

Youth Summit Report August 2023

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Introduction



Kahnawà:ke Collective Impact (KCI) has been building visibility and trust among Kahnawà:ke youth since the 2019 Community Open House, where Wholistic Health and Wellness for Youth was chosen as one of the top 3 priorities to focus on. Through youth engagement initiatives and the Wholistic Health and Wellness for Youth Action Team, KCI youth workers found Kahnawà:ke youth wanted more initiatives that met their needs -- but in ways that resonate with them. Currently, youth engagement in Kahnawà:ke is low for young people ages 12-30. Avenues for youth to confidently affect change at the organization-level, or in the wider community are not clear.

Kahnawà:ke Collective Impact Youth Department staff approached Kahnawà:ke Survival School to collaborate on hosting the Youth Summit at the local high school in January 2023. The Youth Summit took place on Thursday March 23rd and Friday March 24th.

The Youth Summit aimed to:

- Provide young people the skills & knowledge to make positive change;
- Build confidence;
- Empower youth to advocate for their needs;
- Community development;
- Resource creation through the form of an art 'zine

The overall themes were: identity, wellness, and future success.

Goals and Objectives

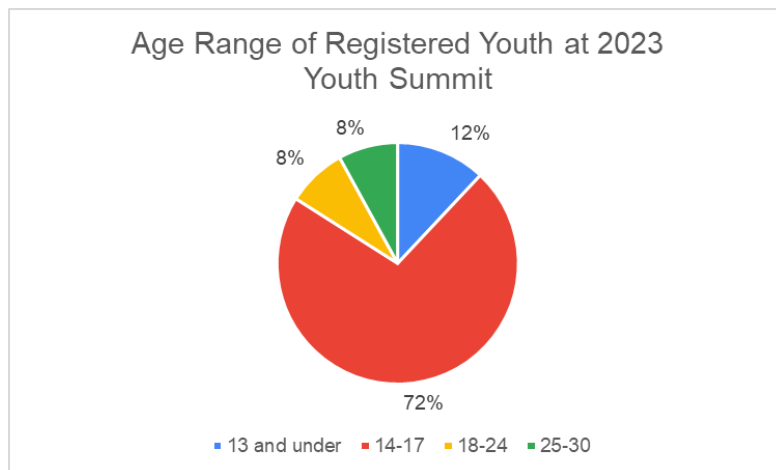
The goal of the 2023 Youth Summit was to engage youth from all walks of life, to explore different aspects of identity, health & wellness, and personal definitions of success through conversation and youth perspectives.

The goal was carried out by the objectives:

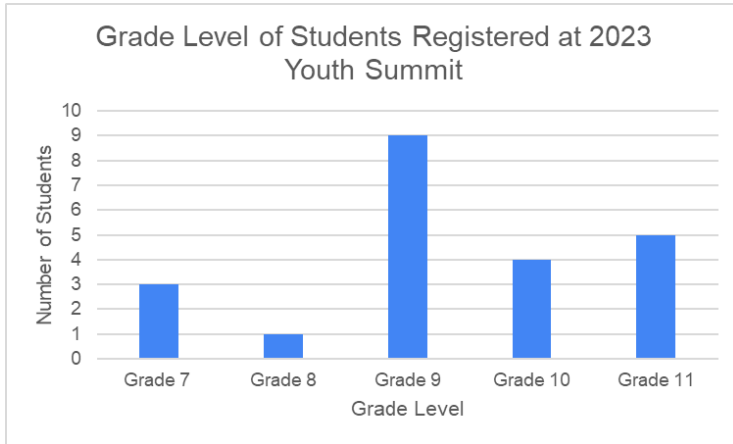
1. Provide a, healthy, and reliable forum for youth to express opinions safely with confidence
2. Invite all community youth to attend
3. To include youth perspectives around community decisions
4. Have youth identify the services offered to them
5. Have youth explore factors that affect identity, health & wellness, and their definition of success
6. Have youth create a mini-magazine to further cement youth perspectives.

