



A unified effort supported by the Forum for Youth Investment, the National Urban League, and the American Institutes for Research

Together with our co-strategists, we will advance a curated set of meetings, projects and products aimed at leveraging the collective knowledge base and the expanding constellation of related activity across the “thriving youth” field. Recent and forthcoming highlights from this emerging set of activities include:

MEETINGS. To spark connections, focus energy and respond nimbly to emerging opportunities, we are operating in a number of “meeting” modes, from developing **invitational** field-building sessions and smaller group “dinner and a day” **exploratory** convenings. We are also managing a radar screen of opportunities to inform and influence, via **leveraging** existing events or playing targeted **advisory** roles as requested.

Invitational. Larger format. 100-200 curated participants

Pittsburgh Convening: Building adult capacity across the fields of learning and development, November 2019.

100+ leaders with expertise, connections, and commitments to accelerate the use of the science of learning and development within community programs and the education systems

Readiness Projects “Virtual” Launch: *Rising to the Challenge: Leveraging the Science of Learning and Development to Address the Reality of the Times.* April 15, 2020. In lieu of the planned in-person convening, this 90-minute virtual session featured a series of short segments and interviews to tee up real-time topics for action and reflection. What are we seeing, hearing, leveraging, and doing to respond to the very visible fact that out-of-school time is now all of the time? How are we responding to inequities that are even more pressing for youth in the days to come? [Learn more about the session and access the archive here.](#)

Exploratory. Dinner and a Day. Smaller group – 15 to 80

The Forum has been honing a “dinner and a day” meeting format that encourages relationship-building and reflection (the “dinner”) as well as structured facilitation to grapple with ideas and challenges that have an immediacy to participants work (the “day”). Over the past few months, we have used this format to explore implications of “the science” with:

- Leaders from national youth-serving organizations planning or reflection on their networks’ DEI work. November 2019
- Leaders and young people from place-based “alternative services” organizations exploring implications for their own work and for that of a major national foundation. February 2020
- Pairs of local leaders from 3 communities contributing to a “design session” re: what a “Readiness Projects” fellowship or community of practice could look like. February 2020.

Leverage & Advise. We are also managing a radar screen of potential high leverage and influence opportunities.

- In coordination with the SoLD Alliance governing partners, we were instrumental in securing a pre-session at the next **SEL Exchange**, have influenced development of a plenary session focused on major strands of the convergence science, and are working on a related workshop with the CASEL team. Timing TBD
- **NUL** is also identifying ways to leverage their slate of convenings and professional groups, including their **Youth Summit**, which usually occurs each August in connection with their national convening. Timing TBD
- We have also participated in an expert/participant role at a number of funders convenings, such as Grantmakers for Thriving Youth (December 2019) and the Youth Transitions Funders Group (February 2020).

Key Connections

Designed with 20+ co-strategists representing a dozen major initiatives, networks and/or projects

Drawing on the insights and expertise of over 20 presenters, this highly engaging event had over 350 participants from across the country.

Altria’s Success 360 Grantees

Annie E. Casey grantees

Leaders from Richmond, Tulsa, Detroit

SoLD Alliance
CASEL

NUL

GTYF
YTFG

PROJECTS. We are committed to bolstering work at the national level – taking the lead on targeted field-building projects, providing “last dollar” resources and horsepower to leverage ongoing efforts, or, more rarely, providing seed money to build momentum for key gap-filling projects. We are also committed to connecting directly with local leaders who are grappling with how best to harness this additional fuel for their own efforts.

National.

SoLD Design Principles – Community-Based Programs Collaborating with field and systems experts to co-create a set of tools for stakeholders system and organizational leaders that describe and provide examples of what services, supports and opportunities are like when they are designed in alignment with the science of learning and development. *Adjunct Design Principles K-12 Design Team facilitated by LPI and Turnaround as part of the SoLD Alliance.*

*Core Team:
Forum, AIR, NAA, Aspen,
Collaborative
Communications, XQ Schools
Design Team: BGCA, 4-H+*

Youth Work Survey Design. A project to determine the feasibility of a national survey of the thriving youth fields and to define and foster the partnerships and the alliance, design the project, develop a strategy for implementation, and determine the feasibility of implementation.

*AIR, Dale Blyth
Youth Work Survey Group
(including NAA, AA, 4-H, etc.)*

State

Whole Child Policy Table. A collaborative project to support the needs of the whole child through state policy levers. Currently the group is thinking about what reentry and re-envisioning could look like moving forward and to develop policy levers to advocate for whole child resources in the emerging policy context. Readiness Projects partners and co-strategists contribute to the cross-system, cross-field implications for this work.

*LPI, CASEL, NAA, NGA, NASBE,
CCCCSO, MCSL, the Children’s
Cabinet Network and others*

Local.

Local Leaders Community of Practice. A year-long engagement with local leaders in three to five communities to create a community of practice aimed at supporting non-profit leaders, and selected local partners, to help them respond to the complex opportunities and demands associated with creating equitable learning opportunities for children and youth, with a particular focus on teens and young adults.

Forum/NUL

Equitable Learning and Development Project’s youth and community engagement strategies. Work with the ELDP project partners in a small number of communities that are exploring ways to reimagine systems for learning and development (including schools) in close partnership with young people, families, educators and community members. The ELDP is thinking about education around goals that are not only youth development goals, but community, health and civic goals as well. Readiness Projects coordinating partners are working with the project leads to develop community, family and youth engagement strategies for this work.

*UChicago Consortium on
School Research, CASEL,
National Equity Project*

PRODUCTS. These convenings, connections and projects will contribute to and be informed by a range of products that range broader messaging and mobilization resources as well as significant, scholarly contributions to the field.

Message & Mobilization.

Thriving.Equity.Learning paper

A grounding paper will make the case for positioning thriving, across life domains, as the ultimate goal for youth which can only be achieved if we use a robust definition of equity (beyond educational equity) and acknowledge not only the impact inequities have on social, emotional and cognitive development but also the important role human learning plays in developing agency, resiliency and identity. A series of equity briefs will then explore the connections between thriving, learning and each of a series of educational equity issues (e.g. school discipline policies).

AIR/Forum/NUL

OST Issue Briefs

This series of 5 briefs will share practices that exemplify the science in the OST field and illustrate how we can better align our practices to the research. To develop the briefs, AIR will interview leaders from select initiatives (e.g., 4-H, Playworks, Student Conservation Association) to learn how they incorporate the science into their organization or program.

AIR

Thriving Youth Fields Glossary /Taxonomy. Create and vet a new glossary and discussion guide for use across the thriving youth fields that facilitates more accurate and nuanced descriptions of the range of adults (what roles), experiences (purpose, type and approach activities) and settings (both places and characteristics).

Forum/AIR

Where Learning Happens Videos. The Learning Policy Institute received funding to contract with Edutopia to create an additional series of How Learning Happens Videos that feature out-of-school time settings. The Forum worked with the Edutopia team to define themes, identify sites, review footage and record overview footage for the series. The Forum will work with

*Edutopia, LPI, Forum (videos
feature BGC, Outward Bound,
etc.)*

NYSOs to identify videos from OST/youth development organizations that can showcase the advantages of broadening definitions of how, where, when and with whom learning happens.

Content Development.

Issues in Out-of-School Time book. *It takes an Ecosystem: Understanding the People, Places, and Possibilities of Learning and Development Across Settings* will explore the idea of the Allied Youth Fields—an aspirational term that suggests increased connection, alignment, and complementarity across the multiple systems in which adults engage with young people. Contributions by September, 2020. Publication in Fall, 2021.

Co-Editors Tom Akiva and Kim Robinson