



# Equity Series #3: Youth Empowerment Programs

6/27/2023



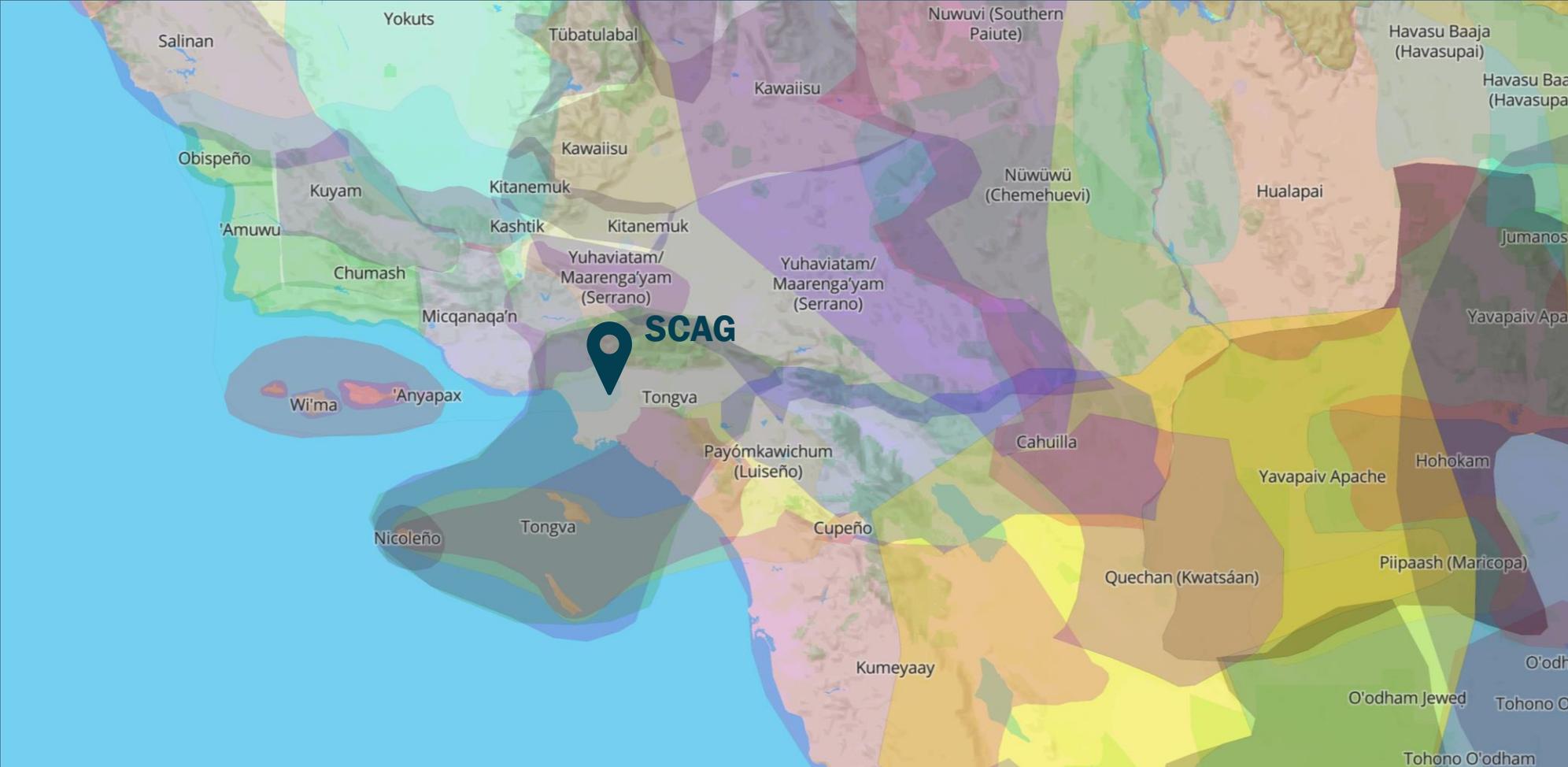
[WWW.SCAG.CA.GOV](http://WWW.SCAG.CA.GOV)

# Meeting Logistics

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1. Meeting length: 1.5 hours
2. All participant lines will be muted
3. At the end, there will be a Q&A session
4. If you have a question during the presentation, please type it into the chat box
5. This meeting is being recorded. The recording and PowerPoint slides will be available on the SCAG website. We will send a link to everyone who has registered after the event.

# Land Acknowledgement



# Agenda

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1. Welcome and Introduction 1:00 – 1:10 p.m.  
*Anita Au, Planning Supervisor, SCAG*
2. Youth Engagement and Equity in Public Policy 1:10 – 1:25 p.m.  
*LaVonna B. Lewis, PhD, MPH, Associate Dean of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, USC*
3. Renaissance Academy and LA County Public Works Partnership 1:25 – 1:40 p.m.  
*Mike Blockstein, Co-Principal & Shirley Rivera, Creative Civic Engagement Associate, Public Matters*
4. Southern California Youth Futures Summit 1:40 – 1:55 p.m.  
*Fatima Nelson and Eric Calderon, Community Engagement Specialists, UCR*
5. Emerging Youth Power in the Inland Empire 1:55 – 2:10 p.m.  
*Veronica Terriquez, Professor and Director of Chicano Studies Research Center, UCLA*
6. Discussion 2:10 – 2:25 p.m.
7. Session Wrap Up 2:25 – 2:30 p.m.

# SCAG's Commitment to Equity and Social Justice

- July 2020 – SCAG Board adopted resolution
- Established the **Special Committee on Equity & Social Justice**
- Focused on:
  - Developing SCAG's response to advancing equity throughout the agency's activities
  - Advising SCAG's Regional Council on policies and practices to advance its resolved intentions

*"As central to SCAG's work, **racial equity** describes the actions, policies, and practices that eliminate bias and barriers that have historically and systemically marginalized communities of color, to ensure all people can be healthy, prosperous, and participate fully in civic life."*

# Racial Equity Early Action Plan



GOALS

**Shift Organizational Culture**  
Focus SCAG's internal work and practices on inclusion, diversity, equity, and awareness.

**Center Racial Equity in Regional Planning & Policy**  
Bring equity into SCAG's regional planning functions.

**Encourage Racial Equity in Local Planning Practices**  
Promote racial equity in efforts involving local elected officials and planning professionals.

**Activate & Amplify**  
Communicate broadly SCAG's commitment to racial equity and join with others in different fields and sectors to amplify impact.

STRATEGIES

**Listen & Learn**  
Develop a shared understanding of our history of discrimination and the structural barriers that continue to perpetuate the inequities experienced today.

**Engage & Co-Power**  
Create an environment where everyone is included, able to share their experiences, and equipped to talk about racial equity and inequities.

**Integrate & Institutionalize**  
Focus on systems change to improve racial equity. Center racial equity in all aspects of work. This involves internal and external systems change. Advancing Racial Equity in Southern California.

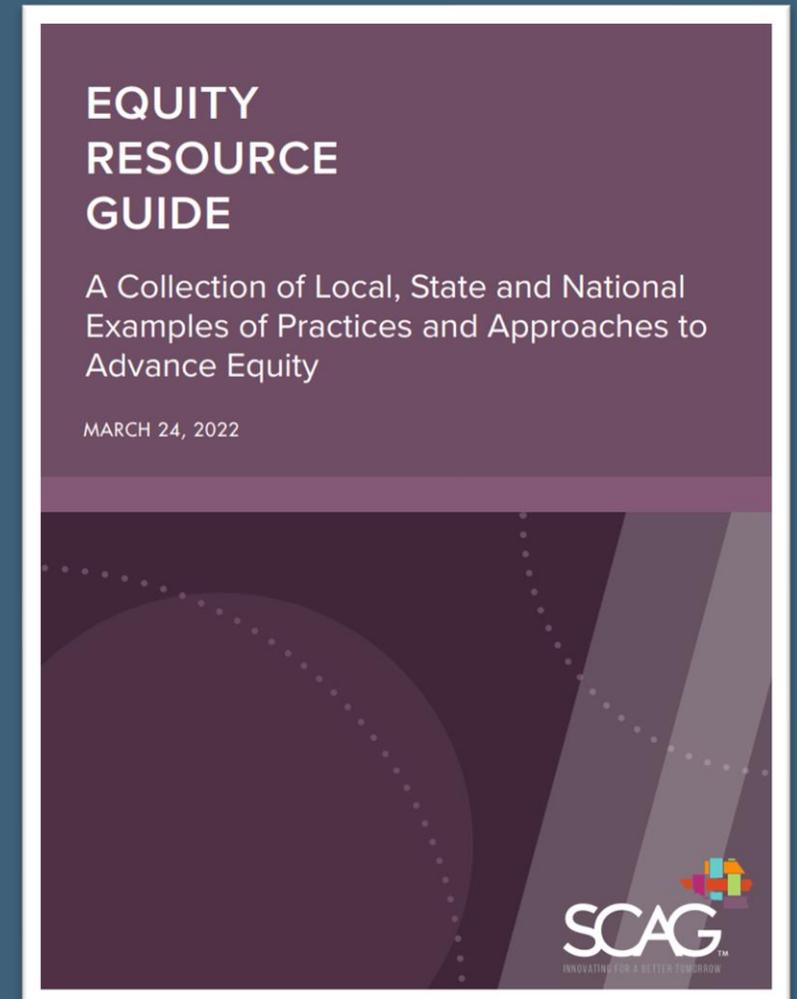
# Other Learning Opportunities

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- Previous Toolbox Tuesday Sessions:
  - January 2022, Equity In Action – Developing Equity Tools
  - April 2022, Taking Action to Advance Equity: Action Plans and Frameworks
  - March 2023, Planning with Rural Communities: Stories from Southern California (featuring Muscoy Sidewalks for Safety)
  - Recordings and Presentations available at <https://scag.ca.gov/toolbox-tuesday-online-training-materials>

