

Youth Development Executives of King County

Youth Development Executives of King County (YDEKC) is celebrating 10 years of building the youth development sector to support thriving youth in King County, Washington.

YDEKC supports and sustains leaders at every level of youth-serving organizations in our region. Collectively, we partner with schools, communities, and families to ensure every young person has what they need to learn, grow, and thrive.

From our first executive leaders' summit in 2010 to the celebration of our first decade and the launch of our new strategic plan in 2020, we see several areas of accomplishment. In our first 10 years, we have helped to advance:

*A Whole Child, Whole Day Vision

*The Collective Power of our Sector

*Strong, Networked Leadership

*Cross-Sector Collaboration

*Research-Informed Practice

This thematic timeline summarizes the highlights of our first 10 years with an emphasis on these accomplishments.

SEMINAL REGIONAL EVENTS



The Road Map Project Initiative takes shape

August 2010

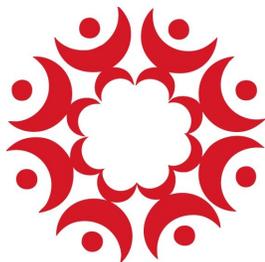
The Road Map Project is driven by a goal of vastly improving educational attainment in South Seattle and South King County. YDEKC represents the youth development sector and is a core partner in the project.

The Road Map Project is a cradle-to-career effort to dismantle educational inequity in the South Seattle and South King County region. The project aims to close opportunity gaps experienced by low-income children and children of color so that all children can achieve and thrive.

The Road Map Project is a collective impact initiative that brings together leaders from all of the sectors that touch the lives of children and families.

YDEKC has historically staffed a Road Map Project work group focused on mobilizing the expanded learning sector in support of educational justice. More recently, YDEKC has staffed two work groups: one focused on advancing a whole child, whole day vision, and one on expanding access to high-quality out-of-school -time opportunities.

COLLECTIVE POWER



First Youth Development Executive Leaders' Summit establishes the vision

November 2010

Executive Directors from nearly 60 community-based, not-for-profit organizations in King County come together to address the question: Should the youth development field in King County be better organized?

The answer? A resounding yes.

The Summit planning committee then became the King County Youth Development Leadership Taskforce, which fleshed out the vision and scope of work for a new organization, Youth Development Executives of King County, or YDEKC.

Among YDEKC's early goals:

- Develop a shared vision
- Map existing services, coalitions and networks
- Determine key field-level data to collect to support priorities

- Define issues to include in a joint advocacy agenda
 - Bring in the voices of youth served by youth organizations
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ORGANIZATIONAL MILESTONES

Jessica Werner becomes YDEKC's leader

January 2011

After nearly a year of planning, YDEKC's steering committee hires Jessica Werner as the new organization's first executive director.

Jessica Paul Werner (she/her) has led Youth Development Executives of King County (YDEKC) since its inception in 2011, building the coalition of more than 100 executive leaders of youth serving organizations and establishing YDEKC as a thought leader in the fields of youth development, social emotional learning and collective impact. Jessica has nearly two decades of experience in advancing the youth development field, with a focus on ensuring that we are creating more equitable environments for our kids, and also for the adults that support them. Jessica built her interest and expertise in positive youth development theory and practice over the course of nine years supporting youth programming for the YMCA of Greater Seattle, following the completion of her MPA at the University of Washington Evans School of Public Policy and Governance in 2002 with a focus on non-profit management. Jessica is a proud graduate of Seattle Public Schools, Occidental College (American Studies major), and two years of service as an AmeriCorps*VISTA member in Sitka, Alaska and Portland, Maine. Jessica is a member of the Tlingit-Haida Nation, and now lives with her family in Shoreline, Washington.



STRONG, NETWORKED LEADERSHIP

YDEKC Advisory Board begins meeting

September 2011

YDEKC's Board brings leaders from the field together to steer YDEKC's work.

YDEKC's Board provides direction to all of YDEKC's work, through monthly meetings, committee leadership, and critical planning work.

The Board is comprised of leaders of youth-serving nonprofits from across King County. This helps to ensure that our work is led by, and responsive to, the needs of the local youth development field.

Since the beginning, YDEKC has worked to make our Board representative of the field and the people working in the field. To date, 58 leaders from 45 different organizations have served on YDEKC's Advisory Board.

RESEARCH-INFORMED PRACTICE

Student Engagement and Motivation Survey developed and deployed

October 2011 - June 2013

The Road Map Region Student Engagement and Motivation Survey (SEMS) is created through a field-led, research-informed process that defined much of YDEKC's work.

In 2011-2012, YDEKC partnered with the Center for Educational Effectiveness (CEE) to develop the first version of the Student Engagement and Motivation Survey (SEMS). After a comprehensive review of similar survey tools, YDER and CEE selected questions that could serve as a complement to a standard climate survey or could stand alone as a measure of student motivation and engagement.

The initial version of the SEMS was pilot tested with 6,000 students in the Renton School District in December 2012. This pilot provided preliminary evidence of the survey's reliability, and of its potential to increase our understanding of student motivation and engagement at the school, district, and aggregate levels. We found that asking students to assess their individual skills and dispositions could yield valuable insights into student behaviors (attendance, discipline and course work). Students who reported having low grades and being absent frequently scored lower on skill and disposition measures than did their peers.

