

Collaboration vs. Consultation: Youth-Adult Partnership in Community Work



London Youth Advisory Council



LONDON YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

Staff



What Makes Us Unusual

- Independent
- Youth Run
- Elected

We want to get youth engaged!

Well...they already are.



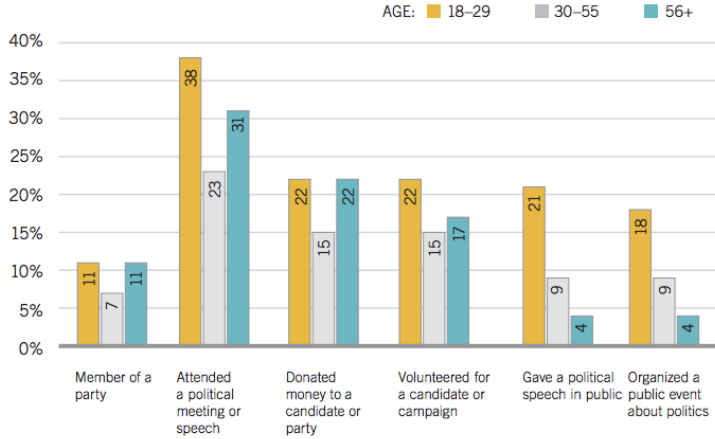
September 2015

Message Not Delivered:
The Myth of Apathetic Youth
and the Importance of Contact
in Political Participation

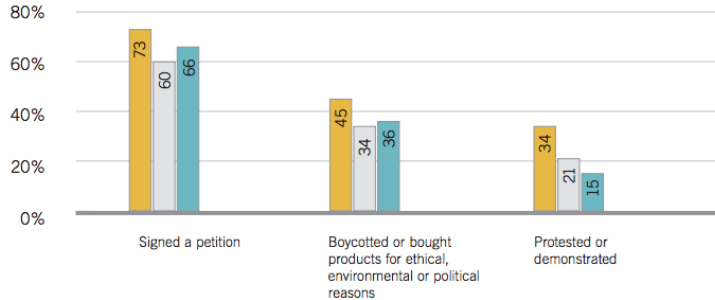
Not Delivered 

Debunking the Myth

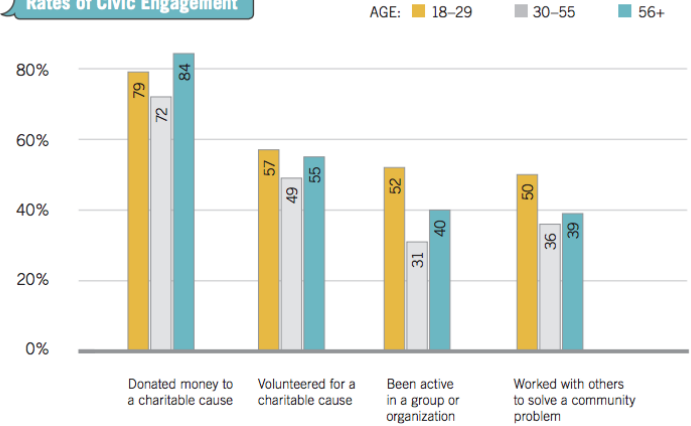
Rates of Formal Engagement



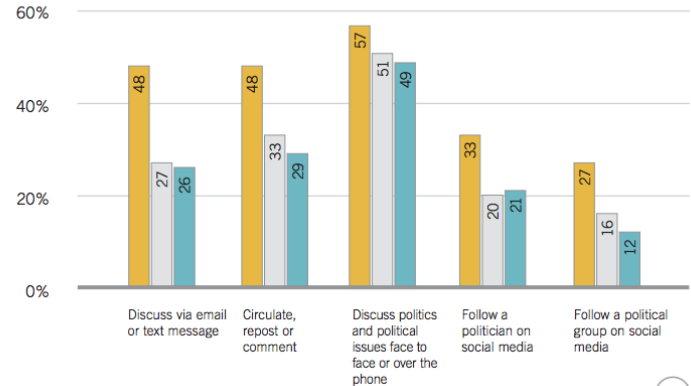
Rates of Activism



Rates of Civic Engagement



Rates of Discussion









THE
INTERACTION
COLLECTIVE



Young people are always engaged *somehow*,
in *someway* to the benefit of their
communities.


If youth live in your community, they're already
engaged in ways you should be paying attention
to. Promise.

How do we get youth engaged?

Translation:

How do we educate and consult youth on the things ***we're*** working on?

~~Consultation = Ideal~~



So how do we know if
anything we say will
actually matter?

NOT

How do we get youth engaged?

BUT INSTEAD

How do we build partnerships with young people?

Partnership means:

- Both sides' expertise matters
- Each party has different priorities and focuses: the goal is finding the overlap
- Communication is constant and transparent

Partnership doesn't work unless we're all honest about what we want, and what our limitations are.

Want a truly innovative partnership with youth ? Start *early*. As in:

- Before you're fully clear on what your focus/scope in
- Before you've designed your plan
- When you're a little nervous about sharing it

Remove 'youth issues' from your vocabulary.

Young people often care about the same issues as you - they just talk about them differently.

Discounted High School Bus Pass Project



NEW
YOUTH
TRANSIT
PASS

\$52
per month



#LdnOnt

@Wine_Vinyl
just picked up a new book from @londonlibrary this morning. looked for it online and was waiting for me when i got there. #awesome #ldnont

ROGERS tv

Discounted High School Bus Pass Project

City councillor and youth

- ❑ Share resources
- ❑ Leverage unique networks, roles and power
- ❑ Stay in constant communication

InterAction Collective

No partnership without follow through

- ❑ Asking about youth experience first
- ❑ Involving youth in analysis, design
- ❑ Making decisions together

Given all of this, how does our
council work?

The youth councillors design their year, from key advocacy priorities to meeting topics.

But they don't do it alone - we give them all the knowledge they need to make strategic decisions and understand best practice.

And we support them every step of the way. Staff and councillors are responsible for holding each other accountable.

What We Recommend

- Involve young people at the very start - when it's messy, unclear, and nerve-wracking
- Be honest with young people about your priorities and limitations, but don't assume youth should have the same ones as you
- View young people as potential partners, not potential students

Contact



Email: info@lyac.ca

Website: lyac.ca