# Equity Resource Guide

- Shares a collection of **local, state, and national examples** of equity efforts
- Promotes and **amplifies best practices** for equitable and inclusive planning
- Encourages collaboration and implementation of these practices and approaches
- Available at: <https://scag.ca.gov/IDEA>



# Youth Empowerment in *Go Human* Mini-Grants

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- **Youth-Led Walkability Assessment**, *Youth Leadership Institute\**
- **How East LA Moves: Creative, Custom People Powered Transit**, *Public Matters*
- **Safe Streets/Calles Seguras Awareness Project**, *Highlanders Boxing Club\**
- **Pomona Asphalt to Arts**, *Day One*
- **Ride, Walk and Roll Orange County**, *Latino Health Access*
- **Muscoy Sidewalks for Safety**

\*Presented at the [September 2022 Safe and Active Streets Working Group](#)

# Session Objectives

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**Participants will leave this session with a greater understanding of:**

- What youth empowerment programs are and how they are planned and structured
- What the benefits of hosting a youth empowerment program are and why youth are particularly important to decision-making processes
- Potential challenges in executing youth empowerment programs and what you can do to prepare to face those challenges

We want to know...

What type of organization are you representing today?

In what capacity have you ever been involved in youth engagement/empowerment programs?

**Fill out the poll on  
your screen!**

# USC Price

Sol Price School of Public Policy

## Youth Engagement and Equity in Public Policy

**LaVonna B. Lewis, PhD, MPH**

**June 27, 2023**



# Youth Engagement and Equity at Price

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- **Foundations**

- Adulthood
- Spectrum of Youth Leadership
- Equity

- **Price Led**

- Pathway Programs
- Consultative Projects
- Community Engaged Research
- Stakeholder Engagement

- **Price Supported**

- President Biden's Equity Agenda
- LA Regional Youth Summit



# Foundations-Adultism

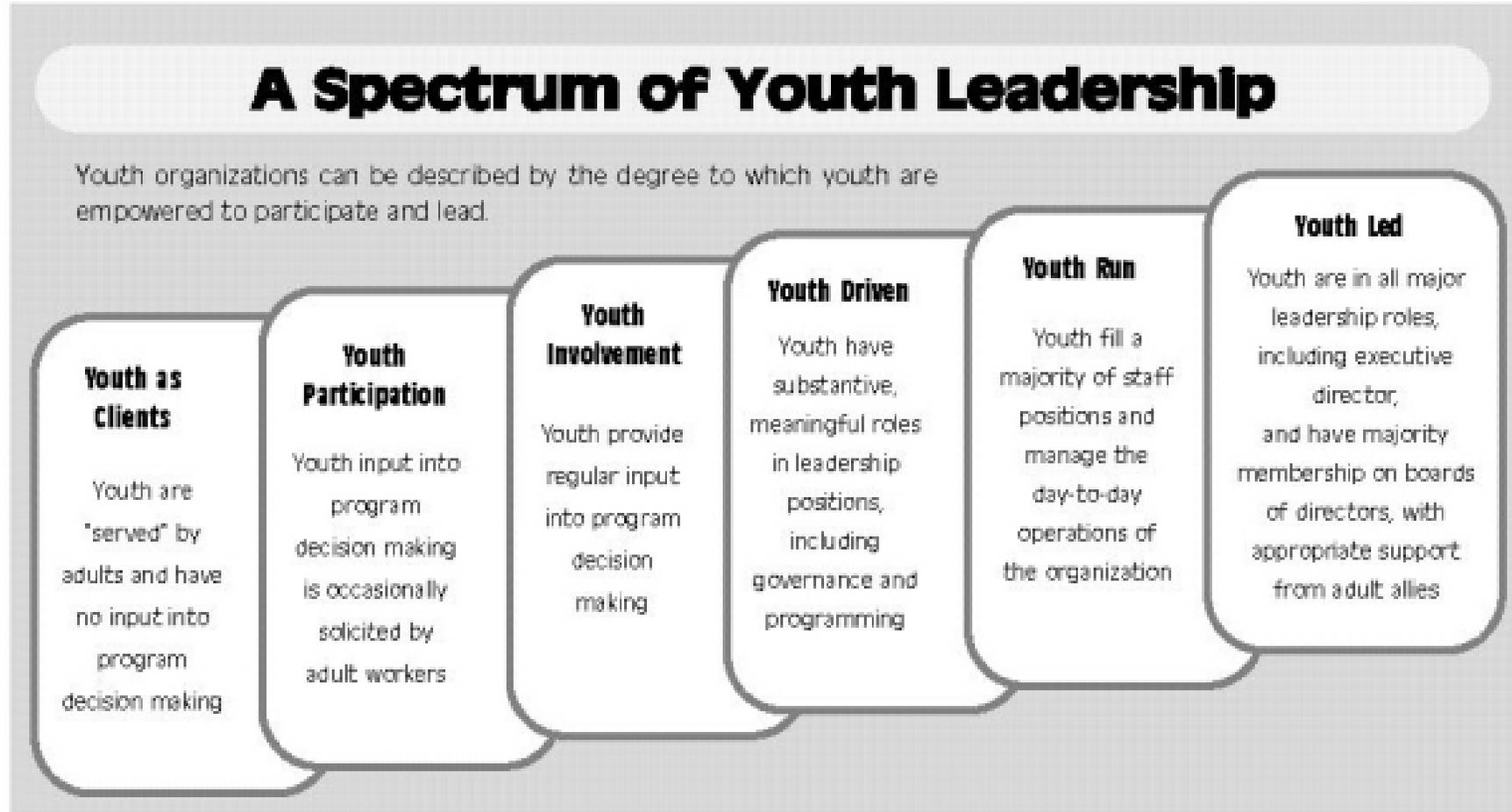
## Adultism

- “refers to the behaviors and attitudes based on the assumption that adults are better than young people, and entitled to act upon young people without their agreement.”

## Some Consequences of Adultism

- Undermining of self-confidence
- Increasing sense of worthlessness
- Increasing sense of powerlessness
- A consistent experience of not being taken seriously
- Diminishing ability to function well in the world
- A growing negative self-concept
- Increasing destructive acting out
- Increasing self-destructive acting in-getting sick frequently, attempting suicide
- Feeling unloved or unwanted

# Foundations-Youth Leadership



Zimmerman, K. (2007). *Making Space, Making Change: Models for Youth Led Social Change Organizations*.  
jstor.org. [https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.7721/chilyoutenvi.17.2.0298#metadata\\_info\\_tab\\_content](https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.7721/chilyoutenvi.17.2.0298#metadata_info_tab_content)

# Foundations-Equity



Equality = Sameness

GIVING EVERYONE THE SAME THING \_\_\_\_\_. It only works if everyone starts from the same place



Equity = Fairness

ACCESS TO THE SAME OPPORTUNITIES \_\_\_\_\_. We must first ensure equity before we can enjoy equality



# Youth Engagement and Equity at Price

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- **Foundations**
  - Adulthood
  - Spectrum of Youth Leadership
  - Equity
- **Price Led**
  - Pathway Programs
  - Consultative Projects
  - Community Engaged Research
  - Stakeholder Engagement
- **Price Supported**
  - President Biden's Equity Agenda
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# Price Led

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# Youth Engagement and Equity at Price