Recruitment and Participants

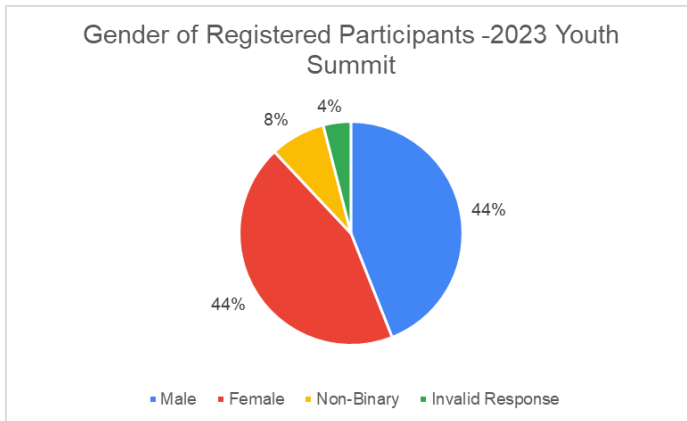
Kahnawà:ke Survival School administration supported the Youth Summit in collaboration with Kahnawà:ke Collective Impact. KSS allowed KCI staff to go into classrooms the week prior to the Youth Summit, to recruit students. A GoogleForm sign up survey was created, which yielded 36 sign ups, including Kahnawà:ke Survival School Students, and a few youth in Kahnawà:ke in their 20s and early 30s. The data we were able to analyze is from the online survey, and does not include youth who signed up on the days the Youth Summit occurred.



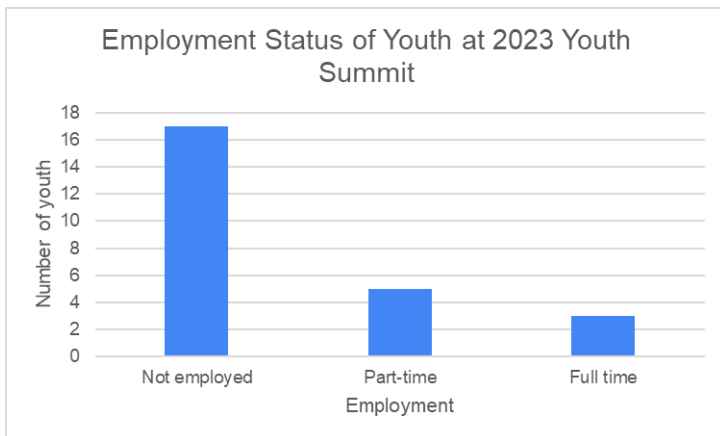
Of the 36 youth who registered for the youth summit, only 5 youth were not Kahnawà:ke Survival School students, with 31 being students. Of the 31 students who registered, 25 students showed up. The majority of KSS students who attended the Youth Summit were in grade 9.



Of the registered youth participants, about 11 self-identified as male, 11 self-identified as female, and 2 self-identified as non-binary.

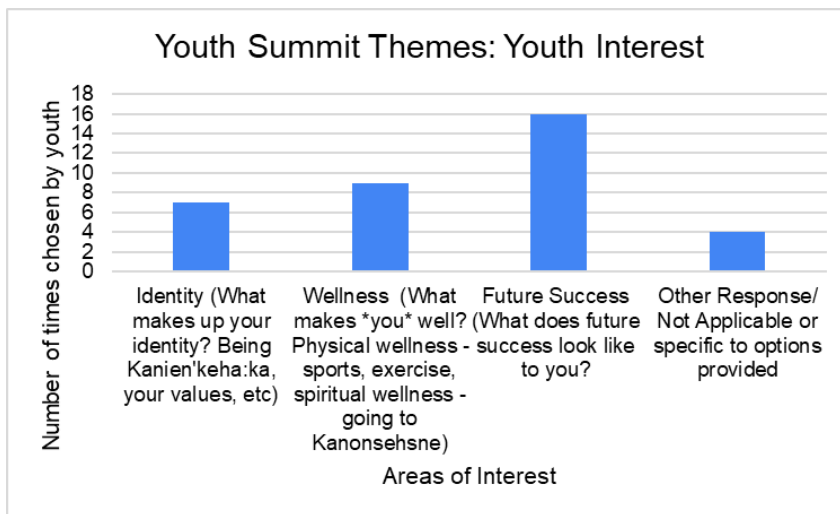


Of the 25 youth who registered and attended the Youth Summit, 3 were over 18 and employed full time, 5 were working part-time, and 11 were not working at all.