A revised version of the student survey was developed in the spring of 2013 based on findings from the Renton pilot,

and on a smaller-scale pilot of a similar survey in after-school settings. In fall of 2013, the Student Engagement and Motivation Survey, Version 2.0 was made available to other Road Map districts for use on its own, or in conjunction with existing climate surveys.

In subsequent years, YDEKC developed aligned tools for use in youth development program settings through our Quality to Outcomes project and our Shared Measurement Initiative.

COLLECTIVE POWER

YDEKC convenes an Advocacy Committee to advance policy agenda

March 2012

In collaboration with SOAR, YDEKC's advocacy committee is driven by concerns about post-recession budget cuts

YDEKC and SOAR combined forces for a joint Public Policy and Advocacy Committee focused on full spectrum of issues facing young people in the region. The group was driven by three core rationales (from a 2011 proposal outlining the vision for the group):

* Connected Issues: We can be more powerful if we are speaking about the overlapping needs of our constituents – particularly if we are able to prioritize our messages.

*Coordinated Voice: There has not been a coordinated, or “loud” voice for youth in Olympia, or in local jurisdictions.

*Constituent Awareness: The general public does not have a strong understanding of the broad programs and services provided by the Youth Development Field. A goal is to raise public awareness about the importance of youth development opportunities for young people.

[YDEKC's Advocacy Committee](<https://ydekc.org/about/advocacy-committee/>) is still going strong. Our work is guided by a committed group of leaders representing a diverse range of organizations from across King County's varied geographies.



WHOLE CHILD, WHOLE DAY VISION

Skills and Dispositions reports released

December 2012

YDEKC publishes Skills and Dispositions that Support Student Success in School reports and associated youth surveys for schools and youth programs.

These publications form the basis of much of YDEKC's early work on defining and measuring the key skills that youth development organizations work to build in young people.

Developed through a combination of practitioner engagement and literature review, these reports help to establish YDEKC's Research-to-Practice approach, and serve as key pillars of YDEKC's Whole Child, Whole Day vision.

SEMINAL REGIONAL EVENTS

Puget Sound region receives \$40 million Race to the Top grant

December 2012

The Puget Sound Educational Service District receives a federal grant to build more equitable education systems in the region.

YDEKC works to ensure that strong partnerships are part of the grant's implementation.

Part of YDEKC's involvement over time was through service on the project's Data Coordinating Committee. This group worked on creating best practice recommendations for school district data sharing with CBOs and laid the groundwork for a regional data portal for the visualization of student data.

Although the data portal project was never fully implemented, many local school districts have since incorporated its goals into their work with CBO partners.

ORGANIZATIONAL MILESTONES



YDEKC hires Data and Outcomes Manager

January 2013

YDEKC hires a second full-time staff member to lead work on shared outcomes for the field.

Sarah Terry (she/her) came to YDEKC in 2013 after earning her Master of Public Administration at the University of Washington's Evans School of Public Policy and Governance. She previously worked as a research librarian at several colleges and universities and as a reference librarian for the New York Public Library. As such, she maintains an active interest in connecting people with usable information. Sarah is a Seattle Public Schools graduate and the proud parent of two current SPS students.

RESEARCH-INFORMED PRACTICE

YDEKC collaborates on Quality to Outcomes demonstration project

March 2013 - August 2013

YDEKC works with School's Out Washington and the Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality to analyze the relationship between program quality and youth outcomes.

Quality to Outcomes officially kicked off in the spring of 2013, with a convening of 30 King County organizations that were involved with the Youth Program Quality Intervention and interested in measuring youth skills and beliefs.

Programs administered YDEKC's Youth Skills and Beliefs surveys to 345 participants in grades 6 through 12. During the same period, sites underwent both self and external program quality assessments.

The Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality analyzed the results, and produced reports for all participating programs showing their program averages alongside averages for the network as a whole. Program staff then used an inquiry approach to interpret the data provided by the youth survey and quality assessments.

In general, pilot participants felt that defining and measuring youth skills and beliefs could be very validating for the youth development field, and appreciated having a common language to talk about skills that matter to youth success. This project helped to define YDEKC's participatory research-to-practice approach.



CROSS-SECTOR COLLABORATION

Youth Program Directory launches

January 2014

YDEKC partners with King County Crisis Clinic and other regional agencies to create an authoritative directory of youth programs and services.

The Youth Program Directory (YPD) was created in order to address the need for a comprehensive, accessible and timely source of information about youth programs and services available in King County communities.

The YPD was intended to enable cross-sector collaboration by serving as a user-friendly directory of out-of-school-time programs for school staff, middle and high school youth, their parents/guardians and the community-based organizations that provide these programs. Over time, the YPD grew to include over 1,000 programs, and has been visited more than 24,000 times.

In 2019, the YPD merged with [Elevate Washington](<https://elevatewashington.org/>), a community data resource developed by School's Out Washington. The combined tool now contains comprehensive information on more than 1,300 programs in King County.

ORGANIZATIONAL MILESTONES

Advisory Board approves YDEKC's first Strategic Plan

March 2014

The two-year plan highlighted programmatic goals and strategies in the areas of advocacy, outcomes, and capacity building. It also provided a framework for YDEKC's sustainability.

YDEKC's first Strategic Plan is driven by several insights:

First, with YDEKC's leadership, executive leaders of youth serving organizations can harness their collective power to ensure youth development programs are recognized and funded as essential.

