

YOUNG INVOLVED PHILADELPHIA

PRESENTS



STATE OF YOUNG PHILLY: IMAGINING PHILLY'S FUTURE

SUMMARY REPORT

OVERVIEW

From September 20, 2010 to October 1, 2010, **Young Involved Philadelphia** (YIP) hosted its first annual **State of Young Philly: Imagining Philly's Future**. Over the course of the two weeks, officially declared "State of Young Philly Weeks" by Philadelphia City Council, elected city officials, organizational leaders, and hundreds of citizens from around the city and region came together to imagine Philly's future. But more than just a focus on what could be, the series of events engaged, educated and empowered those with ideas for bettering the city.

ENGAGED

Young Philadelphians had the opportunity to engage with their peers, organizational leaders, and government representatives.

ENGAGED

EDUCATED

Young Philadelphians were exposed to new ideas and educated on key issues affecting the City.

EDUCATED

EMPOWERED

Young Philadelphians shared feedback on current practices, discussed innovative approaches, and helped imagine what was possible for Philadelphia's future.

EMPOWERED

Throughout the events there was an unmistakable theme present– a theme that seemed to undergird all the ideas that poured forth. In short, there is an intense desire among young Philadelphians to make their city better and to be involved in the process that gets it there.



"Good, important, meaningful speakers surrounded by smart, diverse groups of people. A Young Involved Philadelphia event is one of the best places in the region to find the next future leader you should know now, and State of Young Philadelphia was two weeks full of opportunities to do just that."

--Chris Wink, Technically Philly

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

LEADERSHIP BREAKFAST



On Tuesday September 21st, young leaders from over twenty Philadelphia organizations came together to discuss how to leverage the voice of young Philadelphia. Liz Dow from Leadership Philadelphia shared insight as to how young leaders could continue to build their leadership skills as emerging connectors in Philadelphia.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND VOLUNTEERISM



That night, young Philadelphians participated in an evening of good conversation for great causes. Focused on connecting professionals with people who really need them, 15 volunteer organizations discussed their goals and young professionals' role in accomplishing them, and Catherine Wolfgang, Philadelphia's Chief Service Officer, shared the vision for the future of volunteerism in the City.

GOVERNMENT AND LEADERSHIP



On Thursday September 23rd, young Philadelphians engaged in an interactive discussion with an impressive group of elected officials and legislative staffers – Councilman Bill Green, State Representative Tony Payton, Councilwoman María D. Quiñones-Sánchez, Al Schmidt, Derek Green, and Cindy Bass.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



On Monday September 27th, young Philadelphians heard from venture capitalists, policy makers, and business owners in a variety of business sectors and had the opportunity to share suggestions in small group discussions moderated by expert facilitators.



On Wednesday September 29th, young Philadelphians explored the relationship between young people and the arts and culture community. Participants discussed how Philadelphia could better market itself to attract, retain, and support young artists, as well as create a resilient and sustainable cultural community.



The series' culminating event was held at WHYY studios on October 1st. Over thirty partnering organizations joined together for a showcase to celebrate the two week series of events. Initial ideas from the two weeks of interactive discussions on Imagining Philly's Future were presented and City leaders had the opportunity to share thoughts in lively lightning-style talks.

A VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF PHILLY

At each event, participants were given surveys that presented a series of hypothetical regional headlines from the year 2026. Participants were asked to choose four headlines that represented what they believed to be the most important changes that would have to happen for Greater Philadelphia to be considered a world class place to live, work, and play in 2026. The headline list was created by the Economy League as a part of the World Class Greater Philadelphia initiative, which aims to build consensus around a short list of regional priorities and actions to put Greater Philadelphia on a path to a world class future.

Top 10 Survey Results

- 1.) Region has highest share of high school students going on to higher education in US
- 2.) Greater Philadelphia leads nation in poverty reduction
- 3.) Region doubles bachelor's degree attainment rate from 33% to 66%
- 4.) Violent crime in region's core communities at a 100 year low
- 5.) Greater Philadelphia tops rankings for arts and culture participation
- 6.) Philadelphia region tops US small business creation list
- 7.) Report ranks Greater Philadelphia 3rd nationally for ease of doing business
- 8.) Commuters rank Philadelphia region tops for transportation access and options
- 9.) Philadelphia region recognized as national model for redevelopment of core communities
- 10.) Region's voter participation rate tops 90%

*Survey was conducted in conjunction with the Economy League through the World Class Greater Philadelphia initiative.

