CEDAR RIVERSIDE YOUTH PROGRAMMING ASSESSMENT REPORT

MINNEAPOLIS YOUTH COORDINATING BOARD
Together, better.

Cedar Riverside Youth Workers Collaborative

By: Muna Mohamed

BACKGROUND

Purpose of the Cedar Riverside Youth Workers Collaborative (CRYWC)

The Cedar Riverside Youth Worker Collaborative is a place for youth workers to support each other to better serve youth in the neighborhood and create positive momentum forward. The CRYWC is supported by the Cedar Riverside Partnership, Minneapolis Health Department (MHD), Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board (YCB), and the work of youth serving professionals in the Cedar Riverside neighborhood.

CRYWC Guiding Principles:

- Building trust, relationships, partnerships and collaboration
- Understanding the big picture locally and regionally
- Identifying practical solutions to common issues
- Community informed and designed

Methods

It is the determination of YCB and MHD staff that a short term deeper re-engagement of youth service providers including an assessment of current community needs and interests is necessary to re-establish the CRYWC. This organizing work would include individual outreach to and relationship building with providers, community engagement sessions to rebuild consensus of priorities, determining a structure to support the work of the collaborative into the future and resources necessary to sustain the collaborative.

Initial programming mapping were conducted to understand existing programming in the Cedar Riverside community. Interviews were conducted with youth serving organizations and youth workers in the neighborhood. The purpose of the interviews were to understand needs and strengths of existing youth programs as well as identifying gaps in service.

SCOPE OF SERVICE

- Outreach and relationship building with youth workers and related professionals in Cedar Riverside
- Mapping of youth serving organizations and services
- Identifying strength and needs with Cedar Riverside youth serving organizations
- Community Engagement Sessions to build trust across providers
- Determine steps and strategies to address service gaps and barriers youth in Cedar Riverside face
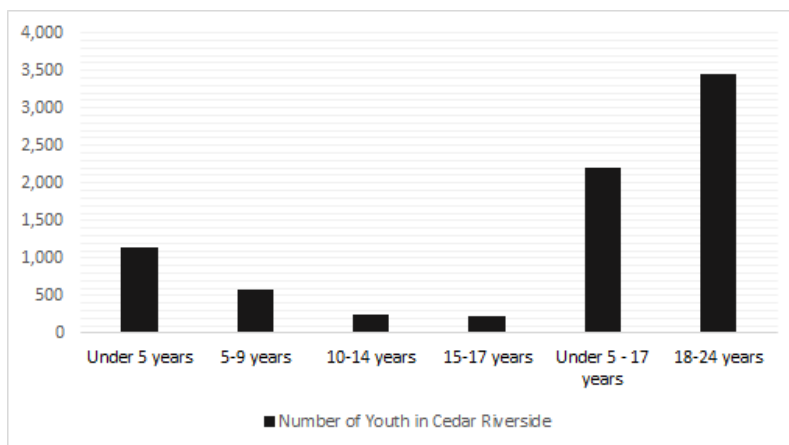
GOAL

1. Build a shared understanding of the landscape of youth program in the Cedar Riverside
2. Share the strength and needs within Cedar Riverside youth-serving organizations
3. Address service gaps and barriers of youth in Cedar Riverside
4. Provide recommendation to address service gaps and strategies Build capacity and sustainability in youth programming through partnership

ASSESMENT FINDINGS

DEMOGRAPHICS OF YOUTH

The American Community Survey (ACS, 2012-2016), estimate was used to get the most recent demographics of youth in the neighborhood. The data was used to understand how many youths under the age of 24 years old were living in the neighborhood.

According to the Minnesota Compass data (ACS 2012-2016), of the 5,656 youth in the Cedar Riverside neighborhood, 20% were under the age of 5, 10% youth ages 5 – 9 years, 4% youth between the ages 10-14 years, 5% youth between the ages 15-17 years, and 61% youth between the ages of 18-24 years. Of the total population in the Cedar Riverside, youth accounted for 55.9% of residents.

Chart axis labels: 4,000 / 3,500 / 3,000 / 2,500 / 2,000 / 1,500 / 1,000 / 500 / 0 — Under 5 years, 5-9 years, 10-14 years, 15-17 years, Under 5 - 17 years, 18-24 years — Number of Youth in Cedar Riverside

24%

decrease of youth programming in 2015 to 2018
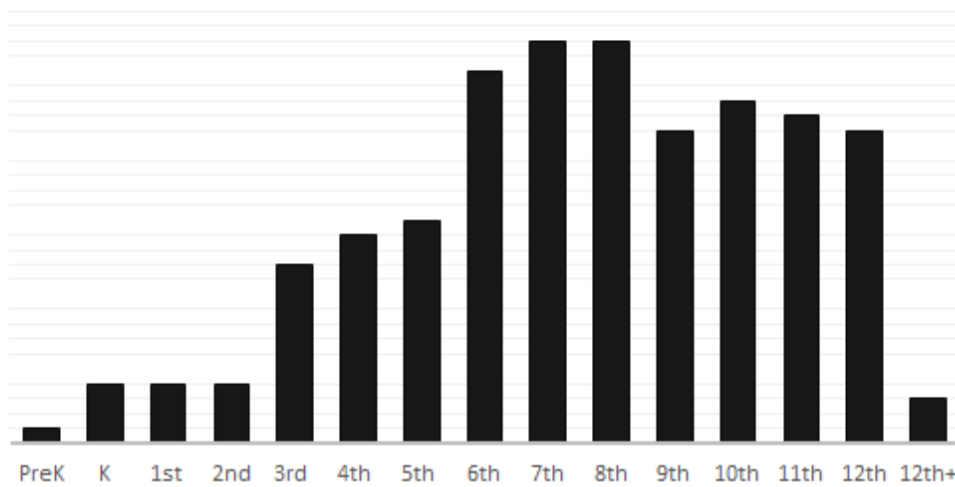
EXISTING YOUTH PROGRAMMING