Second, youth development and youth-serving programs make an essential contribution to successful outcomes for youth. Strong data and shared language on this contribution can help improve programs, provide proof of effectiveness, and inform policy decisions.

Third, strong leaders are essential to effective organizations. Through YDEKC, non-profit executive leaders have a network of support and access to resources that can help them to hone their leadership and management skills, build organizational capacity, and ensure the field retains effective, committed executive directors and CEOs.

Many of these insights have continued to guide our work through subsequent planning cycles.

SEMINAL REGIONAL EVENTS

Highline College introduces a bachelor's degree in Youth Development

March 2014 - May 2014

After advocacy from YDEKC and others, the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges approves a Bachelors in Applied Behavioral Science.

Highline's degree program is designed to build leaders for the emergent field of positive youth development by focusing on:

*The application of youth development perspectives to real-world issues, problems and circumstances.

*Application of youth development practices.

*Design and delivery of programs that fully consider all dimensions of diversity and build on the strengths of that diversity.

*Practical research skills necessary for the continuous improvement of services, program evaluation and accountability, and the competent meeting of individual, family, and community needs.

*Leadership, group, and collaborative skills necessary for successful intra and inter-agency cooperation, community partnerships, and supportive youth/adult relationships.

The program, now in its 7th year, represents increased recognition and professionalization of the youth development field in our region.

STRONG, NETWORKED LEADERSHIP

YDEKC leads its first Leadership Cohort

October 2014 - June 2015

YDEKC's first capacity building cohort supports executive leaders in small youth-serving organizations.

In 2014, with support from Social Venture Partners, YDEKC brought together a cohort of six leaders from small non-profits who wanted to grow their organizational capacity.

The group met for nine months. During this time, members assessed their organizational capacity and developed individualized plans to strengthen their organizations.

Cohort participants found great value both in the content of the cohort and in the experience of being together over time. In the words of one participant, "It helps to block off intentional focused time for professional development and networking. Being part of a community and sharing is important."

This was the first of several professional growth cohorts that YDEKC has convened over the years.

RESEARCH-INFORMED PRACTICE

Shared Measurement Initiative focuses on evaluation practice

December 2014 - August 2016

YDEKC brings together staff from 15 youth programs to take on an 18-month project dedicated to

shared measurement in the field.

Youth Development Executives of King County (YDEKC)'s Shared Measurement Initiative, or SMI, evolved out of its involvement in the Weikart Center's Expanded Learning Initiative and concurrent exploration of a common data system for member organizations. Both of these projects highlighted a need for a set of common evaluation practices, supported by common measures.

The SMI approached this need by using a cohort-based shared learning model to develop and pilot common measures, and to document promising practices in measurement for continuous program improvement.

YDEKC recruited a cohort of 15 programs from 13 organizations. Programs were located in Seattle, Shoreline, Kirkland, Burien, Tukwila, and Renton, and served over 1,000 young people aged 5 to 18 in activities ranging from homework help to music production to global citizenship. Initiative participants tackled:

- * Theory of change and logic model development
- * Evaluation planning
- * Data collection, management and use structured around the Quality-to-Outcomes model
- * Using data to inform practice

In Phase 2 of the project (extending through August 2016), the initial cohort continued to come together as a professional learning community. This allowed for a full school-year cycle of implementation with targeted support from peers and from the YDEKC team in the form of technical assistance.

RESEARCH-INFORMED PRACTICE

Future Orientation and Growth Mindset trainings developed

February 2015 - June 2015

YDEKC develops and pilots standalone training modules on building growth mindset and future orientation in young people

Based on [Part 2](<https://ydekc.org/resource-center/skills-and-dispositions-pt-2/>) of YDEKC's Skills and Dispositions report, these modules translate research into practical strategies to use while working with youth to develop core youth development competencies.

Each module consists of a training session featuring multiple hands-on activities. Both were eventually distributed to the field via a training of trainers approach.

COLLECTIVE POWER

YDEKC members Lunch with Leaders

April 2015 - January 2020

YDEKC launches this popular series by bringing members together to meet with then-City of Seattle Human Services Department Director Catherine Lester

Since 2015, YDEKC has connected member organizations with a range of local leaders, including state-, county-, and city-level elected officials and leaders from important governmental agencies (King County Best Starts for Kids, Washington State's Department of Children, Youth and Families).

The Lunching with Leaders format allows members to network and to engage in an informal exchange of ideas with decision makers. Members have appreciated having access to the policy process in this way.

SEMINAL REGIONAL EVENTS

King County Youth Action Plan released

April 2015

The County outlines a bold vision for supporting children, youth, and young adults across the region

In 2014, King County convened a task force comprised of leaders in youth services to outline a comprehensive plan for supporting young people in King County.

The plan, which was guided by principles of equity and authentic youth and community engagement, articulated the following vision:

"King County is a place where everyone has equitable opportunities to progress through childhood safe and healthy, building academic and life skills to be thriving members of their community."

The King County Youth Action plan will become the basis for the County's Best Starts for Kids levy.

WHOLE CHILD, WHOLE DAY VISION

YDEKC puts forward a common regional Theory of Change

November 2015

The Theory of Change shows how investment at the system and program level drive better outcomes for youth and community

The collective regional theory of change was developed and refined through a long-term, collaborative process. It incorporates input from YDEKC members and partners in the public and non-profit sectors of King County, and shows how the work of all entities large and small contributes to better and more equitable outcomes for our youth and our community.