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- **Foundations**

- Adulthood
- Spectrum of Youth Leadership
- Equity

- **Price Led**

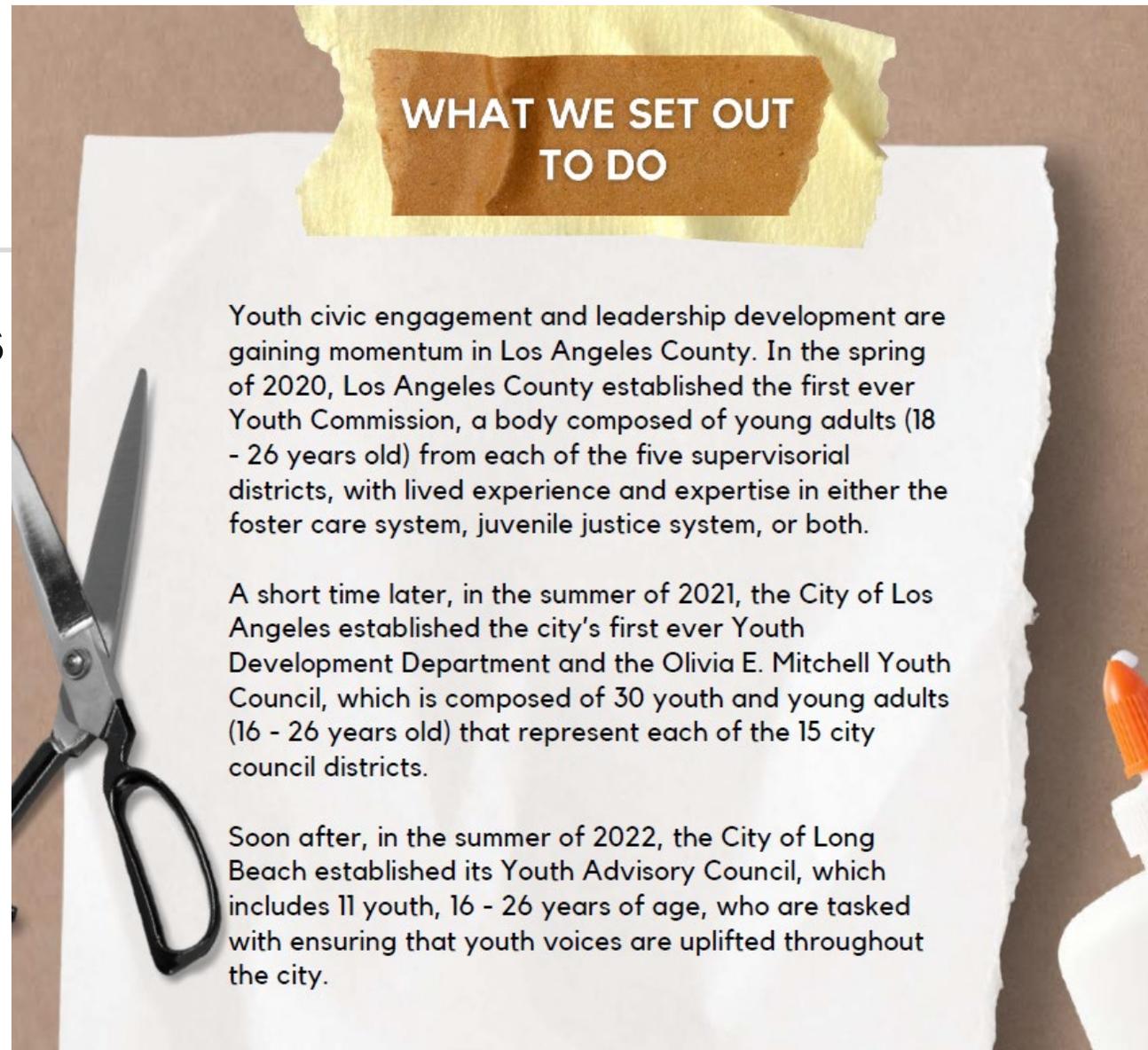
- Pathway Programs
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- **Price Supported**

- President Biden's Equity Agenda
- LA Regional Youth Summit

# Price Supported

- **President Biden's Equity Agenda**
- **LA Regional Youth Summit-Civic Leadership Academy**



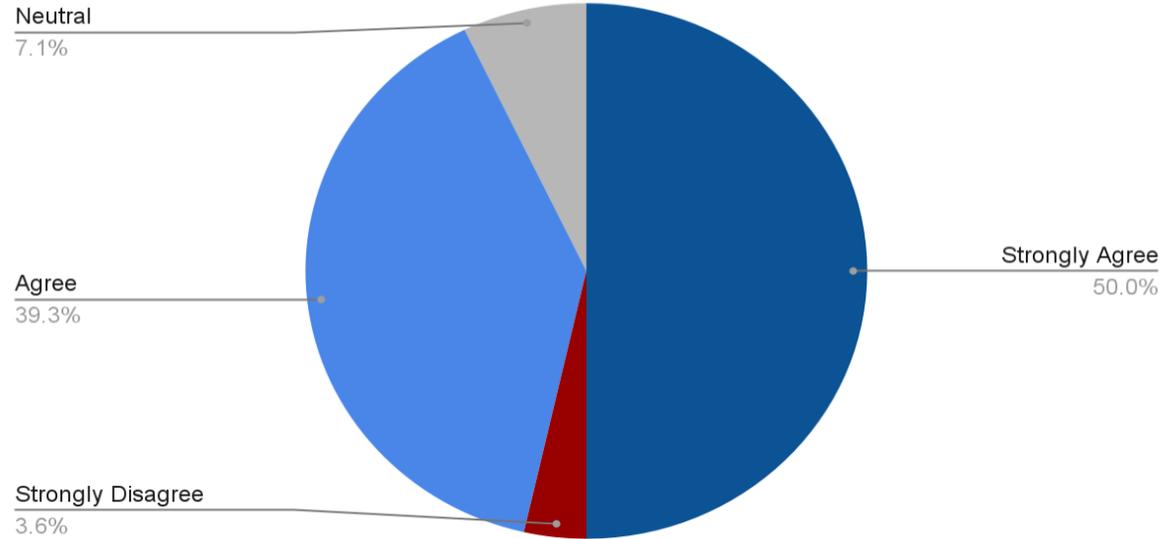
Youth Civic Leadership Academy-A Youth Lead Approach to Regional Youth Development  
2023 Report-Castillo Consulting Partners

# Youth Civic Leadership Academy

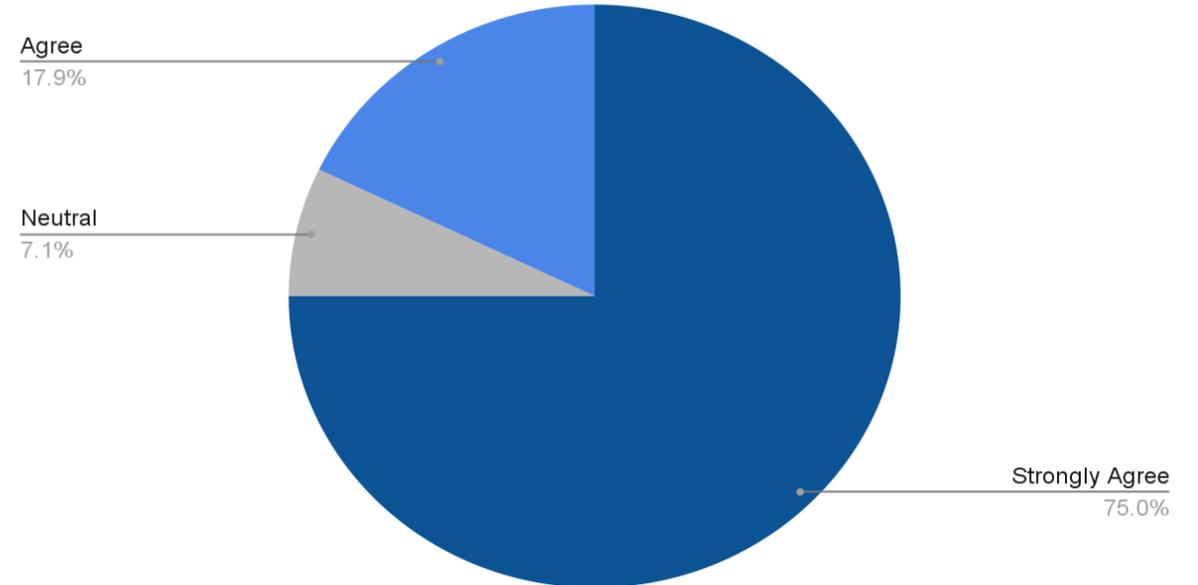
**Participant Feedback**  
March 2023



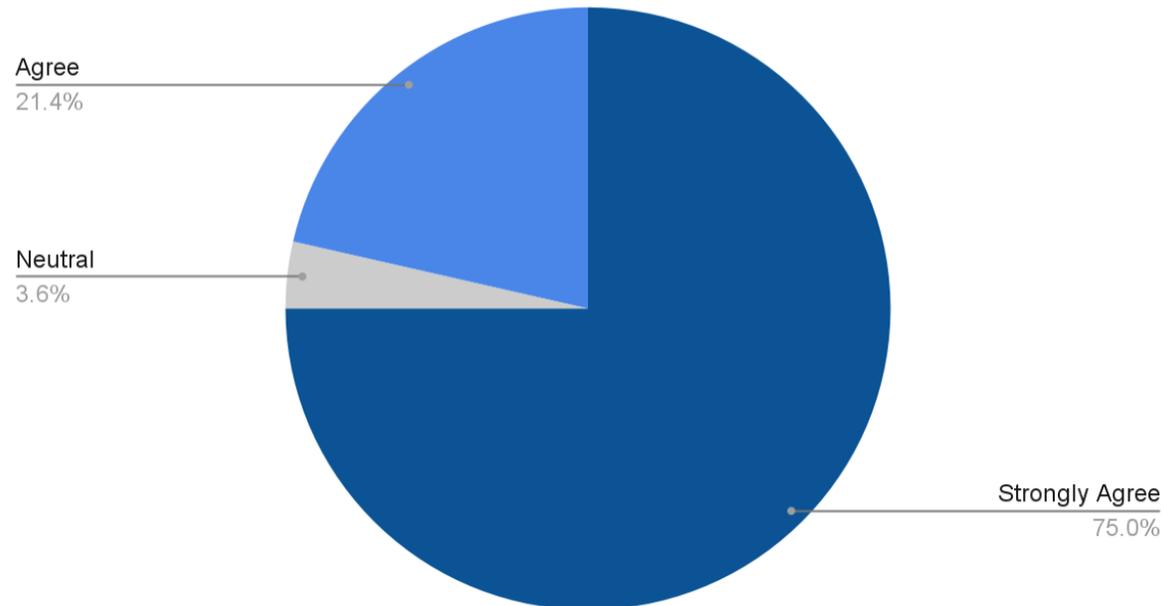
The event objectives were clearly defined. I understood why we were coming together for the Youth Civic Leadership Academy.