In 2015, there were roughly 20 organization housing a total of 50 youth programs. In comparison, in 2018, 15 organizations were identified with a total of 38 youth programming. In both 2015 (26%) and 2018 (23%), majority of programming were housed at the Brian Coyle Community. In 2018, the number of existing youth programs decreased by 24%.

50
youth programs in 2015

38
youth programs in 2018

5,656

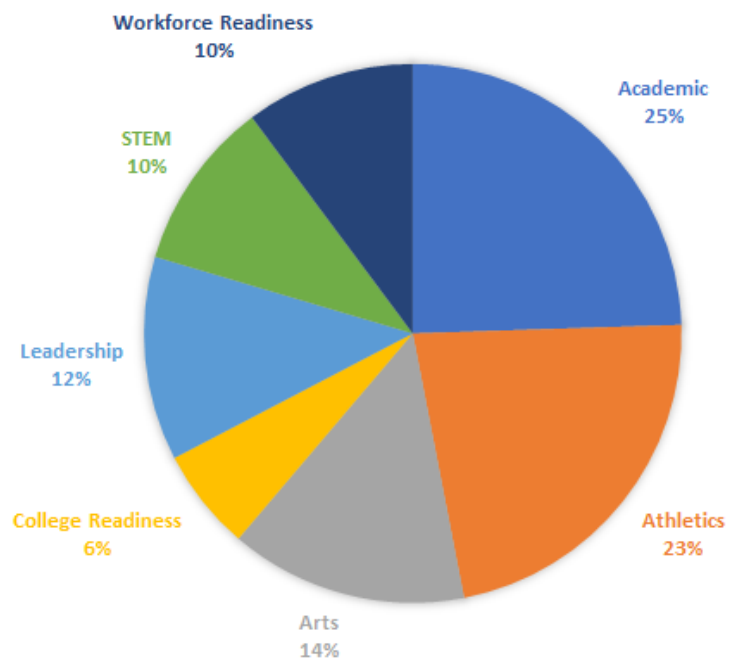youth in the Cedar Riverside (Minnesota Compass, 2017)

59%

of residents in the Cedar Riverside were youth between the ages of 5 – 24 years (ACS, 2012–2016)

EXISTING YOUTH PROGRAMMING IN THE CEDAR RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY BY GRADE LEVEL

TYPE OF PROGRAMS

Programs were categorized in the following types: Academics, Athletics, Arts, College Readiness, Leadership, Science Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM), & Workforce Readiness. 25% of programs offered by youth programs in the neighborhood were Academics and 23% youth programming focused on Athlethics(which includes physical activity programming). Only 6% of programming focused on college readiness.

STRENGTH

Youth workers expressed many strength in the programs. The common themes in program strength is as follows:

- High prevalence of academic programming
- Mentorship opportunities
- Opportunity to engage in active living
- Strong relationship with between youth workers and youth
- Nurturing environment that provides informal space for personal development and growth
- Youth Ownership
- One-One Relationship
- Youth Programs are culturally-sensitive and understand community needs, values, and traditions

NEEDS AND BARRIERS

.

Youth workers addressed various needs and barriers in their programming. The common themes in needs/barriers in youth programming included the following:

- Limited Staff
- Funding
- Lack of parental involvement
- Transportation
- Minimal flexibility in youth programs
- Space Limitation
- Need for more youth development training opportunities
- More youth employment opportunities within youth program in the community

GAPS IN PROGRAMS

In addition to understanding the strength and needs of youth programming in the Cedar Riverside, gaps in the programming were identified. Across youth programs in the neighborhood, there is no shared data across youth workers on the number of youth served in each program. Below are the gaps in programming:

- No counseling program or mental health education and program for youth in the neighborhood
- Lack of safety and crime Education programs
- Lack of Early Childhood Education programs
- Lack of Pre-Kindergarten after-school programs
- Need for more K – 5th programming
- Need for health education programs youth ages 5 - 17 years
- Youth Development Training Programs
- Programming for differently- abled youth

RECCOMMENDATIONS

- Create a Youth Council with individual task forces addressing youth work
- Create a one-page brochure for families of ongoing youth programs in Cedar Riverside community
- Create a collaborative website hub for all programs and services serving youth in Cedar Riverside community that incorporates all ongoing youth programs Conducting focus groups and surveys to hear from the youth themselves
- Create process to facilitate feedback from the youth
- Partnership between youth workers in Cedar Riverside community
- Once a month meeting with youth workers in Cedar Riverside community