The theory of change is multi-level and multi-sector, showing the complex contributions of a range of entities to improved community conditions for youth and families.



SEMINAL REGIONAL EVENTS

King County voters approve Best Starts for Kids levy

November 2015

The new \$65 million per year levy has the potential to truly transform outcomes for children and youth in the region.

From the beginning, Best Starts for Kids has focused on building on the strengths of families and communities so that babies are born healthy, children thrive and establish a strong foundation for life, and young people grow into happy, healthy adults.

Many YDEKC members receive funding through Best Starts for Kids investments in Out-of-School-Time programs, youth development, and other school- and community-based investments in thriving youth.



COLLECTIVE POWER

YDEKC's 5th Annual Member Summit moves to Cedarbrook Lodge

November 2015

This annual event brings members together with key decision makers in the field

Five years after YDEKC's first summit, members come together to celebrate the recent passage of the Best Starts for Kids levy and connect to regional decision makers.

YDEKC welcomed representatives from King County Housing Authority, United Way of King County, Seattle Public Schools, King County government, the City of Seattle, and the Raikes Foundation.

In addition to a panel discussion, the group was able to engage in table conversations about our collective vision for youth and families in the region.

CROSS-SECTOR COLLABORATION

YDEKC works with Seattle Public Schools to support community partners

December 2015 - November 2016

YDEKC collaborates with Seattle Public Schools to design and deliver continuous improvement trainings for community partners.

Continuous improvement trainings for community partners are a joint effort of YDEKC, Seattle Public Schools, and the

City of Seattle's Department of Education and Early Learning.

The trainings are part of a larger collaboration around partner access to, and use of, student-level data. YDEKC worked with Seattle Public Schools (SPS) over several years to establish strong policies and procedures, and to support these through training for providers.

The process that YDEKC and SPS developed became the basis of the Student Success Link Partnership, a data project that was part of the region's Race to the Top initiative.



ORGANIZATIONAL MILESTONES

YDEKC hires Advocacy and Policy Manager

January 2016

YDEKC hires a full-time staff member to collaboratively develop and implement the shared advocacy agenda for YDEKC.

René Murry (she/her) has been a direct service worker and advocate for children, youth, and families for over 30 years. She received her Masters in Counseling in 1982 from the University of North Dakota, was a Children's Protective Services worker in North Carolina from 1984 to 1989, a Foster Parent Developer for the YMCA of Greater Seattle from 1989 to 1994 and a Children's Legislative Advocate in Washington state from 1989 to Present. Her advocacy roles range from a parent and PTA officer in Seattle public schools to co-chairing the Public Policy Committee of the Children's Alliance and Chairing the Children's Campaign Fund. René is the mother of 2 daughters ages 20 and 25 who graduated from Seattle Public Schools and the spouse of a Physician-Scientist at the UW.

CROSS-SECTOR COLLABORATION

YDEKC develops its first stand-alone training supporting school-community partnerships

April 2016

YDEKC partners with Seattle Public Schools to design and deliver a Best Practices in Partnership training session

YDEKC's Best Practices in Partnership workshop focuses on bridge building strategies for school and community-based-organization leaders.

This popular workshop has been delivered to a variety of audiences and has been refined over time. It has become a consistent part of the Seattle Public Schools' Professional Development Calendar for Partners.

RESEARCH-INFORMED PRACTICE

Summer Learning Exploratory Study gets underway

June 2016 - December 2017

YDEKC brings together a cohort of summer learning providers to engage in a 2-year research project to document promising practices in summer programs.

In 2016, YDEKC received funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to strengthen summer programming in King County. Specifically, the Summer Learning Exploratory Study was designed to build a community of practice focused on mitigating summer learning loss and assessing summer program quality, youth engagement, and participant academic growth.

Providers in the study generally saw increases in program quality over the two years of the study. Programs were highly rated by both young people and their families. Academic gains were also generally seen in programs that were able to measure them.

However, measurement was one of many challenges that the group surfaced with respect to summer. Providers also experienced challenges in recruiting and retaining staff. Stable, sustainable funding and strong collaboration with K-12 schools could mitigate some of these challenges.

YDEKC hosts regional advocacy coffees for members

June 2016

These informal gatherings keep members in the loop

Beginning in the summer of 2016, YDEKC began hosting informal coffees to discuss policy issues relevant to the field.

Advocacy coffees are just one of many opportunities for members to build collective voice. Others include Lunching with Leaders events, member summits, and newsletters that provide a "deep dive" into policy issues.

Taken together, these opportunities help YDEKC to better understand the perspectives of leaders in the field while equipping members to advocate on behalf of the field.



RESEARCH-INFORMED PRACTICE

YDEKC's Partnership Toolkit published in print and online

August 2016

The School-Community Partnership Toolkit is designed to support better collaboration between schools and community partners.

The toolkit consists of 57 rubrics, tip sheets, and planning tools arranged in the following sections:

- *Assessing Readiness
- *Mapping Needs and Assets
- *Establishing Partnership
- *Working Together
- *Evaluating Programs

YDEKC's toolkit landing pages have been visited more than 6,300 times. Toolkit resources have been used to support YDEKC member organizations and others in YDEKC-sponsored learning cohorts and in regional initiatives like Best Starts for Kids.



RESEARCH-INFORMED PRACTICE

YDEKC's Measurement Toolkit published online

September 2016

YDEKC's suite of evaluation tools is designed to help youth development leaders build a strong data culture in their organizations.

