

Louisville Youth Institute - Project Plan - DRAFT - July, 2016

The Louisville Youth Institute is a proposed non-profit organization that will serve youth age 14 - 24 by using digital media technology as a tool to encourage them to remain engaged in secondary education, enroll in post-secondary education, and prepare for meaningful employment. It is based largely on a YMCA program in Long Beach California called the Youth Institute.

The LYI will have three main program areas that devote resources to opportunity youth:

- 1. An 8-week Summer Youth Institute program.** This program would operate 35 hours per week and houses 24 high school students (50% male, 50% female). The Summer Youth Institute uses project-based learning approaches to teach Digital Media Arts skills using the latest hardware and software. Each student who completes the Summer Youth Institute program will receive a stipend of \$500.
- 2. An after school program during the school year.** This program would be for high school age Youth Institute Alumni and peers with a focus on homework, college readiness, enhancing technology skills, and service based learning projects. Opportunities will be identified for the after school students to produce paid digital media projects for other nonprofit, community, and private organizations.
- 3. A daytime program during the school year for youth age 16-24.** This program would focus on helping youth with educational and career goals such as obtaining a GED, digital certifications, workforce skills, college readiness, and service learning projects. As well as focusing on digital media, this program will also provide instruction on other software and communications such as web hosting, word processing, digital presentations, spreadsheets, and databases. It will provide services to existing Louisville service organizations like the Kentucky Youth Career Center, Youth Build, Emerging Workforce Initiative, and others. The program would offer services to 50 youth during the school year. Opportunities will also be identified for the 16-24 year old youth to produce paid digital projects for other nonprofit, community, and private organizations.

In the summer of 2016, Beargrass Media and the Louisville Free Public Library ran a pilot program consisting of a one-week media camp that served 17 youth aged 13 - 17. The success of the first year will enable the organization to share the success stories to community partners and investors. The videos telling the story of the 2016 summer camp and a description of the camp itself can be found at: <http://www.beargrassmedia.com/2016-summer-media-camp>. The hope is to grow the Summer Youth Institute program into an 8-week program serving 24 students in 2017.

The total budget for the 2017 program year is \$160,000, which covers the following expenses.

Salaries and Benefits	Equipment	Youth Stipend
\$128,000	\$20,000	\$12,000

The first year of the high school programs would be housed at the Louisville Free Public Library Main Branch (LFPL Main), and the 16-24 year old program would be housed at a mixture of locations including the LFPL Main, and at the locations of the service organizations, themselves.

Depending on the growth rate of the program, the intent would be to move to a move self-contained facility between year two and year three. That facility would share resources with the other you service organizations based on the needs of the different populations in different times of year and times of day.

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