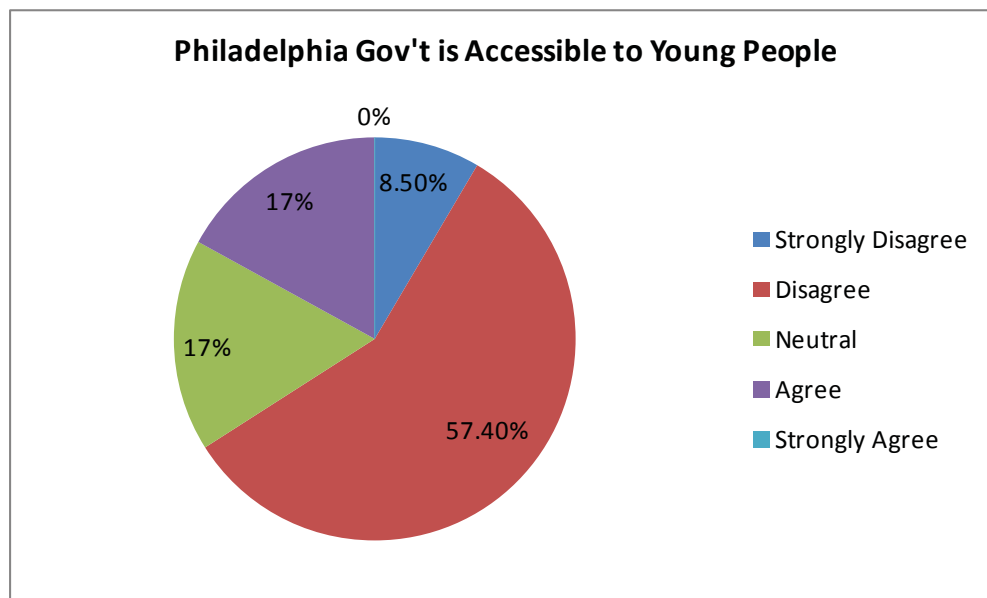


YOUNG PHILLY'S TOP FIVE PRIORITIES

In small break out groups, interested citizens completed surveys on their perceptions of the City and listened to one another – to their grievances and gripes, to their ambitions and ideas. Some discussed the need to change the culture of government, while others focused on substantive policy areas such as sustainability or education.

Five major priorities emerged from the series of discussions. These priorities will guide Young Involved Philadelphia's programming efforts in 2011. For a complete list of series' findings, visit www.stateofyoungphilly.com/findings.

Priority One: Improve Government Accessibility. City government must be made more transparent and accessible to its younger citizens. To increase engagement in the political process, government needs to reach young people in the manner to which they are accustomed and rise with the technological times.



What YIP is doing

*YIP has joined the Digital Philadelphia Task Force to work on **Open Access Philly**, a citizen engagement initiative designed to provide Philadelphians with the data, information, and applications they need to advance meaningful change in their neighborhoods.*

Priority Two: Cultivate Organizational Relationships. Philadelphia should create stronger co-ops of young organizations – collectives that benefit from the combined efforts of multiple groups. These partnerships can serve as a clearinghouse for information and help to leverage the voice of young Philadelphia.

What YIP is doing

*State of Young Philly brought together over thirty partnering organizations from a variety of sectors. Beginning in 2011, YIP will oversee the **Board Prep program**, which is designed to train young professionals to take on leadership roles within non-profits in the City.*

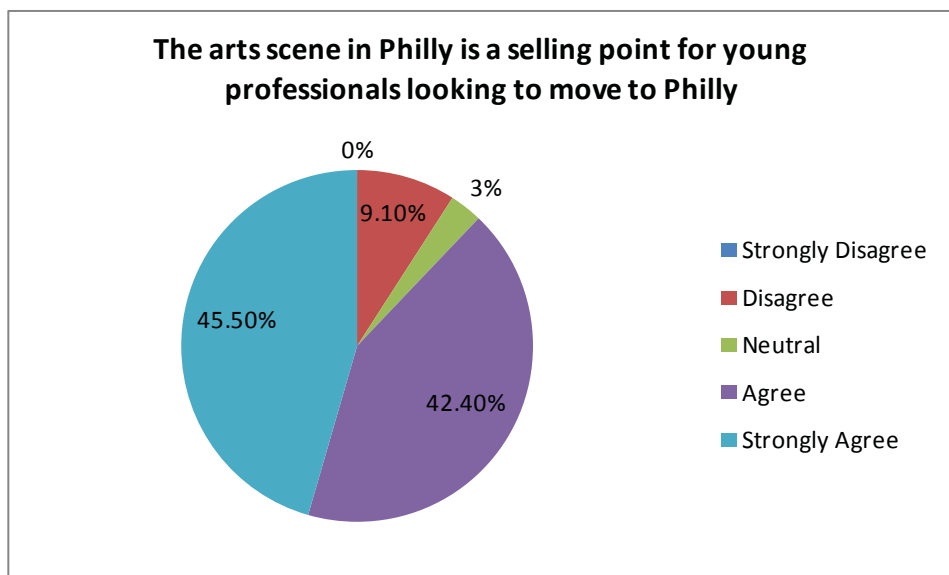
Priority Three: Leverage Assets and Build from Strengths. Young citizens are optimistic about the future, but are tired of the “No, Philly can’t do that...and I’ll explain why” attitude that has tarnished the past and clouds optimism in the present. There’s much to love about Philadelphia. We need to focus on how to leverage our City’s assets – such as the arts scene and the city’s walkability – to build a more sustainable future.

There’s much to love about Philadelphia.

What YIP is doing

YIP is launching

#whyilovephilly, a social media campaign which will provide a live, online space for people to express their love for the city we all adore. The website www.whyilovephilly.com contains updated information about the campaign - including a feed of all tweets that use the hashtag #whyilovephilly, and news about any associated polls, contests, and parties.