YDEKC's Measurement Toolkit consists of 58 presentations, tip sheets, and planning documents arranged into six sections:

- *Building Logic Models based in theories of change
- *Creating right-sized Evaluation Plans
- *Collecting and managing Program Data
- *Collecting Youth Data ethically
- *Accessing and using School Data
- *Bringing an equity lens to Analysis and Reporting

Our Measurement Toolkit landing pages have been visited more than 4,600 times. Toolkit resources have formed the basis of our Measurement and Evaluation training series, and have been used by YDEKC and other organizations to support the data capacity of youth-serving organizations throughout the region.

YDEKC hosts its first Social and Emotional Learning Symposium

October 2016 - August 2019

The event brings together leaders from around the region to advance Social and Emotional Learning research, professional development, practice, and system integration.

The symposium attempted to bring together a range of regional and national efforts in the hope that implementation of SEL initiatives would be broad, integrated, and mutually reinforcing. The specific goals of the symposium were to:

- *Advance local understanding of current SEL initiatives
- *Place SEL in a larger context by tying it to related opportunity gap closure efforts
- *Promote professional connections between leaders of SEL efforts across sectors

The Symposium drew more than 80 leaders from school districts and youth development organizations, researchers, policymakers, and public and private funders.

RESEARCH-INFORMED PRACTICE

Measurement and Evaluation training series launches

October 2016 - June 2019

YDEKC delivers the first of its new workshops that support the newly published Measurement and Evaluation Toolkit

YDEKC's five-part workshop series is designed to help member organizations develop and deploy practical, meaningful approaches to program evaluation. All workshop content was initially developed through YDEKC's Shared Measurement Initiative, and refined through ongoing experience.

Specific workshops focus on:

- *Logic model development
- *Creating an efficient evaluation plan
- *Designing youth surveys
- *Using school district data for program planning
- *Communicating evaluation results

Since the Measurement series debuted in 2016, sessions have been attended by more than 200 providers, representing more than 80 of YDEKC's member organizations.



ORGANIZATIONAL MILESTONES

YDEKC hires Project Manager to lead partnership and professional development work

December 2016

This position oversees work on creating innovative school-community partnerships and programs, and developing leadership within the field of youth development.

Anne Powell Arias (she/her) has roots deeply embedded in youth development, starting as a volunteer at the YWCA Family Village in 1997. For more than a decade, she built and managed programs and teams for organizations including the YMCA of Greater Seattle and Good Shepherd Services in New York City. She is passionate about working with youth of all ages from a strengths-based perspective, creating innovative school-community partnerships and programs, and developing leadership within the field of youth development and education. In addition to being YDEKC's Project Manager, Anne is a leadership consultant, trainer, and coach, serving primarily non-profits and educational institutions. She served as a Coro Fellow in Public Affairs with the Coro New York Leadership Center and is a proud graduate of Occidental College.

After a participatory strategic refresh process, YDEKC's plan clarifies its organizational identity

YDEKC's strategic refresh established the organization as a coalition of youth-serving organizations and a cross-sector convener working to improve outcomes for young people.

As such, YDEKC's plan focuses on advocacy for and with our members and the youth they serve; convening of critical cross-sector partnerships; and development of field- and organization-level knowledge about best practices in youth development.

In addition, the plan articulated YDEKC's belief in:

*Strengths: We believe that every young person has strengths and potential to be realized.

*Building Bridges: We build bridges between our organizations and across systems to create an ecosystem of supports for young people. We stay engaged to find solutions and support their implementation.

*Racial Equity: We are committed to building a society where race is not a predictor of one's success. We must address racism and racial inequities in our own organizations and institutions while also working for the policies, programs and systems in other sectors that will lead to optimum outcomes for all.

*Opportunity for All: We seek to close opportunity gaps and ensure access to high quality opportunities are available to all – especially those who need them most.

*Innovation: We innovate, challenge norms, and disrupt long-standing practices to create better pathways for our organizations and the youth they serve.



CROSS-SECTOR COLLABORATION

YDEKC's inaugural School-Community Partnership Toolkit Cohort kicks off

February 2017 - June 2018

YDEKC launches a 17-month cohort dedicated to strengthening School-Community Partnerships

This cohort, dubbed the King County Early Adopters, consisted of staff from 12 programs working in close partnership with schools.

Learning sessions were aligned to YDEKC's Partnership Toolkit and focused on topics related to the establishment and maintenance of partnerships between schools and community-based service providers.

The goals of the cohort were to:

*Strengthen the capacity of each participating organization to develop sustainable partnerships

*Create a peer learning group for CBO staff focused on school-community partnerships to share and gain expertise

*Give participants the opportunity to test the Partnership Ecosystem Toolkit within CBO-school partnerships and provide feedback to improve its accessibility and efficacy

Many participants reported that their partnership work had become more strategic as a result of their participation in the cohort. As one participant explained, "We have been able to strengthen our partnership by reframing the process to focus on being mutually beneficial – not only what the school can provide for us but what our organization can provide for the school." Another described the impact on their school's leadership: "I believe their understanding of what I do has gone up and there is an increase in them reaching out for support."

Several participants also reported that their programs had benefited internally from cohort tools or activities. A couple referenced the logic models that they had developed as being useful during organizational transitions.

