

## **Community Conversation Breakout Session Report-Out Notes**

### **Questions**

1. What does youth success look like?
2. What are the most pressing issues impacting youth in our area today?
3. What gaps and needs exist in the services provided in the area?
4. What can the City of Takoma Park do to facilitate youth success?

### **Breakout Group #1 – High School and Beyond**

#### Question 1

- Preparedness
- Engagement
- Knowledge
- Knowing how to ask for help
- Motivation
- Know how to deal with failure
- Empowerment
- Having a positive life plan/outlook
- Mentorship
- Succeeding in your current place (high school)

#### Questions 2 & 3

- Economic
- Language
- Social pressures (peers/family)
- Cultural acclimation
- Expectations of adults
- Resources
- Parents unaware
- Adult accountability
- Community – “otherizing”
- Lack of diversity of adult relationships
- College prep connections/support
- Sense of responsibility
- Community connection
- Home life
- Parent involvement

#### Question 4

- Ways to market to youth
- Coordination
- Communicating with schools
- Mentor support
- Methodology of marketing

- Partnerships (translation services)
- Liaison between partnerships and parents
- Empowerment – youth/parents
- Teacher resources
- Finances
- Going where the people are

### **Breakout Group #2 – Elementary and below**

#### Question 1

- Different kinds
  - School, home, ect. → graduation, volunteerism
- Goals → happiness, readiness, individualized
- Doing your own thing
  - More programs geared towards individual interests
- In and out of school
  - More variety
- Good quality in school and play time
- Relationships matter → positive, particularly in Takoma Park

#### Questions 2 & 3

- Getting the work out is key
  - Social media
  - Through organizations (MANUP)
  - Individuals (through word of mouth)
- More support for parents → hard to find time; how to do it; reading time important!
- Rewards
- Competing demands and interests
- Competing cultures, as well (at home and with peers)
- School emphasis on academics → magnet programs (too much)
- Takoma Park Elementary School over-crowded
  - Bias in County against Takoma Park schools → don't take account of quickest distribution and need
- Students from other cultures → left on their own to find out what they need to know
  - Language barriers of parents from different cultures
  - Translation services needed

#### Question 4

- More parent forums needed
- Parent education important
- City website to address translation
  - Library catalog and public computers
- Cultural barriers for parents
  - Inhibit advocacy
- Walking field trips to learn about City services
- Focus on small group learning through outreach

- Working parents → dedicate a week for parent drop-in
- Relationships key – through youth councils, etc.

### **Breakout Group #3 – Middle School**

#### Question 1

- Equal opportunities (Maple and New Hampshire Avenues)
- Being involved
- Rec bus? Expand
- Create spaces where kids feel safe
- More activities
- Leaders to be more informed (cater to all needs)
  - More training
- Sense of belonging
  - Feel invested in community; Include everyone
- Talk and support dreams; Go to them
- Better communication

#### Question 2

- Identify specific needs
- A way to communicate needs/wants, etc.
- Groups for all ages, “like MANUP”
- Mental health and support services
- Youth council
- Advertise through schools
  - Spread the word

#### Question 3

- More funding for camps?
- More opportunities
  - Employment/internship
- Youth helping youth
- Use our youth as outside sources
- Better advertising
- Create a list of all resources available to youth
- Rec career center
- Mental health and support services
- Youth council

#### Question 4

- Emphasize open door policy
- Home life does affect everyday life
- Cater to all needs
- Elected officials showing they care (Going out to homes and schools, apartments)
- Reaching outside the City for funding and partnerships
- “Mayor/Councilmembers” for the day

- Essay competition?
- PTSA
- Money
- Funding programs
- Money to take youth to visit opportunities
- Connect youth
- Partnering with stakeholders
- Coordination with the county
- Internships/apprenticeships