

Youth Forum 2.0

Recommendations

work2future Youth Committee Meeting
February 12, 2024

Convening Partners



Purpose of the Youth Forum

Establish a **common vision for an *Opportunity Ecosystem*** capable of reliably helping young people to achieve the education and employment milestones necessary to succeed in the Silicon Valley economy.

The Youth Forum is intended to promote workforce development partnerships, programs, and employment expansion that focuses on the implementation of best practices **defined by young people with lived experience.**

Goal of the Youth Forum

Identify and recommend at 1-3 actionable solutions that will strengthen the youth and young adult workforce ecosystem.

**Actionable = local control, can be implemented within one year, and can be measured with currently collected data*

Listen, Learn, and Ideate

Identify Actionable Solutions

Meeting	1 - Defining the current system	2 - Illuminating youth perspective	3 - User Journey	4 - Aligning on Vision	5 - Exploring policy solutions	6 - Exploring programmatic solutions
Date	<i>December 16</i>	<i>February 16</i>	<i>April 21</i>	<i>June 16</i>	<i>August 18</i>	<i>October 20</i>
Purpose	Use landscape mapping to clarify the current youth workforce ecosystem, to include strengths and gaps	Use participatory action research surveys and focus groups to illuminate youth and young adult perceptions of the youth workforce ecosystem	Use human centered design to highlight key elements of “user journey,” and uncover critical nuances in service of the desired state	Align on shared vision and filter emergent solutions	Identify program-level solutions	Identify needed local policy changes (and state policy if necessary)
Pre-work	<i>Learning tour and deep-dive mapping of the broad youth workforce ecosystem</i>	<i>Participatory action research, survey of 100-200 young people and 3-4 focus groups</i>	<i>Human-centered design experience with young people from across the county</i>	<i>Survey Youth Forum participants to identify their highest aspiration for the youth workforce ecosystem, commitments, and to identify constraints</i>	<i>Tools to consolidate feedback and highlight the opportunity to create; brief report sharing best practices for integrated youth workforce development from other communities</i>	<i>Brief report identifying critical enabling policies from other communities.</i>

Two Categories of Solution Ideas

- **Actionable Solutions** are ideas that reflect our most immediate charge to make 1-3 recommendations to the newly formed Youth Committee of the work2future Workforce Development Board (WDB). Actionable is defined as
 - (1) within the jurisdiction/authority of local entities
 - (2) can be implemented within one year; and
 - (3) can be measured with existing data sources.
- **System-Level Ideas** may not be actionable as defined above or may fall outside the purview of work2future, but they are critical to forging a coherent and effective youth and young adult serving “opportunity ecosystem.” These could be adopted by other groups or further explored through subsequent work.

What's the best bet?

What **actionable** and **systems-level** idea(s) do you want to invest in moving forward?



Youth Forum 2.0 Investment Portfolio

Recommendations outlined in the letter

Aligned to active SJPL workplan
items

Solution Idea	Dollars Invested
Connect the ecosystem of programs and supports (4)	\$860
Build and earn & learn pathway system (1)	\$760
Connect school and work for opportunity youth and system-impacted youth (3)	\$480
Establish a common college, career, and wellbeing framework across the county (6)	\$400
Plan and launch a radical economic mobility demonstration project (5)	\$360
Focus on mental health (12)	\$320
Launch workforce development intermediary (8)	\$280
Prepare for a robust apprenticeship system (2)	\$260
Develop a near-peer coaching corps (7)	\$260
Formalize processes like this youth forum (11)	\$80
Create a career-education collaborative (10)	\$40
Utilize P3 flexibility (9)	\$0

Recommendations

- 1. Connect the ecosystem of programs and supports** across the providers and partners in the work2future region that deliver the 14 elements of WIOA Title I Youth Services, and adjacent services and supports, to facilitate alignment, reduce duplication, and foster connection among providers.
- 2. Build an earn & learn pathway system** that better links SJ Works and WIOA (city-run programs) and other public and private investments to increase the total number of earn & learn placements and develop a continuum of opportunities.
- 3. Connect school and work for Opportunity Youth and system-impacted youth** by linking re-engagement schools and WIOA work experience and on-the-job training resources to ensure the most vulnerable youth, who often have adult responsibilities, can participate in school and work in a coherent and connected manner.

Community Career Services Asset Mapping Project

“Connect the ecosystem of programs and support” = YF2 Actionable Solution Idea with highest level of buy-in

- **What?** Library staff and partners are building an online tool to facilitate connections and collaboration among the ecosystem of workforce-related services, supports, and providers.
- **Why?** We need a way to make the whole “system” visible to support cross referrals, interagency connections, and better-coordinated services. As of now, no such service or tool exists in Santa Clara County.
- **How?** College and Career Pathways Unit, SJPL Works, and the Web Team will design the tool with members of our community, support partners and community members in learning how to use it effectively, as well as maintain and continuously improve the tool over time.

Shared Framework Development Project

“Establish a common college, career, and well-being framework across the county” = YF2 System-Level Solution Idea with highest level of buy-in

- **What?** Partnership with the Santa Clara County Office of Education to develop a set of shared strategies, frameworks, and tools for youth and adults as they navigate systems of higher education and workforce development.
- **Why?** Educational departments of the City and County should work together to articulate what we must deliver to every young person in Silicon Valley to ensure equitable conditions for success. This work is aligned with the Schools-City Collaborative workplan.
- **How?** College and Career Pathways Coordinators at the Library and County Office of Education will work together and engage community in the development process using an intergenerational partnership approach.

Looking Ahead

work²futureSM
opportunity • jobs • success

Thank you