Of the 25 youth who registered for the Youth Summit, half, or 12 students, had attended another Kahnawà:ke Collective Impact in the past year (2022). The events that were listed for youth to choose from were: the Moosehide Camp at KSS (February 2022), Scrapbooking event with Youth and Tota's at the Golden Age Club (February 2023), Art Workshops (painting, nail art, or theatre) workshops (Fall 2022), Other.

Youth were asked if they were interested in any of the particular topics of the youth summit - identity, wellness, and future success, with examples given on a multiple choice survey when using the google form to sign up. It is notable that youth were very interested in future success - see the table below.



Finally, youth were asked an optional question: if there was a question or topic they would like to be asked or talked about in one of the sessions, these were the responses:

- How do you think we can get our youth to be more involved/ attend things after COVID19?
- Identity and careers
- Ways we can make town be better
- Journalling
- Let [youth] know if there is something they can contribute to
- Food wellness
- My culture
- Kanien'keka
- What can I do to be more confident in myself?

Kahnawà:ke Survival School Safety and Respect

The coordinators of the Youth Summit 2023 from Kahnawà:ke Collective Impact wanted to ensure safety and respect for the high school students involved in the Summit. For this reason, KCI approached Kahnawà:ke Survival School for a letter of support and approval to have the Youth Summit at KSS, and to be a partner. The KSS Administration were grateful

Activities

The Youth Summit took place on Thursday March 23rd and Friday March 24th 2023. Day 1 took place from 11:30 am to 5 pm, and had 5 activities throughout the day. Day 2 took place from 11 am to 2:45 pm.

The first activity of the Youth Summit was an art-based activity where students were asked to add onto a landscape painting with paint markers, to include aspects of the Ohenton Kariwentehkhwa, from the grasses, to the stars and moon.

This activity was followed by Group Agreements, where the students listed behaviour and expectations for themselves and each other to create a space where everyone felt respected, safe, and more comfortable to participate.

List of condensed agreements:

1. Can wear headphones during group work
2. Respect each other
3. Play music during the summit
4. Take breaks when you need to
5. We want to make jokes and have fun
6. Fidget/Move when you need to!



One of the key activities of the Youth Summit was the Youth Panel, where 3 Kahnawà:ke youth ages 18-30 spoke to Kahnawà:ke Survival School students about identity, wellness, and future success. The youth panelists were all graduates of KSS: Konwawennenhawi Diabo, Angel Roberston, and Joey Robertson. The goal of having a panel of speakers was to bring together different perspectives and approaches to exploring identity, wholistic wellness, and short term future success.



Photo of Youth Panelists on March 23rd 2023. Left to Right: Angel Robertson, Joey Robertson, Konwawennenhawi Diabo, Daisy Lahache.

Questions asked:

1. What does success look like to you and has your definition of success changed over time?
2. How do you tend to your wellness along the way of pursuing your goals?
3. What do you think of when you hear identity - what has shaped and continues to shape your identity?
4. How has attending Kahnawà:ke Survival School impacted your path on finding your identity?

FEATURED SPEAKERS



ANGEL ROBERTSON

Angel is a 25 year old KSS graduate who has worked in the special education field for a few years. When she isn't working in schools, she's coaching wrestling, participating in theatre and raising awareness and acceptance in Kahnawà:ke for the special needs community.




JOEY ROBERTSON

Joey is a 22 year old KSS graduate who overcame many obstacles to achieve his goals.

Joey has autism and helps his sister Angel raise awareness and acceptance for the special needs community in Kahnawà:ke.

The panelists spoke to their understandings of success - how it is personal to them and changed over time. Konwawennenhawi spoke about the importance of understanding and taking care of her mental health, and how it becomes more important as a young adult. Konwawennenhawi also spoke about how she found her identity outside of 'the paddling girl,' and is a proud female Ironworker and mom. Joey and Angel Robertson spoke about Joey's challenges as an individual with autism, and how his sister has supported him in accessing support services. For Joey, success means holding down a job he is passionate about, and achieving a sense of independence through accepting help. Angel spoke about her identity as a wrestler, and how supporting her brother to receive accommodations for autism, led to her working as a special education support staff in a local school.