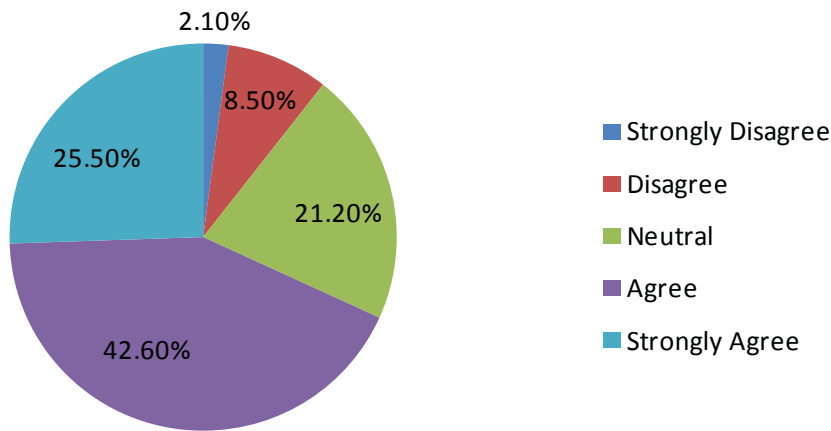
Priority Four: Improve the City’s Labor Force. Though YIP did not host a specific event dedicated to engaging citizens in dialogue on Philadelphia’s systems of K-12 and higher education, the well-being of the city’s schools and universities was a dominant theme in each of the conversations that took place.

What YIP is doing

Young people recognize the importance of education reform but don’t always know how to get engaged. This spring YIP will host a forum on the school system in Philadelphia that provides an overview of the key issues affecting the region and offers innovative ways to get involved.

Priority Five: Bring Together Current and Aspiring Leadership. Participants envisioned a Philadelphia where every government agency would have an unlocked door, and the political discourse would exist with the citizenry at the forefront. They recommended developing a young civic watchdog group to unify local communities and hold city leaders accountable to their promises.

It is possible for young people to create positive change in Philadelphia's city government



"I thought State of Young Philly was one of the most substantive policy-related events I've been to in years. The greatest strength was the diversity, energy, enthusiasm, and insight the participants brought to the discussion."

--Sophie Bryan, Chief of Staff for Councilman Bill Green

What YIP is doing

YIP will continue to bring aspiring and current leadership together to discuss the city's future.



Stay up to date on details for our annual programming at

www.younginvolvedphila.org

Series website: www.stateofyoungphilly.com

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ORGANIZATIONAL PARTNERS

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & VOLUNTEERISM

Gen Philly
Greater Philadelphia Cares
Keep Philadelphia Beautiful
Liberti Church
Philadelphia's Young Nonprofit Leaders

Plan Philly
Project H.O.M.E
Spruce Foundation
United Way
Young Friends of PHS

GOVERNMENT & LEADERSHIP

Center for Progressive Leadership
Committee of Seventy
Conservation Voters PA

League of Women Voters
Philadelphia Youth Commission
Temple University

BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

African American Chamber of Commerce
Economy League of Greater Philadelphia
Innovation Philadelphia
National Association of Asian American Professionals
National Association of Securities Professionals

Network of Indian Professionals
Sustainable Business Network
Technically Philly
Urban Philly Professional Network
Young Professional Network of the
Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce

ARTS & CULTURE

CultureWorks Greater Philadelphia
Fourth Wall Arts Salon
Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance
InLiquid
Magic Gardens

Philadelphia Live Arts Festival & Philly Fringe
Philly 360
youcie
Young Friends of PMA

ABOUT YIP

“Young Involved Philadelphia is one of the best-intentioned good-government groups in the city.”

-Inga Saffron, Skyline Online Blog

Young Involved Philadelphia builds relationships and increases civic engagement to empower and connect young Philadelphians. Since 2000, we have strived to make Philadelphia the premier city for the next generation of leaders by:

- *Engaging our membership through education about civic affairs, advocacy around key issues, and social events and outings.*
- *Connecting young citizens to civic groups and civic groups with each other.*
- *Representing the young demographic by providing a channel of communication between young Philadelphians and business/government.*

THE YIP BOARD

Young Involved Philadelphia is guided by a board that makes strategic decisions about the direction of the organization and allocation of resources. Members of the board are chosen from among the most active YIP members and serve two-year terms.

Michelle Freeman - Michelle A Freeman Marketing & Events and Flying Kite

Valerie Morini - Social Media and Development Consultant

Matt Goldfine - Chief of Staff for State Representative Tim Briggs

Katie Morrison - KMorrison Creative and Drexel University

Susanna Greenberg - Ballard Spahr LLP

Claire Robertson-Kraft, *YIP Chair* - Doctoral Student in Education Policy, UPenn

Alain Joinville - Philadelphia Parks and Recreation Department

Salas Saraiya - Freelance Web Developer

Farzin Khan - National Association of Securities Professionals

Thaddeus Squire - Founder and Executive Director of Culture Works

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