

A photograph of a theater stage. The stage is covered with a large red curtain. Above the curtain, a row of spotlights is visible, some of which are illuminated. The stage floor is lit with a soft purple light. In the foreground, the dark silhouettes of theater seats are visible, arranged in rows. The overall atmosphere is dramatic and professional.

FROM BEHIND THE CURTAIN

Empowering Youth to Be the Stars of the Show

HELLO!

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I am here because I love teenagers.

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OUR TIME TOGETHER

- | Icebreaker
- | What is PYD?
- | 8 Essential Elements
- | 5 Cs and 6 Components
- | Think Tank

1

BREAKING THE ICE

1. Name, DOB, SS# (jk, just your name and where you work)
2. Why do you love working with teens?
3. What about other youth workers inspires you?



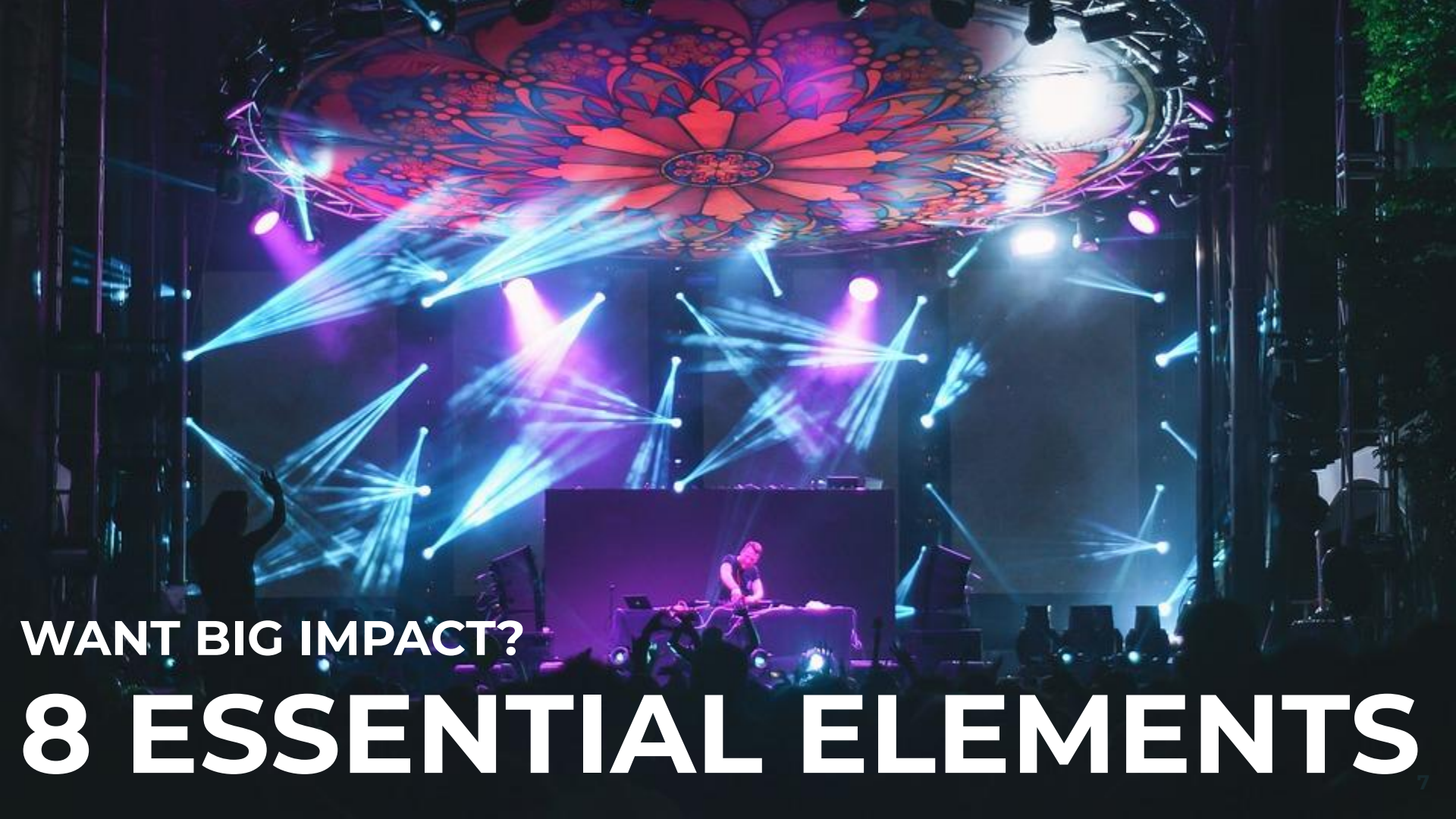
Positive Youth Development is an intentional, prosocial approach that engages youth within their communities, schools, organizations, peer groups, and families in a manner that is productive and constructive; recognizes, utilizes, and enhances young people's strengths; and promotes positive outcomes for young people by providing opportunities, fostering positive relationships, and furnishing the support needed to build on their leadership strengths.