June 2017 - June 2018

YDEKC launches a year-long community of practice for leaders working to embed racial equity in their policies, practices, and programs

This project was guided by the understanding that many youth-serving organizations work to improve life outcomes for children of color, but are led (particularly at the board level) by white people. Its goal were to:

- *Strengthen the organizational capacity of each participating organization to deepen their racial equity practice, policies and internal structures that embed racial equity in their work

- *Create a multicultural professional learning community of YDEKC member organizations deeply engaged in racial equity work to learn from one another, share successes, and troubleshoot challenges

- *Surface resources, tools, or tactics that may be shared with other cohort members or the broader youth-serving field

- *Collaborate toward strategies of how to resolve conflict and value all voices in a multicultural setting

Many of the 15 cohort participants found value in the experience, and were thankful for the opportunity to talk through challenges with others in the field. As one participant said, "Getting to know people over a long period of time led to more honesty and authentic dialogue about the complexities and nuances of racial equity work. It was very valuable for those relationships to develop."

STRONG, NETWORKED LEADERSHIP

YDEKC launches a second Capacity Building Cohort for leaders of girl-serving organizations

June 2017 - September 2018

YDEKC collaborates with the Women's Funding Alliance and School's Out Washington on an initiative aimed at increasing girls' access to and participation in high quality leadership development programs.

YDEKC co-facilitated the GLOW Executive Leadership Program, which was designed to offer non-profit women leaders a powerful strength-based, development experience.

Using a cohort-based learning approach, participants explored the dimensions of leadership through a gender-based lens and gained access to tools, mentoring, coaching, and resources to lead with their authentic selves.

Participants appreciated the relationships they built within the cohort, as well as the planning tools that the cohort employed. As one participant reported, "The organizational strategy assessment really helped me to explore what the big questions are for our organization. Excellent process."

SEMINAL REGIONAL EVENTS

Washington State brings services together in a new Department of Children, Youth, and Families

July 2017

The agency will create a more coordinated system of supports for young people and families across the state.

The new agency restructures how the state serves children and youth, with the goal of producing better outcomes in all Washington communities.

A cabinet-level department focused on child and youth well-being represents an opportunity to create a seamless system of supportive services from birth through adolescence across the state.

Among YDEKC's ongoing advocacy goals is the creation of a youth development office within DCYF, along with a robust state funding stream for youth development.

CROSS-SECTOR COLLABORATION

YDEKC appointed to state-level Social and Emotional Learning indicators work group

July 2017

Washington's Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction brings leaders together to move SEL

implementation forward

In 2017, the legislature directed OSPI to convene a work group to build upon previous work on social emotional learning benchmarks. The group's purpose was to identify and articulate K-12 developmental indicators for each of the social emotional learning benchmarks, solicit feedback from stakeholders, and develop a model of best practices or guidance for schools on implementing the benchmarks and indicators.

The workgroup submitted recommendations to the education committees of the legislature, and the office of the governor in June 2019.



WHOLE CHILD, WHOLE DAY VISION

YDEKC scales up its Social and Emotional Learning Symposium

August 2017 - August 2019

The event moves to Highline College, and evolves to serve leaders and practitioners in the field.

YDEKC built on its fall 2016 symposium with a summer 2017 companion event for practitioners, titled [Social Emotional Learning in Action](<http://ydekc.org/news/summer-2017-road-map-region-social-emotional-learning-symposium/>). The summer event drew 180 practitioners from a range of community-based organizations and 10 King County school districts.

YDEKC next two annual symposia were well-attended and highly successful. The [2018 Whole Child, Whole Day Symposium](<https://ydekc.org/news/selsym2018/>) brought together 300 system leaders and practitioners, and featured a deep focus on creating equity-based learning environments, focusing on shifting adult practices and systems to better serve youth of color in the Road Map Region. The [2019 event](<https://ydekc.org/news/selsym2019/>) also drew more than 300 participants eager to shift practice to better support young people.



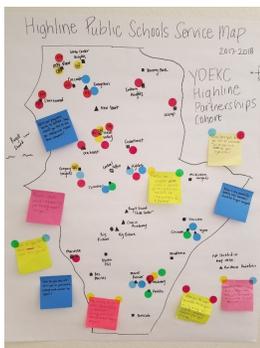
ORGANIZATIONAL MILESTONES

YDEKC hires Social and Emotional Learning Strategy Manager

November 2017

YDEKC brings on a full-time staff member to develop and implement a growing SEL strategy

Mona Grife (she/her) joined the YDEKC team in November 2017. She has been in the youth development field since 2002 serving in a variety of roles as a teaching artist, service learning coordinator, program manager, and capacity builder. She has facilitated and managed youth leadership, service learning, and social emotional programs across Washington with organizations such as Planned Parenthood, Metrocenter YMCA, and United Way of King County. Most recently, she founded Creative Hearts Lab, pop-up workshops for young children that focus on SEL, literacy, and the arts. She enjoys building collaborative partnerships and finding creative ways to align efforts to achieve ambitious outcomes. She is also a proud parent of two boys who exercise her SEL skills in ways she never imagined.



