

# MICHELLE DAGNINO

---

## Elements of meaningful youth engagement

### Youth-Friendly Processes:

Here are some examples of what youth-friendly processes could look like:

- i. Fun and easy to understand handouts and materials (no jargon)
- ii. Plan meeting times for after-school and weekends
- iii. Meeting locations usually held in a youth-friendly space (i.e. local community centre, school, youth organization meeting room, and sometimes even City Hall)
- iv. Hire youth staff as co-facilitators/coordinators/contractors

### Resources for Youth Participation:

Meaningful youth participation can happen when young people have sufficient resources to participate. The following is a list of things you may want to provide:

- v. Tickets for public transportation
- vi. Food at meetings
- vii. Honoraria for participation
- viii. Training & skills building opportunities

### Youth-Adult Partnership:

A youth-adult partnership exists when the youth and the adult have the opportunity to make suggestions and decisions, and the contribution of each is recognized and valued equally.

### Tapping into passions:

A good place to start to get young people excited and involved in civic engagement issues is to:

- ix. Ask young people what they care about in their community and what ignites their passion
- x. Go to where you know the young people are who would most likely be interested in the issue you are working on

## Resources

*Ensure that a budget is put aside to engage youth in the planning process. When drafting a budget, consider things such as:*

- o Youth contractors/facilitators
- o Food for meetings
- o Bus tickets for transportation
- o Honoraria for youth participation

## Youth-Friendly

- o Handouts and other material is easy to understand, looks appealing and is a fun layout
- o Variety of activity formats are used in public processes:

Youth-only consultation

Intergenerational workshop

Focus groups

Written feedback

## Interviews

## Participatory research

- Meeting space is safe, comfortable and familiar
- Icebreakers and energizers added to process

## Logistics

- Meeting times are after-school or weekends
- Meeting location close to a transit line

## Support

- Shared decision making power

## Training

*In order for young people to feel prepared to fully participate, training should be offered.*

- Orientation session
- Educational component of the issue
- Opportunity to debrief the experience

*Additional training (if interest and resources allow):*

- Facilitation skills building
- Presentation and public speaking skills building
- Conflict resolution training
- Tap into youth passions

## Checklist to Involving Youth in Public Processes

*I would be happy to walk you through a youth involvement strategy that suits the needs of your project and sparks the interest of youth.*

### Contact:

- Email: [info@michelledagnino.com](mailto:info@michelledagnino.com)
- Tel: 905-265-9563
- Website: [www.michelledagnino.com](http://www.michelledagnino.com)