-The Interagency Working
Group on Youth Programs



PYD

- Position paper written by Dr. Gisela Konopka in 1973 for the federal Department of Health, Education and Welfare - 8 basic needs of youth
- Moving from single problem and focusing on deficits to focusing on developmental potential
- The programs and interventions are strengthened when they involve youth as equal partners, ultimately providing benefits for both for the program and the involved youth.



WANT BIG IMPACT?

8 ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS

SAFE ENVIRONMENT





What is it?

Physical and psychological safety achieved through comfortable in surroundings where all participants are welcomed and all feel safe to share their ideas. No bullying, cliques or put-downs are allowed.

What can adults do?

- Be consistent.
- Screen and train.
- Engage students in planning, implementation and evaluation.
- Ask youth how to improve environment.

APPROPRIATE STRUCTURE





What is it?

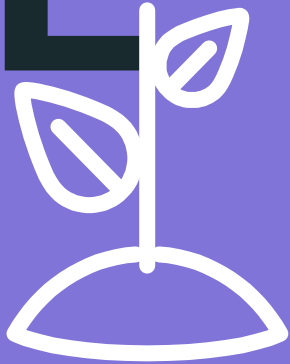
Clear consistent rules, expectations and age-appropriate monitoring.

What can adults do?

- I Sufficient number of adults to supervise.
- I Expectations are explained and maintained.
- I Provide reasons for requests and rules.
- I Ask youth for input on rules.

STAGE DOOR
BAND AND CREW
ONLY

SUPPORTIVE RELATIONSHIPS



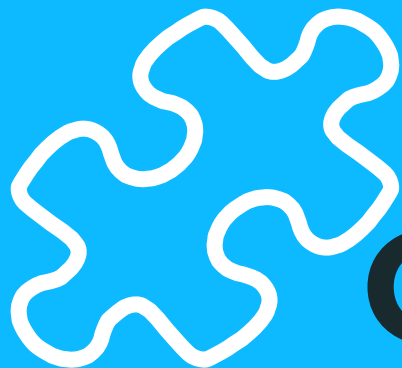


What is it?

Paying attention to youth and their interests. Offering a listening ear, focus on strengths and provide a positive environment of reinforcement, good modeling, and constructive feedback.

What can adults do?

- Intentionally listen to youth.
- Provide opportunities for youth and adults to interact and learn from each other.
- Use name-tags to be on first-name basis.
- Encourage youth-adult partnerships.
- Model healthy, positive behaviors.
- Engage all youth in program.



**OPPORTUNITY to
BELONG**



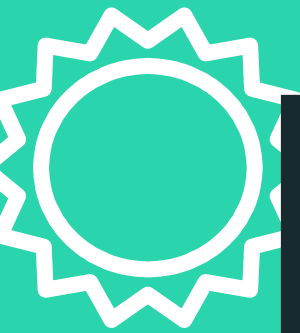
What is it?

Connecting with other people and building interpersonal relationships to feel valued by leaders and other participants. An environment of encouragement, positive feedback and celebration.

What can adults do?

- Icebreakers that involve all.
- Multiple forms of recognition.
- Actively work to diversify the group.
- Use t-shirts, hats, etc to denote group membership.
- Opportunity to work together toward goal.