**KONWAWENNENHAWI
DIABO**

Konwawennenhawi is a Kanien'kehá:ka Ironworker from Kahnawà:ke.

She is 28 years old and a mom to one and a step mom to four.

After lunch, Kahnawà:ke Survival School students were invited to participate in an activity called Creative Quadrants, where a large paper was divided into sections, and youth were divided into smaller groups. Each group then spent some time to draw, use stickers or collage about what identity, wholistic wellness, or future success is for them. Youth then shared to the

larger group what they drew and why. Elements from each of their individual drawings that they agree on or all like were put in the middle circle of the paper. The goal of this activity was to explore in a creative way what identity, holistic wellness, and future success mean to each of us and see where we have similarities.

Group Work - Creative Quadrants: Identity



The first day of the Youth Summit ended with Onerahtokon Deer speaking to students about his journey as a professional chef, and exploring a career in the vocational field. Onerahtokon also spoke about how he uses chopping wood as a positive outlet for his emotions.



ONERAHTOKON DEER

Onerahtokon is a Kanien'kehá:ka chef who has been in the industry for 8 years.

Although most of his time his spent in the kitchen, he also enjoys gaming, woodworking, archery and spending time outdoors.

Youth Summit: Day 2


The second day involved an art and strength-based mapping activity with Youth Speakers who spoke about how places in Kahnawà:ke shaped their sense of identities, The goal of this activity was to connect how youth understand and strengthen their identities, their holistic wellness, and ideas of future success with our community, family, friends, land, living beings, programs etc. Two Kahnawà:ke youth, Kiana Cross and Emmitt Hamelin were asked to speak about what shaped their identities as a teen and young adult, what assisted with their wholistic wellness, and ideas of future success, and put it visually on a map of Kahnawà:ke. Kiana enthusiastically shared about her journey to becoming a successful DJ, DJ Poptrt, including the challenges and support to achieve her goal. Emmitt spoke passionately about how he sought counselling for his anxiety, and leaned into other support from his family, friends, and services in the community.



KIANA CROSS

Kiana Cross is a DJ and multidisciplinary artist based in Montreal and Kahnawà:ke.

Currently Majoring in Communications at Concordia University.

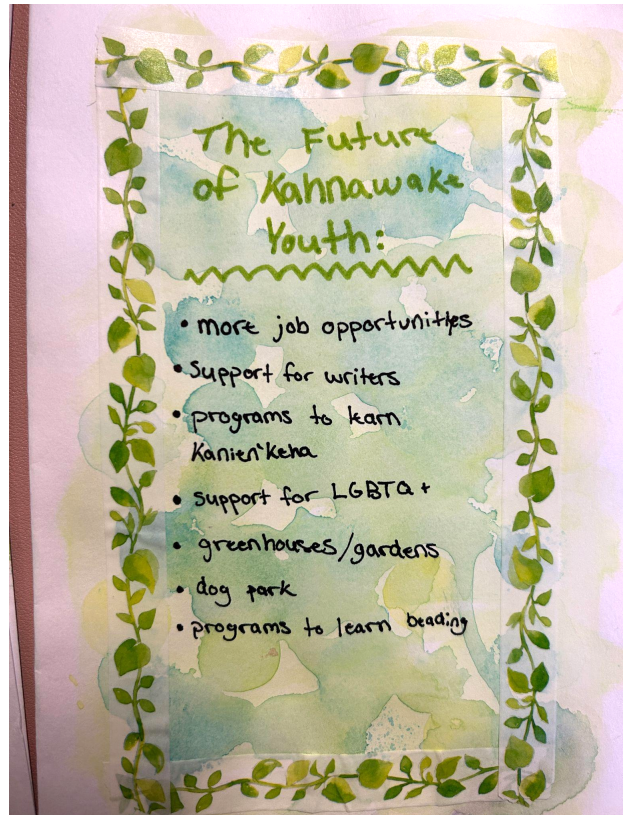
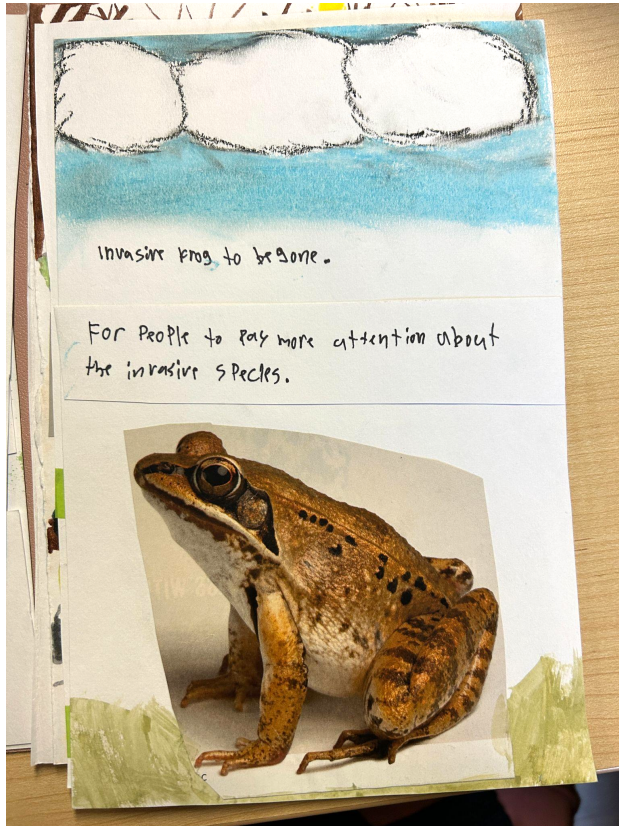


