more community members

4. What are meaningful ways for LBCAY to engage parents in the future.

Parent orientation/debrief nights following youth programs.

Parent dinners for existing programs, community events

Offer parent programs

Bring parents into 1st session & last session/presentation of the results. Very effective.

In preparation for summer job season, do a 6 week session on how to get a job, do mock interviews, present real job descriptions. Have them do role plays among students with each other. Hiring supervisor and student looking for a job.

5. What are other questions should we be asking ourselves?

How can we make collaboration simpler? Logistics.

How to reach out to stakeholders for collaboration, not pigeon-hole them.

CLOSING ROUND

Interesting , would like to know more about other stakeholders

Show questions to other stakeholder/google groups

Feel closer to stakeholders

We all do great alone, but could do even better together

Great questions to keep exploring

Other notes:

Easy to feel overwhelmed with work but happy to have support of stakeholders

Hopeful! We can do more at organizational level coming together for whole community.
Appreciate being here and learning more about others. Assumed everyone knew each other.
Fresh re-start is good. Hopefully we all care about community.
Exemplified by Alize's portion. Alize – first time being here. As a teenager.

Have a page together Instagram page, joint page --- what we do...

(also social media) Who are stakeholders LBCAY as collaborator

Video/montage of programs

Youth run site.

Technology is expanding so using social media/other forms.

More promotion this way

Collaboration partnership is exciting

Like meeting in person

Hopeful that we can grow this work . It's amazing to see people who care coming together (A winter Festival....)