

YOUTH PLANNERS

Strengthening a Community of Practice

YOU'RE INVITED!

Urban Youth Café
and Forum



Planning with Youth
What we know and what
we want



Are you a young organizer or a youth worker? Just happen to work or plan with youth? Then this forum is for you.

The Urban Youth Cafe and Forum is on this spring in connection with GetOut!, the Planners for Tomorrow Conference and the World Urban Forum and Youth.

Join us in person at the Café, and check us out online to join the community and keep connected.

The "live" part...

We're kicking off our youth forum with a mental jam session at the **Urban Youth Café**, an event bringing together youth from all areas to share our skills and knowledge, celebrate our work, face those hard questions and inspire each other for the future. Join us for an afternoon of creative discussion and inspiring performances by youth.

We'll do **collage mural art** and **zine-making** to add creativity and fun to the reflective discussion. Some great artists are going to be there to show us the ropes!

May 6, 2006
2:30-5:30 pm at the Roundhouse
Community Centre

Come and learn about how to plan with youth. Meet other young people working with youth make connections and share ideas. We're taking time to reflect on the process of just *how* we do what we do. We'll reflect on our successes and challenges, how we responded, and what we learned.

The Café is a mentoring opportunity for youth who want to build connections and learn the art of planning with youth. It's also a chance for youth who are just getting into it all to propose fresh perspectives, lead the discussion and to create a space of their own.

The online community is a way for you to tap into more resources and in-depth discussion about youth planning, and to keep in touch with other youth after the café, as well as youth from around the world who will be tuning in. Join the

online discussion and find out how to get involved in opportunities like the World Urban Forum and Youth and the Planners for Tomorrow conference.

To join the online community, go to www.plannersfortomorrow.ca/salon and choose youth from the drop-down menu on the left. Posting will be starting in April online, and will go through until after the Café. If you're not in town, this is also a great way to check in and share your ideas.

Got a story to tell?

We all have a story about working/inspiring/engaging with other young people. To tell yours, visit our Online Publishing Salon page. We are looking for submissions for a publication, featuring the work and reflections of innovative youth planners of today-- in order to teach the planners for tomorrow how to meaningfully engage youth. You're the expert, so we want to hear from you!

Submissions can range from a paper, to a story, a poem, a photo essay, a video, or an artwork that describes your experience planning and running a project or program driven by youth or involving youth. For more information about how to submit your work to the online publication, go to the topic "Youth Publishing Salon" on the left of the Youth homepage.

The cyber part...

Drop by our **Online Community of Practice**. Youth and practitioners from around the world are welcome to share their ideas and best strategies for planning with youth. The salon also offers an opportunity for youth to publish their ideas and get recognition for their work.

www.plannersfortomorrow.ca/salon
Choose "Youth" from the drop-down menu

We know that working toward meaningful engagement and participatory planning for youth is never straightforward or tidy. We've probably all been part of something where we were involved only as token participants, because we didn't know how to outreach effectively, or because the program wasn't really sustainable. We've probably all also been part of something that really worked, that really made an impact. **So maybe its time to get together and reflect on it all...**

What's it all about?

As young people, it often seems like we're expected to have it all together in someone else's world. We're supposed to learn how to behave, to develop a certain set of skills and knowledge, and to make the proper connections, etc. so that we can "be-successful-when-when-we-grow-up". However, not many youth ever have the chance or the power to influence the things that have direct impact on our lives— things like education, employment, culture and recreation, health services or even personal safety. We're often researched— by government, by academics, by whoever— but we're

rarely the researchers.

But like a lot of young people, we know that we *do* have important, innovative ideas for making change in our society. Maybe small changes that make a difference in a few people's lives, maybe big, systemic changes that affect us all. We know that we have a lot to bring to the table.

The salon will bring us all together to talk about the impacts we're seeing, the tools and knowledge we'll need, and our visions for the future (in all their diversity). We are coming from all areas and levels of youth community development and planning, so it will be fun and productive! Our goal is to collect and create knowledge that will be of use to our community (young community developers and planners, and those who work with them), and to find creative ways to make that knowledge an accessible resource for all of us.

Want to Sign Up?

Please RSVP by **Friday April 28th** to Fiona Lemon, yats@heygetout.ca to register. Please include the following in your email:

1. Name:
2. Contact Information (email and phone number):
3. Age:
4. Organization or Project you are involved with:
5. Interests:
6. First choice for activity (collage mural or zine-making):

For more information, contact:

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