POSITIVE **SOCIAL NORMS**

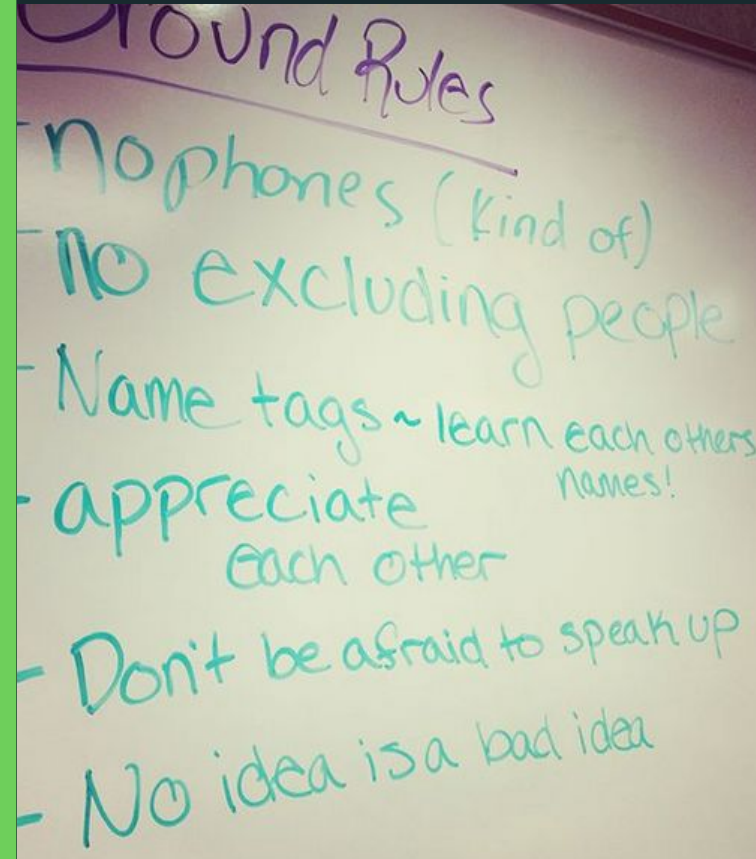


What is it?

Programs create positive expectations for attitudes and behaviors expressed by group members. These are set by both peers and group leaders.

What can adults do?

- Clearly communicate expectations.
- Ground rules are created by all in the group.
- Model positive, respectful interactions.
- Promote positive norms related to healthy-decision making.



EFFICACY & MATTERING





What is it?

Opportunities to make a difference by providing support for youth autonomy, leadership roles, and encouragement to achieve meaningful change in their community and in their own lives.



What can adults do?

- Encourage youth to identify community needs and design solutions.
- Provide an environment in which youth can try new things and challenge themselves.
- Give youth the opportunity to develop an idea from start to finish.
- Develop, or refer youth to, service-learning opportunities.
- Be supportive, but allow youth to solve their own problems.

SKILL



BUILDING



What is it?

Provide a setting for youth to build and master social, physical, relationship, problem solving, cultural and a variety of other skills to lead to success in later life.

What can adults do?

- Provide opportunities that intellectually stimulate and challenge youth.
- Allow skill practice.
- Provide opportunities for youth to teach and mentor others.
- Allow time for reflection.
- Offer different ways to learn.



SETTING INTEGRATION



What is it?

Integrating family, school and community efforts. Programming emphasizes a collaboration with all settings to maximize youth development.

What can adults do?

- Link youth to services in which they are of need - beyond your program's "topic area"
- Engage parents through activities, newsletters, websites, etc.
- Engage community organizations in supporting programming for youth.
- Provide experiences for youth to learn more about their community through service-learning

A vibrant concert stage scene. A band of four members is silhouetted against a backdrop of intense, multi-colored stage lighting. Numerous spotlights in shades of yellow, blue, purple, and green beam down from above, creating a dramatic atmosphere. The stage is filled with various light fixtures, including vertical bars of lights and circular spotlights, all contributing to a high-energy visual display.

WANT BIG IMPACT?

