



Overview

Youth Venture Seattle recently completed its first full year of operation. Since inception in late 2007 and with full operational capacity in early 2008, there have been many successes, all of which will inevitably result in greater impact and expansion throughout 2009. The following document is meant to provide a brief summary of some of the activities and accomplishments of Youth Venture Seattle since its formation.

Programming

Youth Venture Seattle was one of four Youth Venture offices to pilot the *Dream It. Do It. Challenge*. The *Challenge* is a workshop series dedicated to helping high school youth apply their **passions** to **needs** they see in their community in order create their own social ventures. The pilot involved 12 young people from 7 different high schools throughout the area and there are currently 6 Venture teams working on implementing their ideas. A few highlights from the surveys conducted to measure the impact of the *Challenge* on the youth involved include:



*They are CHANGEMAKERS!
Participants of the Challenge*

- Knowledge of **setting and achieving goals**
 - 18.2% Highly Knowledgeable before vs. 66.7% after
 - 72.7% Knowledgeable or Highly Knowledgeable before vs. 100% after
- Knowledge of **evaluating** one’s work
 - 18.2% Highly Knowledgeable before vs. 55.6% after
 - 63.6% Knowledgeable or Highly Knowledgeable before vs. 100% after
- Community **leadership** [*I am involved in leadership roles in my community*]
 - 9.1% Strongly Agreed before vs. 44.4% after
 - 36.4% Somewhat or Strongly Agreed before vs. 77.7% after
- Personal Community Need [*My community **needs my help** to become a better place*]
 - 9.1% Strongly Agreed before vs. 44.4% after
 - 63.6% Somewhat or Strongly Agreed before vs. 100% after
- Knowledge of **Budgeting**
 - 9.1% Highly Knowledgeable before vs. 44.4% after
 - 45.5% Knowledgeable or Highly Knowledgeable before vs. 77.7% after

Throughout 2009 Youth Venture Seattle plans to engage in at least 2 *Challenges* involving a total of 50 or more high school youth from the community.

Venture Teams

Youth Venture Seattle has supported 16 teams consisting of over 80 youth since September 2007. In addition to these teams there are currently 6 more teams preparing for presentation for their ideas at a community panel in early 2009. A full list of teams can be found at <http://genv.net/seattle/teams>. The teams have a long list of achievements including:

- *Richard’s Rwanda*: Richard’s Rwanda aims to increase educational opportunities for young girls affected by the genocide in Rwanda. Jessica, the founder, received recognition for her work by being selected to be on the Honor Roll for the “Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes” which is a national award recognizing the positive work of young people. The team recently won one of 15 additional \$10,000 grants through Youth Venture’s partnership with Best Buy and has already raised \$8,000 for



their cause. Richard's Rwanda hopes to use this funding to support the creation of a learning center in Rwanda.

- ***Dig Deep:*** Dig Deep aims to provide less fortunate communities throughout the world with access to water systems, latrines and hygiene education. Dig Deep has been selected to be featured on Polo Ralph Lauren's "Rugby" website where young social entrepreneurs will be featured while having the opportunity to receive an additional \$1,000 grant. Since forming in July of 2008, the group has already raised \$2000 and are currently applying for 501(c)3 status.
- ***Kill the Chill:*** Kill the Chill noticed that the demand for warm clothes and materials last well beyond the holiday season where the majority of donations are received. Thus far, the group has donated over 250 hand made scarves to homeless shelters in the Puget Sound area over the course of two winter seasons.



Dig Deep and The Golden Laurels after the Community Panel

Workshops

Youth Venture Seattle engaged more than 1,400 youth in 2008 through *Dream It. Do It.* workshops or informational sessions. This outreach is a key element in spreading the message about the power of young people to create change while redefining the role of young people within our current culture. The outreach included a tour by local author Justina Headley and Olympic gold-medalist Hannah Teter to promote Youth Venture's partnership with Burton snowboards as well as Justina's commitment to donate a portion of the proceeds from her most recent book.