CROSS-SECTOR COLLABORATION

Highline School-Community Partnership Cohort kicks off

March 2018 - May 2019

YDEKC's second School-Community Partnership Cohort focuses on providers in the Highline School District

Following a similar model to the Early Adopters cohort, the Highline cohort aimed to:

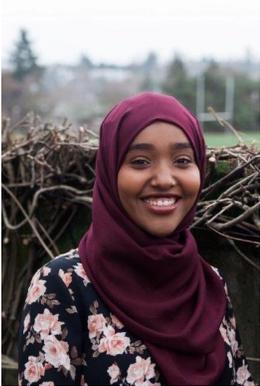
- *Strengthen the organizational capacity of each participating organization to develop sustainable partnerships that eliminate opportunity gaps and develop whole day whole child learning environments where every child feels safe, supported, connected, and inspired to learn and thrive.

- *Create a peer learning group for community based organization (CBO)/site-based

coordinators focused on school-community partnerships within Highline Public Schools to share and gain expertise.

*Give participants the opportunity to apply tools from the Partnership Ecosystem Toolkit within school-community partnerships.

Several participants in the Highline cohort noted that their focus on building relationships with school staff had improved as a result of their experience in the cohort. Others noted that their organization had implemented, or intended to implement, ideas from the cohort, specifically in the areas of family engagement and strategic communications.



ORGANIZATIONAL MILESTONES

YDEKC brings on a Policy Research Assistant to support advocacy work

September 2018

This position helps to support policy and advocacy events

Hikma came to YDEKC with experience serving on multiple youth boards and was recently appointed to the King County Children and Youth Advisory Board (CYAB).

Hikma's journey as a youth advocate and changemaker accelerated after she was interviewed for a series on American Muslims working to create change in their communities. It inspired her to organize events for youth in her community. These events become a space for youth to learn, feel empowered and most importantly, to be heard.

Hikma's work at YDEKC brought her perspective to the systems affecting youth across the county and the state.

WHOLE CHILD, WHOLE DAY VISION

Social and Emotional Learning Landscape Scan published

September 2018

This report takes stock of the whole child, whole day ecosystem across the Road Map region.

During the 2017-2018 school year, with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, YDEKC undertook a landscape scan to better understand how school districts and youth programs in the Road Map Project region (South Seattle and South King County, Washington) were addressing social and emotional skill development through the lens of a whole child, whole day approach.

The resulting report explains the systems, strategies, and practices that support whole child outcomes across the whole day, and in particular what supports were available in each of the seven school districts across the Road Map region. To produce this scan, YDEKC surveyed participants from YDEKC's 2017 SEL Symposium, conducted key informant interviews with district and community leaders, reviewed national and local reports, and captured insights from SEL-related meetings in the Road Map region.

The scan was designed to help YDEKC, school districts, community partners, and funders to identify opportunities for cross-sector collaboration, alignment, and learning to support whole child outcomes. Ultimately, YDEKC's goal was more youth-serving environments where every child feels safe, supported, connected, and inspired to learn and thrive.

WHOLE CHILD, WHOLE DAY VISION

YDEKC convenes Whole Child, Whole Day Advisory Committee

January 2019

This cross-sector group steers YDEKC's regional strategy related to social and emotional learning.

YDEKC's Social and Emotional Learning Landscape Scan recommended increasing and building upon existing collaborative partnerships with families and community partners by integrating explicit SEL efforts in the Road Map region.

In response to this recommendation, YDEKC convened an advisory committee to steer YDEKC's Whole Child, Whole Day initiatives such as the annual symposium and mini-grants.



COLLECTIVE POWER

YDEKC co-hosts Advocacy Day for Youth Development and Expanded Learning

January 2019

The event brings young people and program leaders and providers to Olympia for a day of action

School's Out Washington (SOWA), Youth Development Executives of King County (YDEKC), and SOAR collaborated to host an Advocacy Day for Youth Development and Expanded Learning.

Providers and youth convened in Olympia, and met with legislators to help promote their own programs and the expanded learning and Youth Development fields as a whole.

Advocacy Day gave providers the opportunity to visit the capitol and make a difference. In 2020, YDEKC, SOAR, and SOWA again brought a group to Olympia help make the case for high-quality expanded learning.

WHOLE CHILD, WHOLE DAY VISION

YDEKC awards mini-grants for inspiring whole child, whole day work

March 2019 - December 2019

With generous support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, YDEKC provided support for projects connecting youth, family, and/or community voice in whole child, whole day efforts.

Overall, YDEKC was able to award mini-grants to 10 agencies with a total investment of \$95,000. Additionally, YDEKC was able to stretch the budget to partially fund 6 more projects that were recommended by the review committee as promising projects. This was an additional investment of \$28,000.

Funded projects spanned the entire Road Map region, and included projects on cultural identity development, family engagement, youth engagement, and more. Read more about this project on our website, or check out our video project celebrating the grantees.

CROSS-SECTOR COLLABORATION

Third Partnership Cohort focuses on Social and Emotional Learning

March 2019 - June 2020

YDEKC partnered with School's Out Washington to lead a cohort of organizations through a program quality intervention with a focus on partnerships

Building on the success of past cohorts, YDEKC brought together social and emotional learning and school-community partnerships.

Among the goals of this cohort were to share strategies for cultivating social emotional learning and meeting the holistic needs of youth in expanded learning settings and develop messaging and tools that elevate the youth development field's role in this work. To this end, participants contributed to [YDEKC's first 'zine](<https://ydekc.org/resource-center/2019-2020-sel-partnership-cohort-zine/>), which highlighted each organization's contribution to the Whole Child, Whole Day ecosystem.

One participant described the cohort as "one of the few spaces where I get to talk with people who are in the same area of work as me ... It's important to connect with others and be in groups where you come together and take an hour for yourself to talk about the work."