EMMITT HAMELIN

Emmitt has been working on the Marketing & Tourism Team at Tawatohni'saktha since 2017.

In his free time, Emmitt likes to write. Writing gives Emmitt an outlet where he can release his feelings or tell any type of story that he wants.

Youth were then asked to build on the Mapping Activity by reflecting on what the themes mean to them (their four quadrants drawings), the strengths in their community (the mapping), and now they imagine what they want to see for youth in the future. What do they need from the community? What do they hope to see from the community? How do they dream of being in the community?



Above: Photos of Zine pages Kahnawà:ke Survival School students made as part of the Kahnawà:ke Collective Impact x KSS Youth Summit 2023.

What Youth Said

Youth were asked what comes to mind when they hear the words identity, wellness, and success. For identity, youth said they thought of themselves, each other and looks and appearances. Some youth also said identity made them think of culture, beadwork, using their full Kanienkeha name, and who you are/ what you stand for.

“Who I am and how people should see me. I ain’t the past, I’m the present.” KSS Student, on “identity”. March 2023

Youth said success made them think of having a calm mind, feeling confident, and doing what makes them proud or happy and getting paid. Youth also said succeeding “is in the eye of the successor,” and another youth said it means being able to put food on the table everyday. For other students, succeeding was reaching a goal, or being the best at something, money. [Success makes me think of my father and uncle] - youth at 2023 Youth Summit

Youth were also asked what the word wellness made them think of self care acts such as doing fun things, socializing with friends or family, going for walks, and wellness checks. Youth related emotional and mental health with wellness, as well as how wellness can be thought of as daily life. Youth also thought wellness has to do with health and how mental health can control physical abilities.

Wellness is to be well, to be yourself, and be honest because the truth will set you free” - Kahnawà:ke youth from 2023 Youth Summit

What do youth want to see for the future of Kahnawà:ke?

<p>Arts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A creative arts center (theater, space for creating) <p>Politics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Land Back ● Better public transit/busses ● Affordable communal housing ● The longhouse should run everything (not MCK) 	<p>Recreation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lacrosse Field ● More basketball courts ● KSS football team ● New and improved library ● A community pool ● A dog park
<p>Social concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● More being outside on land, less on cell phones ● More acceptance to LGBTQ community ● More youth volunteers ● Less bullying ● Less pollution 	<p>Language and Culture:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cultural practices ● Longhouse ● More Kanien’keha



Above: One group of KSS students on what they want to see for the future of Kahnawà:ke.