It was clear that the event was youth-led and youth-driven.

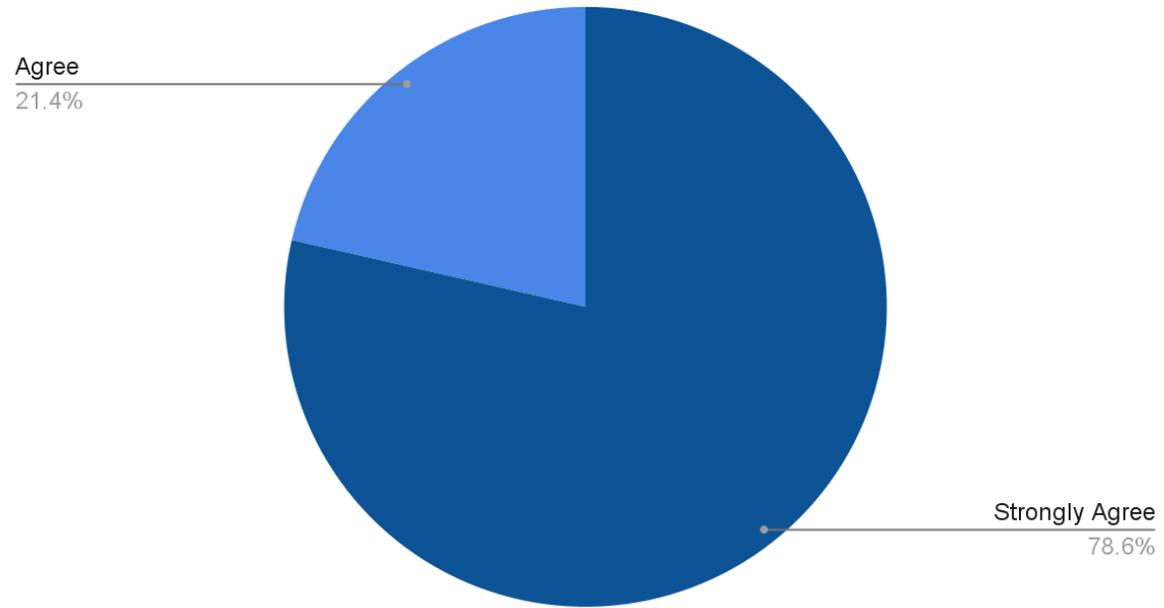


Participation and interaction were encouraged.

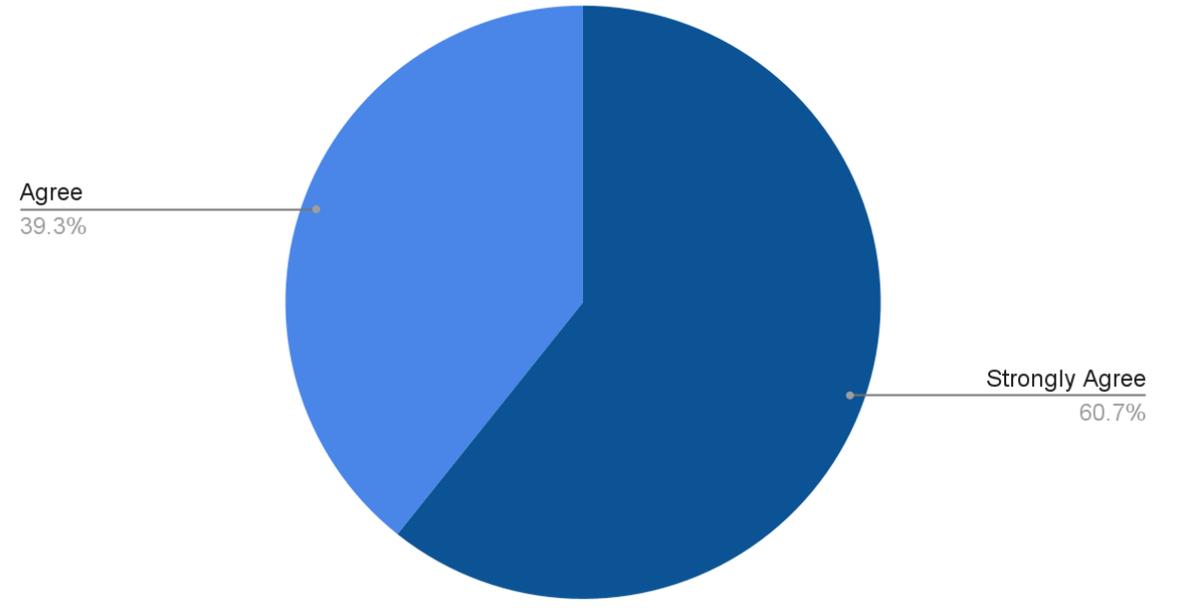


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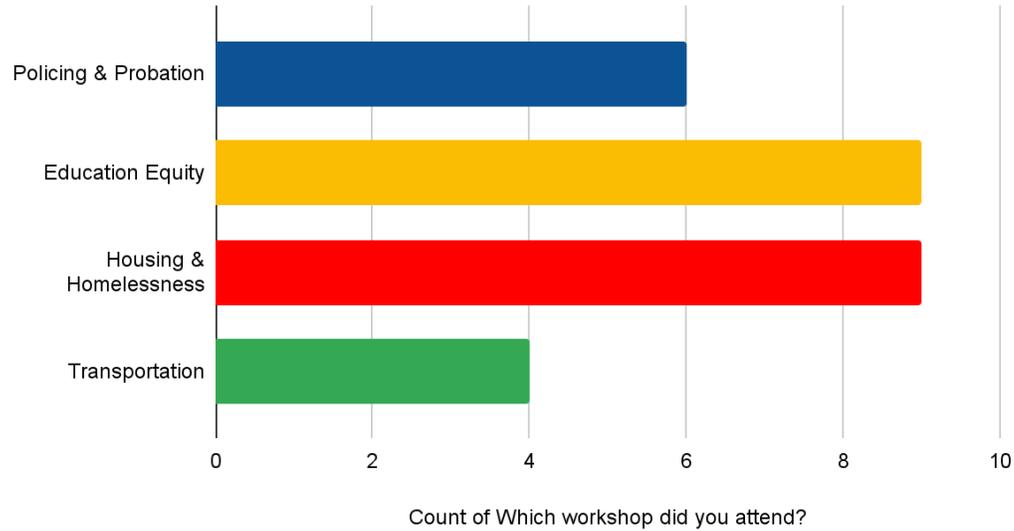
The topics discussed were relevant to the issues I care about.



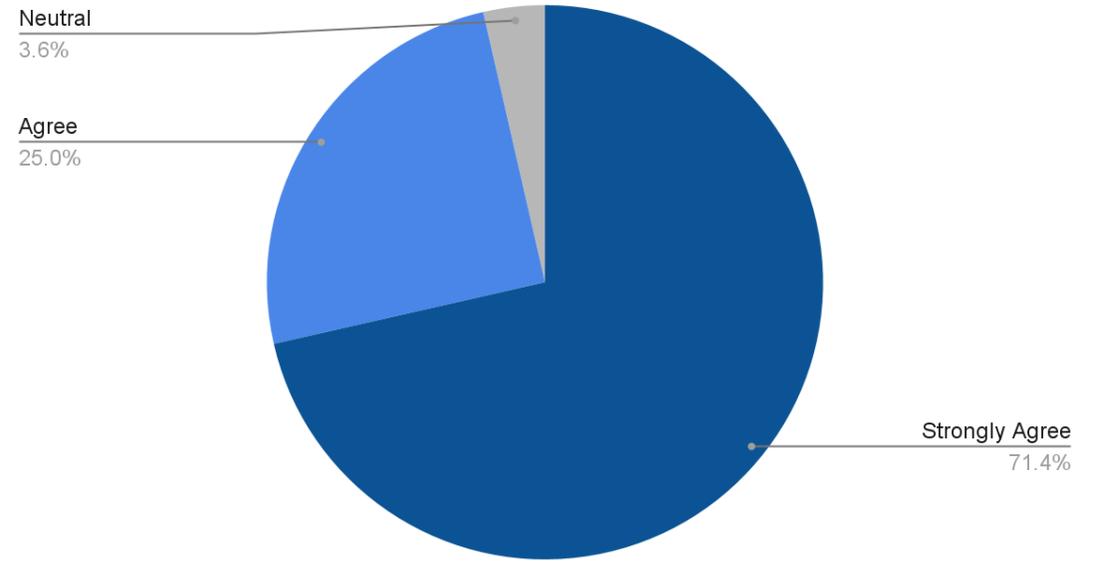
I felt empowered to share my ideas with my peers.