COLLECTIVE POWER

"What is Youth Development?" video highlighted at 8th Annual YDEKC Summit

March 2019

YDEKC premieres a first-of-its kind youth development Public Service Announcement

Youth development, or positive youth development, serves as the unifying principle for YDEKC's diverse coalition of organizations.

This video illustrates how YDEKC defines youth development, and how youth development principles show up in a variety of youth-oriented settings.



COLLECTIVE POWER

Advocacy "Hot Topics" series debuts

April 2019

Webinars explore current policy issues relevant to the field

The first webinar in this series focused on the Youth Development Work Group bill in the Washington State Legislature.

Other topics covered in this series include the Puget Sound Taxpayer Accountability Act (PSTAA), Best Starts for Kids, and more recently, City of Seattle funding for youth in the context of COVID-19.

WHOLE CHILD, WHOLE DAY VISION

Washington State's Social and Emotional Learning Implementation Guide released

July 2019

YDEKC contributes to resources designed to ensure that schools, communities, and families support students' social and emotional development.

The SEL implementation guide, which is accompanied by resource briefs and SEL indicators, is the result of long-term collaboration between YDEKC and a cross-sector group from around Washington State. These resources:

- Support local community needs and assets
- Are shaped by a commitment to equity, cultural responsiveness, universal design, and trauma-informed practices
- Approach the social emotional development of children as a shared responsibility among families, educators, youth development professionals, and other youth- and family-serving agencies and organizations.



ORGANIZATIONAL MILESTONES

YDEKC hires a Database and Administrative Assistant to modernize organizational infrastructure

September 2019

This position will play a major part in implementing our future-oriented information technology planning

Stephanie Markham (she/her) joined YDEKC's team shortly after graduating from the University of Washington School of Social Work in 2019. She is passionate about systems change. At the Community Alliance for Global Justice, she helped optimize their food justice work by designing new protocols for their database and tracking member engagement. She served at Canlis Restaurant for six years, where she voluntarily built databases from scratch to help the team function more highly. She volunteered as a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) and at ROOTS Youth Adult Shelter and is committed to improving systems that affect youth and children. Her experiences with foster care, adoption, and repeatedly changing schools motivate her to direct her energy toward helping build more supportive systems for youth.

STRONG, NETWORKED LEADERSHIP

Racial Equity Conversation Series focuses on supporting immigrant and refugee communities

YDEKC convenes conversations to increase awareness, intention and action around issues of inequity within youth-serving organizations and the young people and communities they serve

This 3-part series brought together YDEKC members to consider multiple perspectives on racial equity within the sector. The specific focus was on supporting immigrant and refugee communities. Topics included:

- *The lay of the land, in terms of the policies affecting refugee and immigrant communities in the region
- *Organizational policies and practices that result in inclusive communities
- *Collaboration and partnership to support immigrant and refugee youth

CROSS-SECTOR COLLABORATION

YDEKC conducts its first virtual Training of Trainers

April 2020 - July 2020

YDEKC develops a curriculum guide to accompany its School-Community Partnership toolkit, and hosts a virtual Training of Trainers for coaches, trainers, and organizational leaders.

This 3-session virtual series was designed to equip participants to lead experiential learning sessions aligned to [YDEKC's School-Community Partnership Toolkit](<https://ydekc.org/resource-center/school-community-partnership-toolkit/>).

School and community-based leaders from around the region had the opportunity to learn, practice, and receive feedback on the facilitation of activities and build community.

After completing the training of trainers, participants were able to draw on the toolkit itself and the detailed curriculum guide to support cross-sector collaboration in their own communities.

COLLECTIVE POWER

New Youth Development Strategy Table advocates to support young people through COVID-19

May 2020

The group focused their agenda on maintaining supports in the face of massive disruption from the pandemic.

In typical times, many children and youth rely on their schools and youth development programs for support, and for connection with a caring, supportive adult. During the COVID-19 crisis, the youth development field is maintaining these connections to reduce the impact of social distancing and extended school closures.

Many community-based organizations face declines in funding and revenues combined with increased costs associated with meeting the health and safety requirements of the pandemic. At the same time, families need the critical supports provided by the sector more than ever.

The Youth Development Strategy Table, co-led by YDEKC, appealed to the State to help sustain the sector through the crisis, asking for ongoing funding to help keep young people learning safely.



WHOLE CHILD, WHOLE DAY VISION

Fifth Whole Child, Whole Day Symposium goes virtual

July 2020 - August 2020

In response to COVID-19, YDEKC produces an innovative online three-day event.

YDEKC's annual Whole Child, Whole Day Symposium has evolved over time to be a much-anticipated event on the local scene. In 2018 and 2019, the Symposium drew more than 300 leaders from the education and youth development sectors.

YDEKC had every intention of building on past successes with the 2020 Symposium, until it became clear that an in-person event would not be possible. Also clear was the fact that the

community still wanted to come together, and that deep discussion of ways to support the whole child were needed more than ever.

After a quick pivot to an online model, and months of planning, YDEKC welcomed 200 people to an all-online three-day event. Each day featured opening and closing plenaries, along with four workshop options, all delivered via Zoom.

The Symposium was well received by participants, who appreciated the welcoming and interactive environment, and learned about new ways to build and sustain community in virtual spaces. According to one participant, "To have this happen in a virtual setting showed me that connections can be made at a distance."