Outputs

The outputs of the 2023 Youth Summit were not fully understood, as the language was a new process for Kahnawà:ke Collective Impact staff who were directly working on the Youth Summit planning. The definition of outputs in reporting, according to Onkwata'karitahtshera Research Ethics Board:

Outputs are the tangible, direct products of your initiative's activities. They could include statistics, printed/published materials, video/film, treatment model, brochure, poster, training manual, booklet, protocol, other resource material, unpublished report

With the definition of outputs in mind, the 2023 Youth Summit's outputs were:

- Provided space for youth to talk about identity, wellness, and future success
- Statistics on some Kahnawà:ke Survival School student interests
- Publication of the Youth Zine

Indicators of Success

The youth summit goals were reviewed by Youth Engagement Coordinator, the Youth Project Coordinator, and Youth Project Assistant. See the Table below.

Objectives	Comments on Reviewing Goal (KCI Youth Staff)	Changes
1. The summit is a healthy and reliable forum for youth to express their opinions and be heard.	The Youth Summit was a space that was healthy for youth to express their opinions, but spaces like this need to be more reliable, frequent.	More safe and reliable spaces in Kahnawà:ke for youth to voice their opinions.
2. Youth of all different backgrounds, life paths, and experiences are engaged.	The Youth Summit did not achieve this goal, as youth in attendance was limited to Kahnawà:ke Survival School students, "in good academic standing," and so youth from the wider Kahnawà:ke community were not present.	Include youth from all academic levels, including students who are 'behind' in their studies. Include First Nations Regional Adult Education Center Kahnawà:ke students, and Kahnawà:ke Education Center for high school students who attend outside schools.

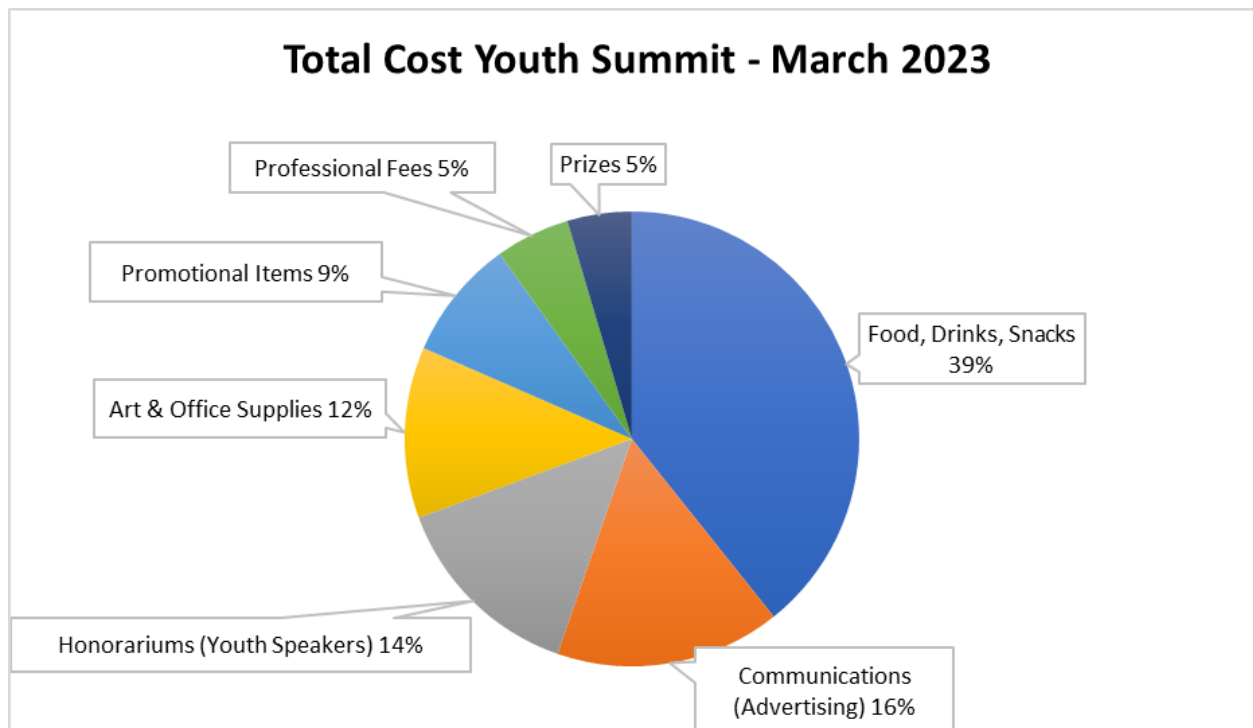
<p>3. The summit highlights opportunities for how youth's input and experiences can shape the community and the services offered to them.</p>	<p>The Youth Summit semi-achieved this goal, as youth gave their opinions on how services in the community could be improved, however, it was in a general way. Suggestion to have 5 pre-set questions, and 1 tangible idea per participant.</p>	<p>Collaborate with different Kahnawà:ke organizations that serve youth for a wider opinion range from youth (ex. Tewatohnhi'saktha, KSCS, etc)</p>
<p>4. The summit gets youth to explore how different factors impact their identity, health, & wellness, and their thoughts on future success.</p>	<p>This goal was achieved by the Youth Summit -- youth explored identity, wellness and future success through advocacy, discussion sessions, and group work.</p>	<p>--</p>
<p>5. A document is created that reflects youth perspectives and can be used to shape a path forward for the community to better meet their needs.</p>	<p>This goal was achieved by the Youth Summit, as students worked on 2 pages related to the future of Kahnawà:ke youth and what is needed from the community to move towards those future goals. The zine activity felt rushed, and more preparation work was needed (ie continuance activities.</p>	<p>More time given for youth to work on the zines, and activities leading up to the zine activity to get youth thinking about specific topics. There was a need for more continuity in activities.</p>