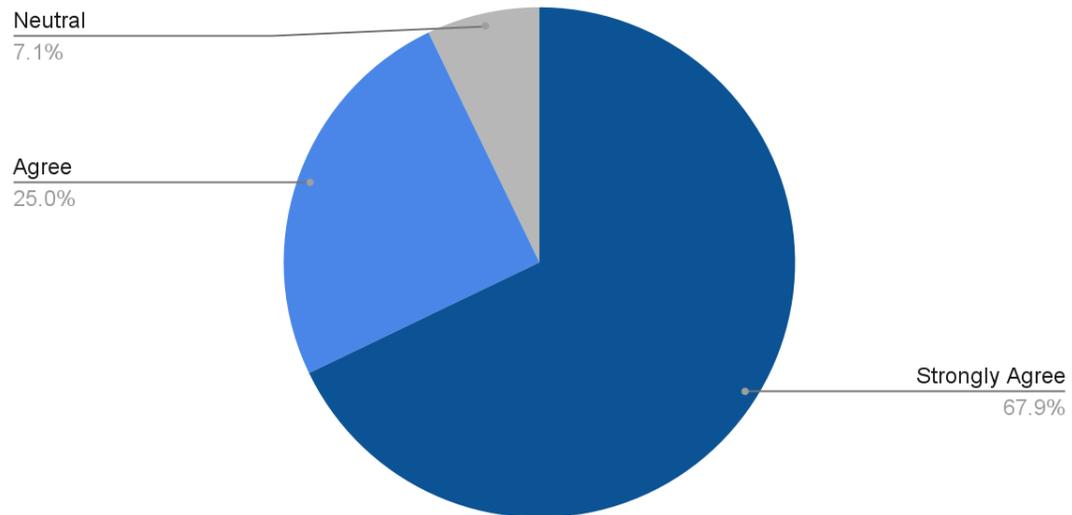
### Which workshop did you attend?



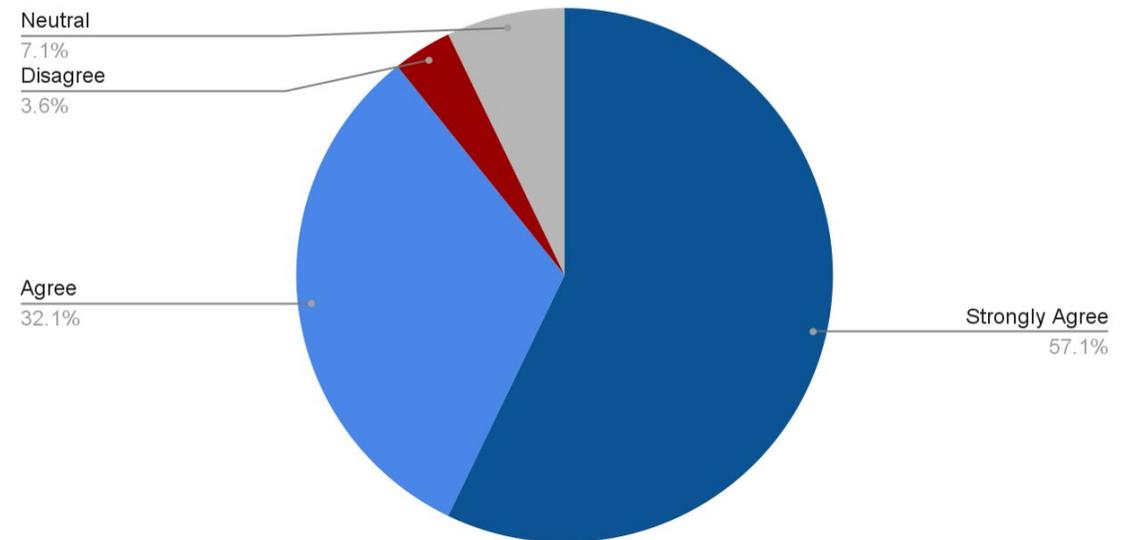
### The workshop was interesting and engaging.



### I learned something new that has helped shape my understanding of the issue.



### As a result of the workshop, I feel better equipped to make recommendations for how we can address this issue in our region.



## Concluding Thoughts

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- What areas are you 'comfortable' letting youth lead? Support?
- If you don't know, are you willing to ask?
  - LaVonna B. Lewis, PhD, MPH
    - [llewis@usc.edu](mailto:llewis@usc.edu)
    - 213.740.4280 office
    - 323.791.6150 cell





# URBAN PLANNING EDUCATION WITH A LOCAL LENS

## Public Matters SCAG Youth Leadership Panel



**PUBLIC MATTERS** is a creative studio  
for civic engagement.





The East Los Angeles Active Transportation Education and Encouragement Program

# **Our Goal:**

Build a culture of support for active  
transportation in East LA



# How do we get there?

- ✗ Teaching and training young active transportation advocates & leaders
- ✗ Rooting our work in the people, practices & places of East LA
- ✗ Connecting active transportation with East LA's culture & existing opportunities



## **Walk Audits**

Baseline

## **Surveys**

Baseline  
Mid-Point  
Post

## **Bike Safety Education Classes @ Torres HS**

Academic Year 2021-2022  
Academic Year 2022-2023

## **Moving Con Safos Summer Internship**

Summer 2022  
Summer 2023

## **Active Transportation Classes @ Renaissance**

Academic Year 2021-2022  
Open House @ Public Works 2022  
Academic Year 2022-2023  
Open House @ Public Works 2023



## **LA County Public Works Professional Development Workshops**

## **Advertising & Promotion**

2023 Calendar  
Bus Shelter Posters  
Pennants  
Social Media Posts  
Functional Artworks

## **Public Events**

City Terrace Art Walk 2022  
East LA Mural Bike Tour led by  
People for Mobility Justice 2022  
Paseo del Cempazuchitl  
for Dia de Los Muertos  
East LA Pet Parade at  
The Queer Mercado  
East LA Food Bike Tour led by  
People for Mobility Justice 2023  
East LA Mexican Independence  
Day Parade-TBC  
Eastside Open Streets Festival  
Dia de Los Muertos Event

## Work with East LA Renaissance Academy:

### Teaching and training young active transportation advocates & leaders

- >< Work with East LA Renaissance: extending the classroom into the community during the school year
- >< Summer internships
- >< Ensuring Renaissance students are central to all activities, including marketing, messaging & events