Participants of a "Dream It. Do It." workshop at the "Girl Power Conference"

Youth Venture Seattle has engaged youth through workshops and supported teams throughout the Seattle region. Local venturers represent a wide range of schools throughout the region, creating a vibrant and diverse young changemaker community. Specific schools featuring venturers include:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garfield High School • Franklin High School • Cleveland High School • Chief Sealth High School • U. of Washington • Nova High School | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evergreen High School • Forest Ridge High School • Eckstein Middle School • Overlake High School • Seattle Girls School • Seattle Central CC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bush School • Vashon Island High School • St. Madeline Sophie • Salmon Bay • Mercer Island High School |
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Partnerships

Youth Venture Seattle has a growing list of partnerships and relationships that have been established over the course of the year. Some organizations include:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teens in Public Service • Treehouse • Refugee Women's Alliance • Rainier Vista Boys & Girls Club | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black Urban Professionals • Seattle Hip Hop Youth Summit • OneWorld Now! • tisBest |
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Office Location

In May 2008, Youth Venture Seattle secured office space within the ArtSpace Hiawatha Lofts. The five story building contains affordable housing for artists in the community on the upper levels and various storefronts on the ground floor. The office is located at:

853 Hiawatha Place South
Seattle, WA 98144

The office is in the International District/Central District area, has adequate parking and easy access to public transportation.

Staff

In July 2008, Youth Venture Seattle was joined by Alan Blickenstaff and Elisa Burrows. Alan and Elisa are both serving one year terms through the AmeriCorps*VISTA program. Elisa is working as a Development Associate while Alan is working as a Program Associate. Alan and Elisa have been a great addition to the Youth Venture team.

Advisory Board

Youth Venture Seattle conducted its first Advisory Board meeting in November 2008. The initial Advisory Board consists of five adults and three youth and its formation is an integral step in the development of local operations. Board Members include:

- Jim McGinley: Entrepreneur, Board Chair
- Sonya Erickson: Partner with Cooley Godward Kronish with focus on emerging growth companies, technology businesses; Venture Capital Funds
- Yale Wong: Entrepreneur, CEO of General Biodiesel
- Rolfe Philip: Entrepreneur, VP of Business Development at Yield Energy
- Dr. Eddie Moore Jr.: Director of Diversity, Bush School
- Nandie Oosthuizen: Venturer with Hand & Heart
- Najee Siu-Chang: Venturer with Embasco
- Anna Miller: Youth Activist; Aspen Institute Scholar

National / International Update

Throughout 2008, Youth Venture launched over 225 teams nationally, engaging over 800 young people. These venturers join the ranks of over 3000 teams, featuring over 50,000 youth from all around the world who are part of Youth Venture's global youth movement. Youth Venture currently operates in 14 countries internationally, with goals of expanding to three more countries in 2009.

In 2008, Youth Venture launched a wide range of initiatives with major national partners, geared at expanding the opportunity and strengthening the support that Youth Venture offers young changemakers. Some of these initiatives include:

- **Best Buy** committed \$1 million to support the pilot of the Dream It. Do It. Challenge, provide seed-funding to newly launched teams, allow Youth Venture to host its first national Summit, and offered up to 15 \$10,000 grants to existing ventures to expand their programming (one of which is a local team, Richard's Rwanda).
- **Starbucks** supported the Dream It. Do It. Tour, which travelled around the country engaging interested young people in workshops and sharing stories while also supporting the National Summit.
- **Burton** sponsored a tour featuring Olympic gold-medalist Hannah Teeter to reach out to new youth.



- Youth Ventured also partnered with **Nike** to extend additional support to sports-related ventures, featuring several teams in their new concept stores around the country.
- **Staples** paired up with Youth Venture's sister organization, Changemakers.net, to engage young changemakers around the world in a contest to generate new ideas for social change.
- Helping to expand Youth Venture's support of college-aged venturers using technology, the **Corporation for National and Community Service** supported a pilot program at New York University.
- Additionally, several other organizations sponsored contests to engage venturers in further actions, including **MTV**, **Lemelson**, and **Ralph Lauren**.

The inaugural Youth Venture Summit took place in Washington, DC in July of 2008. This event brought together venturers from around the country to meet, collaborate, and learn new tools to support their ventures' growth. Youth Venture Seattle was able to bring 3 local venturers to join in the movement, and hopes to expand its presence in the coming year.

Contact Information

If you would like any more information about our 2008 updates or our 2009 plans, or if you have any feedback or suggestions, please feel free to contact us. We always enjoy discussing the program and potential ideas, and would appreciate conversation very much. Thank you for being a part of the success of Youth Venture Seattle in 2008, and we look forward to working alongside you as we continue to grow our movement of young changemakers in the coming year!

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