An additional comment from Kahnawà:ke Collective Impact staff was that a future Youth Summit could include activities or discussions to help youth figure out their life paths (near future).

Other indicators of success included the amount of interest in the Youth Summit from Kahnawà:ke Survival School Students - though 25 students signed up by google form, there were about half the students that really wanted to be in the space at the beginning, engaging in the topics. Another indicator of success is how positively youth responded to having agency in expressing places that matter to them through the mapping activity, but also how they wanted to share what

Resources and Finances

The Youth Summit was planned by Lily Deer, Youth Project Coordinator (KCI), and Carlee Loft, Youth Engagement Coordinator (KCI) with support from Daisy Lahache, Youth Project Assistant (KCI), Krissy Goodleaf, Student Life & Prevention Administrator (Kahnawà:ke Survival School), Christian Gaudette (KSS), and Echo Hamelin (KSS). Materials used for the event were: art supplies including acrylic paint markers, canvas, watercolour paints, magazines, Post-It notes, and paper. The total cost of the Youth Summit was: \$8,531.13, with an approved budget of \$10,000.



Category	Percentage of Total Cost	Total Category Cost (Dollars)
Food, Drinks, Snacks	39%	\$3,350.49
Communications (Advertising)	16%	\$1,368
Honorariums (Youth Speakers)	14%	\$1,200
Art & Office Supplies	12%	\$1,038.01
Promotional Items	9%	\$732.80
Professional Fees	5%	\$450
Prizes	5%	\$391.83
Total	100%	\$8,531.13

It is important to note if the Youth Summit occurs again in Kahnawà:ke, there needs to be a larger budget, as in the 2023 Youth Summit, the venue was Kahnawà:ke Survival School, and this was provided in-kind (no financial cost). It is estimated that a venue can range between \$500-\$1500. Also, the expenses of the Youth Summit Report did not include the cost of printing the zines, because the event took place at the end of the fiscal year, and the printing process took place a few months after the event.

The cost of the zine layout, and printing is required through external professional fees. The table below is the cost range for the service, depending on the amount of Zines printed.

Books, Design and edits. Communication with the printer.

Number of Copies	Cost
200	\$4000
300	\$4500
400	\$5000

Feedback and Recommendations: Students

Youth feedback in general:

- Enjoyed the youth speakers: Kiana Cross, Emmitt Hamelin, Daisy Lahache, Oneratohkon Deer, Konwawennenhawi Diabo, Joey Robertson, and Angel Robertson, but wanted more interactive questions with the speakers
- Enjoyed the art activities, especially painting and the zine making, and the group activities

“I liked making our maps of town because it made me remember how lucky we are to have cool things in town” - KSS student participant

Youth feedback on logistics: youth wanted more breaks, different sign up sheet questions to get youth who were more interested in being present, and more strawberry drink, with chunks!