**has worked with Renaissance since it started.  
Back in 2010.**

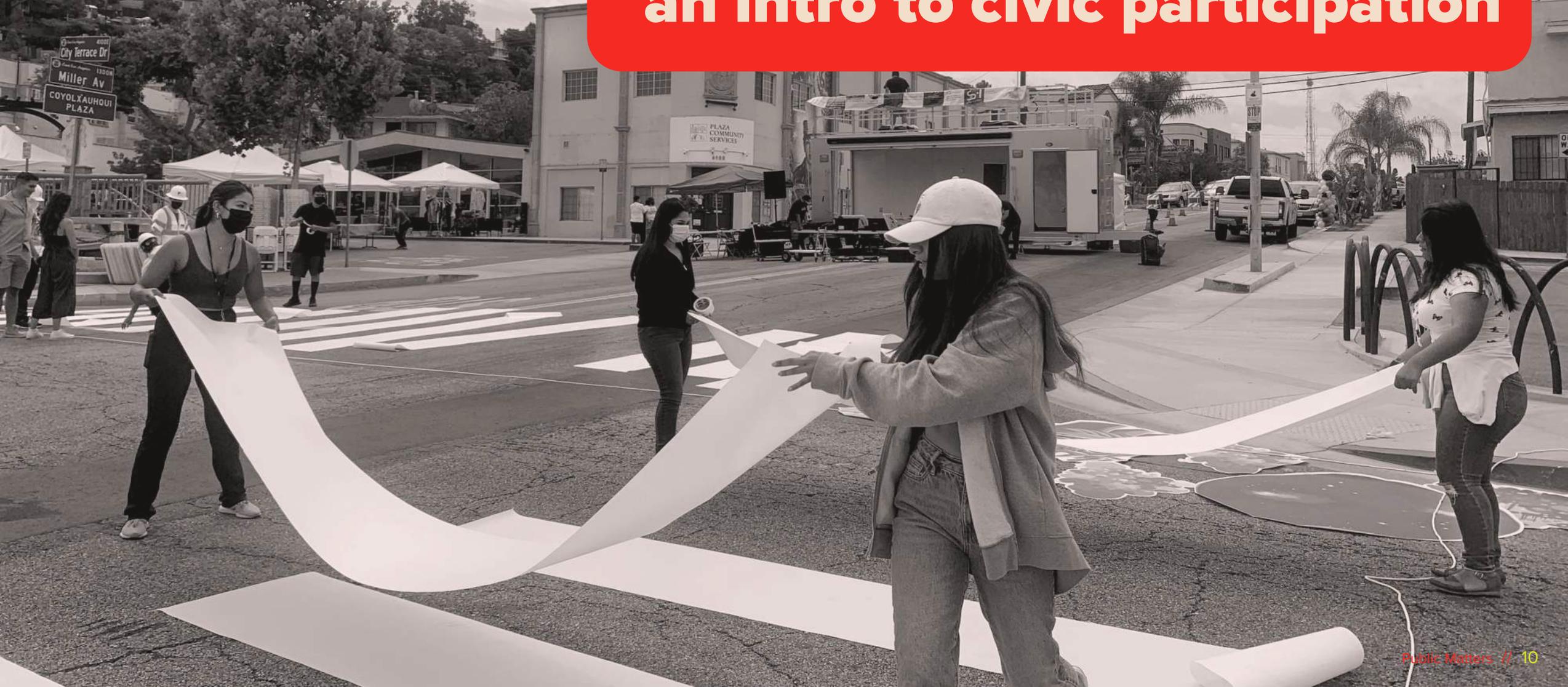




**Project-based  
learning  
aka  
making planning  
relevant for high  
school students**

**EAST L.A. MOVES**  
**EL ESTE SE MUEVE**

# Classroom to Community: an intro to civic participation



# Local Knowledge and Insights



# City Terrace Dr. Complete Streets



# Safer Streets Around Our Schools

## New East LA Bus Shelters + How Teens Travel

By East Los Angeles Renaissance Academy Students



Please join us **Thu, May 18, 2023**  
**9:30-11:00am**  
 << **Conference Room A** >>  
**Los Angeles County Public Works**  
 900 S. Fremont Ave.  
 Alhambra, CA 91803

For more info, contact: [shirley@publicmattersgroup.com](mailto:shirley@publicmattersgroup.com)

The class is part of East LA Moves/El Este Se Mueve, Public Works' East Los Angeles Active Transportation Education and Encouragement Project, led by Public Matters. The project's goal is to build a culture of support for active transportation in East LA by linking it to the area's culture and values, central to its work is training a young generation of active transportation advocates and ambassadors.



# New East LA Bus Shelters

## Nuevos paraderos de autobuses en East LA

As the climate continues to warm up, questions about shade and shelter become more pressing. Where do we place new bus shelters in East Los Angeles? How do we consider the needs of people of all ages and abilities who ride buses? What criteria do we use to decide? These questions have guided a semester-long project of East LA Renaissance Seniors, "New East LA Bus Shelters." Working in small groups, each team of students proposes ten new shelter locations or the enhancement of existing shelters in East LA.

The class then went deeper to look at questions of declining public transit ridership. How can we get more teens to use public transit in LA? Based on studies of model global transit systems, surveys of other teens, and their own experiences, students are also proposing ideas for improving teen ridership and the experience of using public transit.

The class is part of East LA Moves/El Este Se Mueve, Public Works' East Los Angeles Active Transportation Education and Encouragement Project, led by Public Matters.

# + How Teens Travel

## y cómo viajan los adolescentes

A medida que el clima se va calentando, las cuestiones sobre sombra y refugio se hacen más urgentes. ¿Dónde colocar los nuevos paraderos de autobús en el este de Los Ángeles? ¿Cómo tenemos en cuenta las necesidades de las personas de todas las edades y capacidades que viajan en autobuses? ¿Qué criterios utilizamos para decidir? Estas preguntas han guiado un proyecto de un semestre de duración de East LA Renaissance Seniors, "Nuevos paraderos de autobús en East LA". Trabajando en grupos, cada equipo de estudiantes propone diez nuevas ubicaciones de paraderos o la remodelación de los ya existentes en East LA.

A lo largo de la clase se analizaron en profundidad cuestiones relacionadas con el declive del número de usuarios del transporte público. ¿Cómo podemos conseguir que más adolescentes utilicen el transporte público en Los Ángeles? Basándose en estudios de sistemas de transporte modelo a escala mundial, encuestas a otros adolescentes y sus propias experiencias, los alumnos proponen ideas para mejorar el número de usuarios adolescentes y la experiencia de utilizar el transporte público.

La clase es parte de East LA Moves/El Este Se Mueve, Proyecto de Educación y Fomento del Transporte Activo del Este de Los Ángeles de Public Works, dirigido por Public Matters.



**EAST L.A. MOVES**  
**EL ESTE SE MUEVE**



1025  
MAY 26, 2023  
PUB. MATTERS  
PAY TO THE ORDER OF  
**Noel Gonzalez**  
\$ 1,000.00  
one thousand dollars and 00/100  
Esa Shelter Design Project  
1025

1025  
MAY 26, 2023  
PUB. MATTERS  
PAY TO THE ORDER OF  
**Anahi Velez**  
\$ 1,000.00  
one thousand dollars and 00/100  
Esa Shelter Design Project  
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1025  
MAY 26, 2023  
PUB. MATTERS  
PAY TO THE ORDER OF  
**Karely Prado**  
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Esa Shelter Design Project  
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# MOVING CON SAFOS



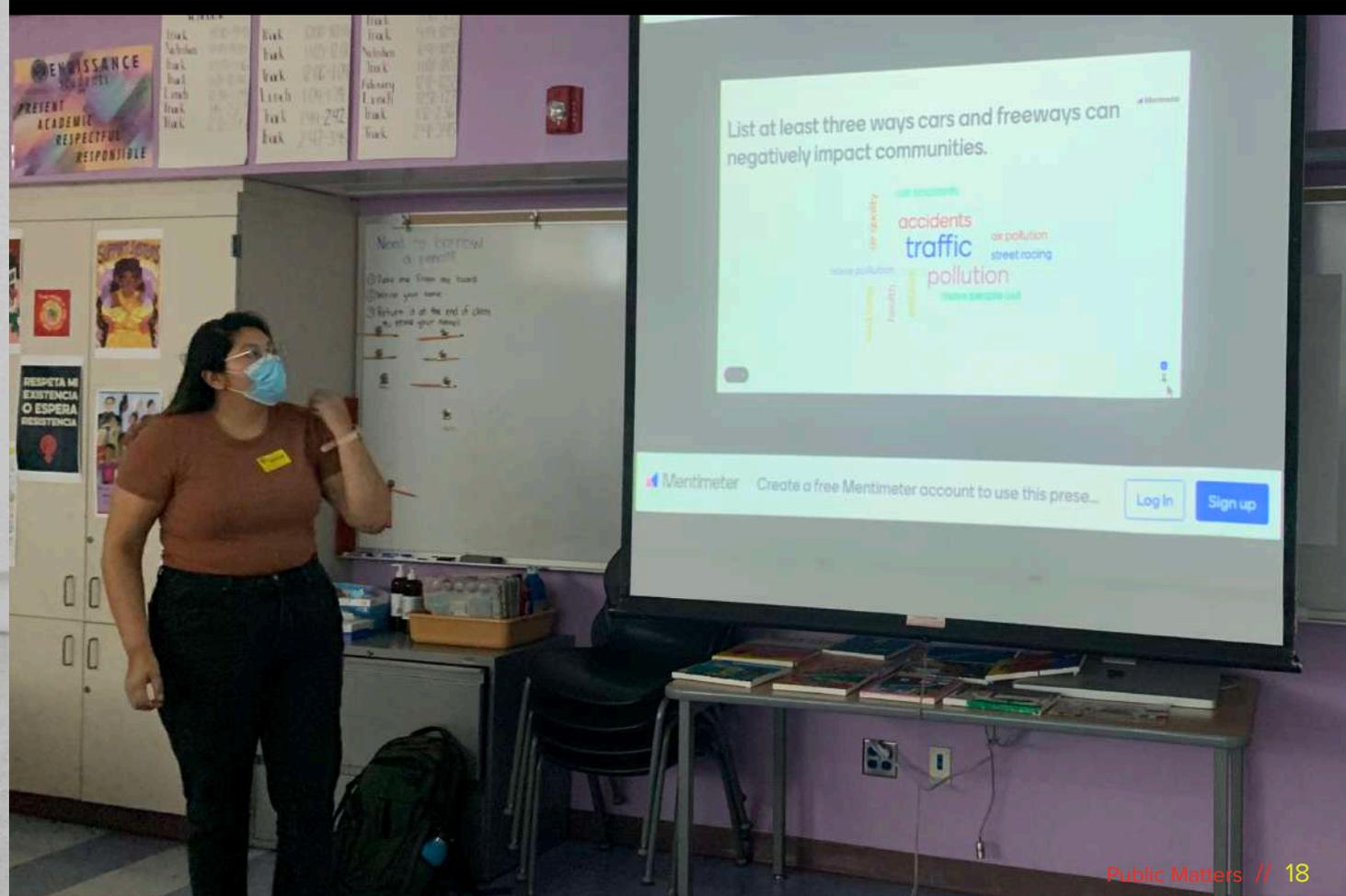
# MOVING CON SAFOS

is an opportunity for youth to:

