

YOUTH ISSUES & CONCERNS



ISSUE STATEMENT

AS WE ENGAGE in historical conversations about the Black community presence in Flagstaff, we also understand the important future-forward engagement of young voices, issues, and concerns for continued progress. Recognizing the significance of the critical life stage of youth, particularly for young Black members of the Flagstaff community, and the unique perspective they offer to local issues and development, we also recognize the importance of continuously engaging young people and their perspectives on the development of the Black community in Flagstaff.

BACKGROUND

To provide background on the issues and concerns facing youth in Flagstaff, the work of the Flagstaff Community Policy Trust ("the Trust") was examined. The Trust is a group of former elected officials and community leaders that come together to analyze a community issue or topic. The Trust was established in 2017 by Flagstaff Mayor Coral Evans. Individuals are selected to participate in periodic Trust meetings based on knowledge and expertise in the topic of interest. The Trust also serves as an opportunity to provide continuity about the history and purpose of long-term policy goals from those no longer in office, and, with each meeting pertaining to a specific topic, it provides valuable insight regarding effective policy solutions to ongoing issues.

The Trust used the [40 Developmental Assets](#) as a reference to guide Trust participants in evaluating community efforts toward building healthy skills in Flagstaff youth.



FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA 2010 CENSUS DATA

Population estimates (7/1/19): 75,038

Persons > 5 < 18 years: 17.90%

White alone: 78.00%

Black or African American alone:
2.30%

American Indian and Alaska Native
alone: 8.60%

Asian alone: 3.20%

Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific
Islander alone: 0.20%

Two or More Races: 4.60%

Hispanic or Latino: 19.00%

BACKGROUND (CONT)

Created in 1990 by the Search Institute, these developmental assets identify a set of skills, experiences, relationships and behaviors that enable youth to grow into successful, healthy, adults. The Developmental Assets framework is initially divided into two categories, External and Internal. Each category is further divided into more specific assets. This asset framework helps users assess the needs of youth in their respective communities.

The members of the Trust who participated in a specific conversation on Youth Opportunities and Challenges were:

- Dan Musselman Deputy Chief for the City of Flagstaff Police Department.
- Donnie Jones Sunnyside Neighborhood Association
- Mayor Coral Evans Mayor of Flagstaff, was formerly Vice Mayor, a former City Council Member, and founder of the Policy Trust.
- Danny Neal Retired Director of the Hal Jensen Recreation Center.
- Stephanie Jefferson Board Member for the Sunnyside Neighborhood Association.
- Peter Van Wyck Regional Director for "First Things First"
- The Hon. Margaret McCullough, Presiding Judge of Coconino County Juvenile Court
- Amanda Kristinat CEO of the Boys and Girls Club of Flagstaff.
- Liz Archuleta Chair of the Coconino County Board of Supervisors, District #2
- Bryon Matsuda Director of Coconino County Juvenile Court Services.
- Kara Kelty Clerk for FUSD & former Flagstaff City Council Member

CONTEXTUALIZATION

In a report from the Youth Opportunities and Challenges meeting of the Trust, it was shared that while Trust participants generally agreed that Flagstaff has done "great work giving youth the tools, programs and attention they need to help them succeed in life," there was also a need to acknowledge that "more work is needed to ensure all Flagstaff youth are cared for and fully represented in the community. Specific challenges faced by Flagstaff youth included:

1. Family Experience
2. Economic Challenges, and
3. General Inclusiveness

Recommended solutions included increased communication, positive community attitudes and influence, education and educational opportunity, family support, and increased outreach. One of the two strongest recommendations brought forward during the discussion was the re-establishment of the City of Flagstaff Youth Commission; in 2019 the Flagstaff City Council began discussions to reestablish the committee, and formally moved forward with that action in Spring 2020. The second key recommendation was the establishment of an effort to secure assets for our community youth based on the 40 developmental assets model.

DATA

FUSD Demographics by Sex

Male: 52.1%

Female: 47.9%

Socioeconomic Demographics

* 40.7% of students in the district receive Free and Reduced-priced Lunch (FRPL) *[The data for this corresponding statistic were not broken down by ethnicity]*

Demographics (Disciplinary)

* Black students comprised 2% of the total in school suspensions, 2.2% of out of school suspensions, and 3.5% referrals to law enforcement, and 0.0% of expulsions across the district.

* Biracial/Multiracial comprised 8.1% of in school suspensions, 5.7% of out of school suspensions, 1.7% of referrals to law enforcement, and 13.3% of expulsions across the district.

YOUTH ISSUES & CONCERNS QUICK FACTS:

Academic Enrollment

- Of the 46 students who enrolled in Algebra I in 8th grade, 0.0% were Black
- Of the 56 students enrolled in Calculus, 0% were Black
- Of the 558 students who enrolled in Chemistry, (1%) were Black
- Of the 178 who enrolled in physics, (1%) were Black
- Of the 42 students who took the SAT/ACT tests, 0.0% were Black

KEY QUESTIONS

- WHAT are creative ways to fund youth programs in general in the Flagstaff community?
- WERE you aware of the Flagstaff Youth Commission? Why do you think it was stopped? What will it take to revive it in a form that is relevant, effective and inclusive of the Black Lived experience?!
- WHAT direct experience(s) have you had with youth programs, initiatives, or other factors impacting the young Black members of the Flagstaff community, if any?
- ARE you aware of local resources aimed at youth and families (i.e. free public transportation services, prevention and crisis intervention services, etc.)? Are they provided equitably and inclusively?
- WHAT do you feel needs to change in order to ensure continued positive development of the Flagstaff community in this area?
- WHAT does change look like to you when it comes to Youth Issues & Concerns?