Feedback and Recommendations: Kahnawà:ke Collective Impact Staff, Kahnawà:ke Survival School Staff, and Youth Speakers

SCHEDULE

Change:

- To stick within school hours (3) and to start earlier in the school day
- Keep the same hours each day [If event is held over multiple days]

ACTIVITIES

Liked:

- art-based activities, this broke up the “sitting and listening” for youth
- small discussion group activities
- Youth Panel Speakers were full of wisdom, knowledge, and real talk

Would change or add:

- Have more than one activity that involves physical movement (2)
- Have some of the activities take place outside (ex: youth panel)
- involve cultural activities
- Leadership games with discussion pieces
- More space for meaningful conversation
- Show videos of youth being involved in programming changes, etc as inspiration for youth

- Break up the larger topics - success, wellness, identity, into smaller topics that are tangible for teenagers to understand. Make the activity questions less philosophical. Wellness could equal personal wellness or community wellness. Success could be broken down into building a post-high school plan.
- make room for some just for fun moments during future summits.

COMMUNICATIONS

Would change or add:

- stronger communication with Kahnawà:ke Survival School teaching staff so students know they cannot come in and out freely to miss something in their classes.
- Clearer age range of participants
- have a more clear theme

FOOD AND LOGISTICS

Would change or add:

- Less “fancy” food (ie no pesto, as stated by students)
- Make sure amount of food isn't too much or too little for event (there was a lot of leftovers)
- Location change - to ensure students cannot walk in and out freely
- starting planning at least 9 months in advance,
- getting teachers and parent permission early,

FEEDBACK ABOUT STAFF, ORGANIZERS

Liked:

- Kahnawà:ke Collective Impact staff were very supportive and encouraging

Change:

- Remember to have excited, enthusiastic energy at the very beginning, before “rules” part
- fun-icebreakers to greet youth attendees
- Reinforce student guidelines/ rules - ex respect each other when someone else is talking
- All organizers and people leading activities need to discourage swearing by students, and other co-organizers.
- There needs to be more support from KSS staff, to clearly manage the behaviours of KSS students, including being available at the registration table throughout the day.

Other comments were made that participation numbers could have been higher, but it is difficult post-COVID pandemic. Overall, there were numerous comments about the 2023 Youth Summit being a great event for youth, it was successful, and could be done again.

External Factors

External factors that impacted the outcome of how the Youth Summit was carried out included:

- Youth having low-energy or otherwise being distracted during the summit
- Cancellations of speakers and/or facilitators
- Threat if possible Covid case increases and need to cancel or adapt summit
- KSS scheduling makes it more difficult to structure the event
- KSS staff availability changed over time

Conclusion

The Youth Summit was overall well received. This was the first Youth Summit Kahnawà:ke Collective Impact worked on, and as with anything, there is always room for improvement. Kahnawà:ke Survival School staff and administration were happy to have assisted in hosting the Youth Summit, as it provided students a positive space to voice their opinions. There is a future opportunity to plan a Youth Summit in May 2024, should there be appropriate cross-organization support for the event in Kahnawà:ke.

Appendices

Youth Summit Day 1 and Day 2 Poster Schedules



YOUTH SUMMIT 2023
March 24 - Day 2

SCHEDULE

10:50-11:00 AM
Participants come in & get settled

11:00-11:50 PM
Mapping Activity + Youth Speakers

10 MIN BREAK

12:00-12:50 PM
Visioning ahead + Youth Speakers

12:50-2:35 PM
ZINE MAKING :)

2:35-2:45 PM
Feedback survey!

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KAHNAWÀ:KE COLLECTIVE IMPACT
SAGINE TSONNAKACHE

TAMARACK INSTITUTE

Nia:ween for coming!



YOUTH SUMMIT 2023
March 23 - Day 1

SCHEDULE

11:20-11:30 AM
Participants sign in & grab swag bags

11:30-12:00 PM
Ohenton Kariwentehkhwa Activity

12:00-12:45 PM
Intros & Group Agreements

15 MIN BREAK

1:00-2:00 PM
Youth Panel

10 MIN BREAK

2:10-3:00 PM
Creative Quadrants

10 MIN BREAK

3:10-4:00 PM
Choose your own adventure (speaker)!

4:00-5:00 PM
Dinner & lil KCI info

CONTACT: LILY.DEER@KEDC.BIZ

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