- Learn about urban planning
- Develop communication skills
- Show your East LA pride
- Become a transportation nerd
- Get creative
- Lead
- Help make East LA a healthier, greener, more welcoming place for people-powered transportation



# Shirley's Journey



# SCAG *Toolbox Tuesdays*

Tuesday, June 27, 2023



## What is CSI?

Catalyst for systems change, with core values of resilience, inclusion, sustainability, equity

*More fully realize region's potential in civic activities, philanthropic investments, nonprofit sector*



# Operating Framework

## Data and Insights

(Internal or External)

## Narrative

(Frameworks, storytelling, messaging)

## Action

(Advocacy, Civic Engagement, Funding)



# *Research and Data*

- Mixture of contracted and grant funded research, data, and reports
- Partner with research Centers, professors, and community partners
- Tools for community partners
  - Understand community needs
  - Fundraise
  - Uplift voices



# *Events & Community Convening*

- Over 35 hosted last academic year
- 1,300+ attendees throughout the US
- Purpose
  - Unveil data and research
  - Uplift partners and initiatives
  - Celebrate milestones and accomplishments
  - Call to action

# State of Civic Engagement in the Inland Empire

## State of Civic Engagement in the Inland Empire



### VOTER TURNOUT GAINS AMONG SELECT GROUPS IN THE INLAND EMPIRE, 2014-2018



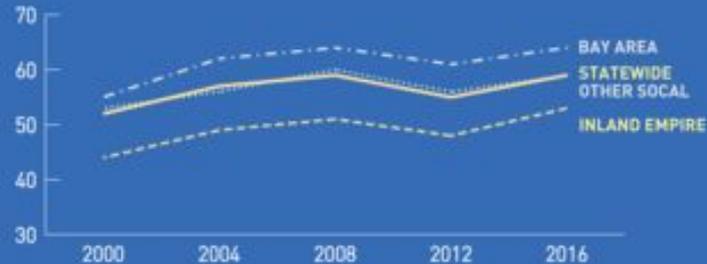
Source: Political Data Incorporated

# State of Civic Engagement in the Inland Empire

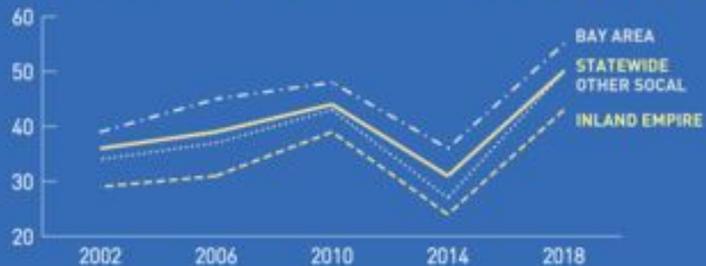
## State of Civic Engagement in the Inland Empire



### VOTER PARTICIPATION IN MIDTERM ELECTIONS



### VOTER PARTICIPATION IN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS



Source: California Secretary of State

## *Challenge: Narrative*

- Students “graduating” into systems that do not meet their hopes, dreams, and career aspirations
- Increased need for student voice regarding the region’s future



# SoCal Youth Futures Summit: Action



# *CSI Best Practices in Youth Engagement*

- Center community voice in the planning
- Expose young stakeholders to the language of your sector
- Connect what you do to their everyday lives
- Don't just build the house and hope they come
- Utilize partners including schools and youth based programs



# Challenges

- Budgetary
- Securing a venue
- Partnering with schools
- Logistics and planning
- Guests speakers & partners



# IE 2030 Vision & Roadmap Process

#IE2030

*IE 2030*



Vision & Roadmap

# IE 2030 Vision & Roadmap

## Visioning

Gather community vision statements



## Strategies

Identify actionable strategies

## Solutions

Collect & develop solutions

## Commitments

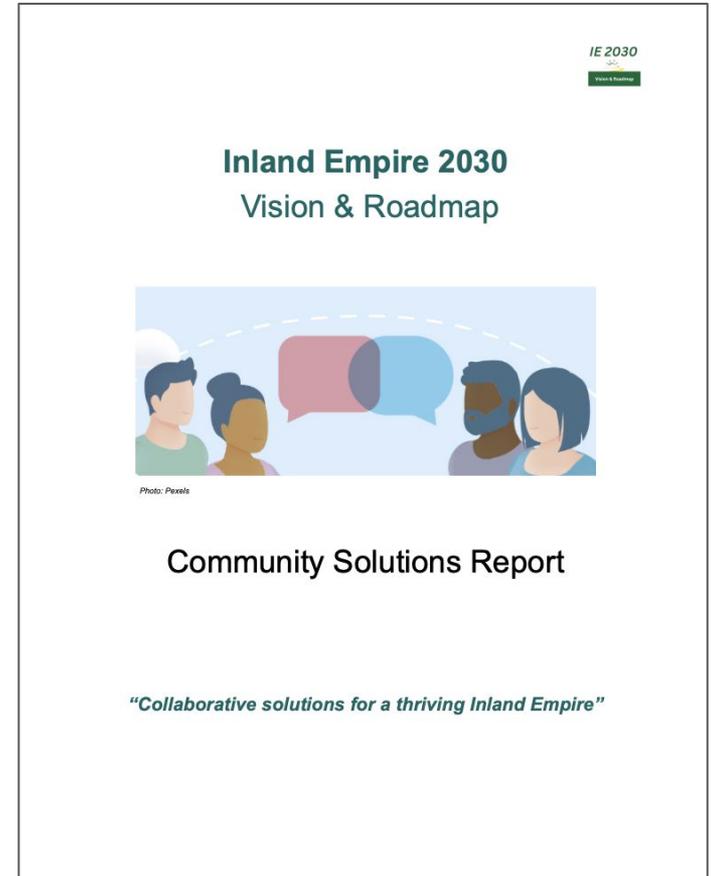
Make commitments that will help achieve vision statements

IE 2030



# Community Solutions Report

- SWOT analysis for each proposed solution
- Highlighting benefits, challenges, and cost variables
- Identification of common themes and gaps in solutions
- Existing programs and initiatives
- Areas for investment and opportunity
- Support needed from Design Committee, partners, and community



# NEWS HEADLINES FOR YOUR FUTURE SELVES

**30-YEAR-OLD CANVA INVENTOR TURNS  
HIGH SCHOOL YEARBOOK IDEA INTO A  
\$3.2 BILLION BUSINESS.**

**LEBRON JAMES SETS ALL-TIME SCORING  
RECORD.**

**BEYONCÉ BREAKS RECORD FOR MOST  
GRAMMY WINS EVER!**

**THINK OF A *PERSONAL HEADLINE* FOR YOUR  
FUTURE SELF.**



# FOCUS ON YOUR ASPIRATIONAL FUTURE FOR THE REGION

**THE YEAR IS 2032.**

What Kind Of News Headline Would  
Represent Your **“Wildest Dreams” Of  
Success** In Terms Of The Issue That  
You Care About The Most?  
**GPSCVB2026**

Keep them short and sweet!



Go to [www.menti.com](https://www.menti.com) and use the code

**5304 2826**

# EXAMPLE VISION STATEMENTS

- *“We dream of a region where food insecurity is eradicated by 2030.”*
- *“We envision a region where young people are provided pay and skills training as part of their public service.”*
- *“We dream of a region where formerly incarcerated people have no internal or external stigma or disadvantage associated with their prior history.”*
- *“We envision a region where where students’ mental health will be given attention, priority, and care.”*
- *“We envision where people of all income classes, races, and backgrounds have access to green spaces and a healthy environment.”*

# IE RISE Values Word Clouds

#IE2030

*IE 2030*



Vision & Roadmap

# CORE VALUES



INNOVATION

**I**



RESILIENCE

**R**



INCLUSION

**I**



SUSTAINABILITY

**S**



EQUITY

**E**

# Thank You!

**Eric Calderon, Assistant Director**

**[eric.calderon@ucr.edu](mailto:eric.calderon@ucr.edu)**

**Fatima Nelson, Community Engagement Specialist**

**[fatima.nelson@ucr.edu](mailto:fatima.nelson@ucr.edu)**

**#IE2030**

**IE 2030**



**Vision & Roadmap**

# Grassroots Youth Organizing in Southern CA

Veronica Terriquez, UCLA



# Transitions to Adulthood in a Time of Crisis

Today's youth encounter:

- Broken immigration system
- Ever-increasing economic inequality
- Increasing costs to higher education and diminishing returns
- Climate crisis
- Racial tensions
- Political polarization
- Pandemic & mental health crisis

As members of grassroots **youth organizing groups**, racially diverse youth have been at the forefront of local and statewide government reforms.