5 Cs & 6 CORE FEATURES



5 (or 6) Cs

- Competence
- Confidence
- Connection
- Character
- Caring
- Contribution

6 CORE FEATURES

- Relationships
- Environment
- Engagement
- Social Norms
- Skill-building Opportunities
- Routine/Structure

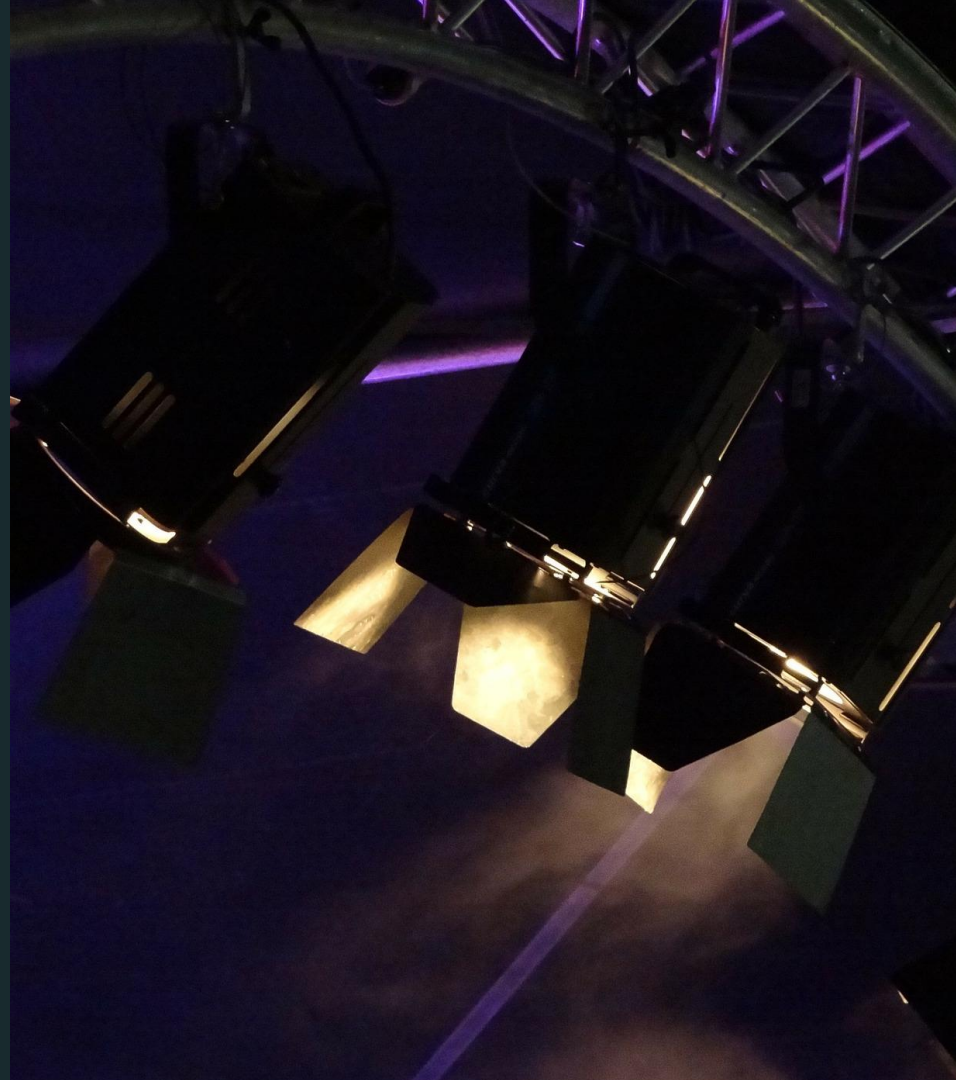
THINK TANK



Group Think Tank

Four groups will brainstorm how to intentionally add each of the 8 essential elements of positive youth development into each of these four grant requirements.

- Curriculum
- Service-Learning
- Advisory Council Involvement
- Community Awareness



A dark, moody background image featuring a close-up of a pen resting on a notepad. The pen is positioned diagonally across the upper half of the frame, and the notepad's spiral binding is visible on the right side. The overall tone is professional and minimalist.

THANKS!

Any questions?

You can find me at kejourdan@gmail.com

Sources

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