## Rings of Engagement

**PEOPLE**

- **Participation**
  - Young people participate in formal, informal and non-formal activities offering: opportunities to connect with positive people and places; and challenges/s supports that promote growth and development.
  - Benefits/Outcomes: Psychosocial development, Academic achievement, Physical fitness, Mastery of skills, Reduced risk taking, Positive identity, Civic participation, Gateway to other engagement.
  - Boosting Youth Engagement Within Programs: Assess and market existing youth programs & opportunities, Remove barriers to participation, Understand needs/wants of youth (e.g. have fun, time with friends, develop skills, build resume, accomplish something that matters) and create opportunities that appeal to their interests.

- **Passion**
  - Becoming engrossed in or passionate about something, based on experiencing the activity itself as rewarding, regardless of outcome or external rewards. Marked by high levels of attention, concentration, enthusiasm and commitment.
  - Benefits/Outcomes: Life satisfaction, Motivation for continued learning, practice, growth and development, Social approval, gateway to a supportive community, Contributions to social good, Academic achievement.
  - Benefits/Outcomes: Choices re: types/depth of participation, Social opportunities with peers, Authentic relationships with adults, Personal connection/cultural relevance, Clear goals, winnable challenges, immediate feedback, Identify, build on strengths, Opportunities for mastery, leadership, real world contribution, Opportunities for personal reflection.

- **Voice**
  - Young people have opportunities to voice their ideas and have input into programs, policies and practices that affect them.
  - Benefits/Outcomes: Enhanced sense of efficacy/agency, Problem solving, communication, advocacy skills, Academic achievement, Improved programs that get others participating, passionate.
  - Benefits/Outcomes: Authentic opportunities to be heard, have an impact, Avoid tokenism, Report back with impact of youth ideas on policy, practice, Build new perspectives/skills for youth and adults – Active listening, – Appreciating diverse strengths, – Facilitating effective conversations.

- **Collective Action**
  - Youth and adults share decision-making authority as they work together to: a) achieve shared goals within systems; and/or b) change or create new systems.
  - Benefits/Outcomes: Positive civic identity, Sense of collective efficacy, Collaborative planning, decision-making, implementation skills, Critical social consciousness, analysis, Social/political change skills, Ongoing civic engagement, Organization/community change.
  - Benefits/Outcomes: Identify shared passions, Broaden perspectives re: youth/adult roles, relationships, Transparency about roles, authority, responsibilities, Develop and utilize collaborative processes, skills, Develop knowledge/skills re: sociopolitical issues/change, Identify and develop individual strengths within the collective, Stay flexible as issues/dynamics change.

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**PLACES & PROGRAMS**

**AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIPS**

-Theresa K. Sullivan, Rebecca N. Saito, August 2008
 University of Minnesota, Center for Youth Development