## Brandon's story

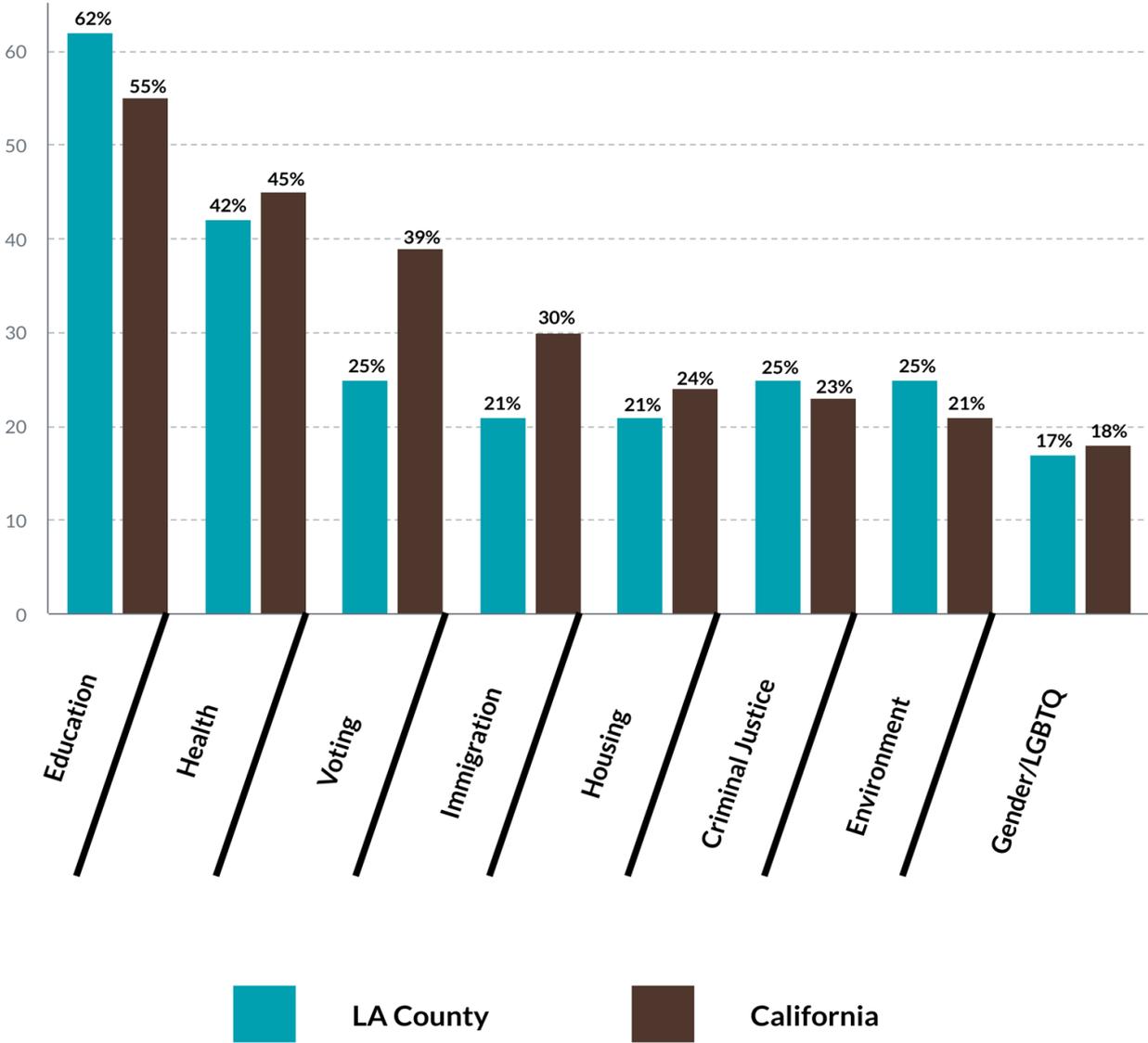


# The Transformative Political Socialization Process in Youth Organizing Groups

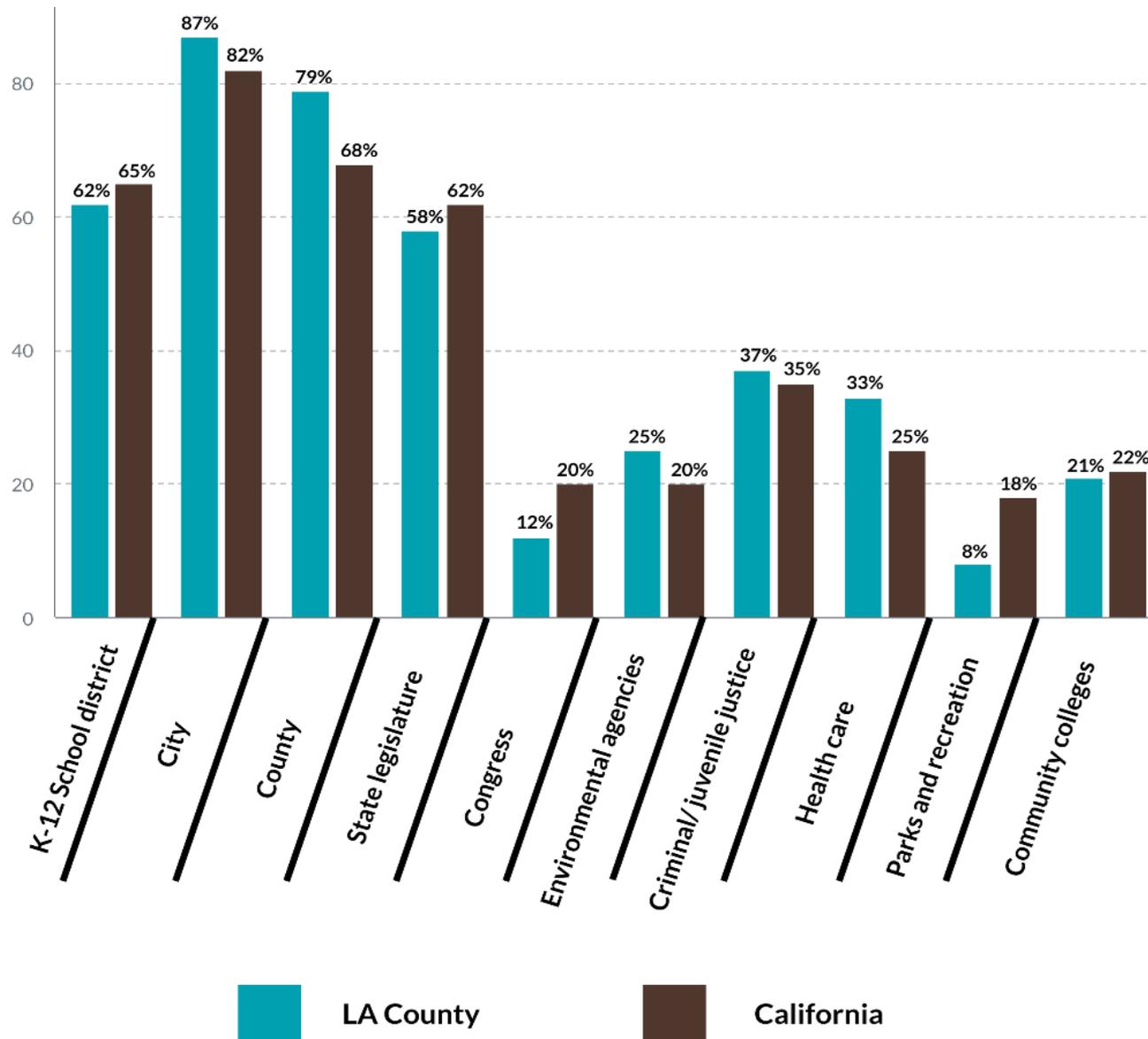
To varying degrees, young people receive:

- **Support for developmental needs**
  - Academic and career guidance
  - Self-care and healing
- **A critical civics education**
  - Political education/YPAR
  - Workshops on identity, power, and inequality
- **Guidance in taking civic action**
  - Support basic skills development
  - Guidance in policy change and grassroots mobilization

# Youth Organizing Campaign Issue Areas



# Agencies Targeted by Campaigns



# Implications for Local Government Agencies

- Low-income, racially diverse youth have the potential to be informed voices in local policy debates, but they need developmental supports, a critical civics education, and hands-on guidance on taking effective civic action.
- Local government agencies can support and partner with community-organizations to facilitate youth voice in local policy debates



# Tell us how we did!

Take a quick 2-minute survey to help us improve future Toolbox Tuesdays!



*SCAN ME*