

Co-Creating Our City

How to address the mismatch between what young people seek out and cities can offer?

Young People

- Often lack influence in government
- Are engaged on an issue-basis
- Seek out project-based opportunities
- Use online platforms to express their ideas

Cities

- Want to hear young people's ideas for vibrant communities
- Keen to engage, especially with underrepresented young people
- Sometimes lack efficient ways to engage with young residents

Co-Creating Our City

Our project uses a novel citizen science approach to address the mismatch between opportunities for exchange offered in cities and what young people seek out in terms of engagement to realize their ideas of flourishing communities.

Time frame: May 2024 – October 2025
Location: Düsseldorf (DE) und Charlotte, NC (USA)
Participants: Young people and local decision-makers

Project partners:
d|part - Think Tank for political participation
German Marshall Fund of the United States
SCI:MOVE
Gambrell Foundation
Landeshauptstadt Düsseldorf, Amt für Soziales und Jugend
Jugendring Düsseldorf
City of Charlotte

Together, young people and city decision-makers generate insights into and concrete proposals for their cities to establish vibrant communities and solutions for next-level youth engagement.

Knowledge

- Youth-led insights into the needs and opportunities for youth engagement in cities
- Ideas for vibrant communities that young people and city decision-makers share
- Feasible and actionable suggestions for future city-wide youth engagement

Competencies

- Scientific and democratic literacy
- Increased civic engagement and political efficacy
- Identity and belonging to their cities among participating young people and city administrators

Solutions

- City-specific and directly actionable proposals for solutions young people and city administrators would like to see
- Blueprint for a future youth engagement process that can be transferred to other cities worldwide