

# YOUNG LEADER VISION PROJECT

## FINAL REPORT AND FINDINGS

### VISION

- ❑ My vision for the future of the region is a stronger relationship between local governments and youths who live in the region. I would like to see more support and advocacy for youth-led initiatives especially when it comes to social/climate education and policies that impact students and those that belong to marginalized groups.
    - Starting this project, I was not really aware of any specific challenges in the region. I was already aware of the issue of inclusivity. The region - Woodbury, Lake Elmo, Stillwater- is growing in terms of diversity and one issue that has risen is conversations around race/culture. A challenge I personally viewed was the support of young people of color that were making up that diversity. So going in to this project I was dedicated to advocating for more youth spaces in decision making processes.
  - ❑ My vision for the future of the region, would be a more youth inclusive initiative around climate change with a focus on education. As I interviewed people one issue that stuck out to me was sustainability and the promotion of sustainability within the community. Climate change is a huge area of concern for youth, and though the city promotes it, youth want to see more education. So many youths in this region are opening up important dialogue around not just climate change but youth advocacy in all social issues/policy issues



### ACTION

SYSTEMS	COMMUNITY	BUSINESS
<p>What I would like to see change is how young voices are supported. Young people in this region are already doing the work and using their voices, what they need is a community that listens.</p> <p>I would say what we need is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➢ more spaces for young people to speak and have their voices being amplified.</li><li>➢ Support of the messages and education that youths are developing around conversations of race and</li></ul>	<p>I think there is already a significant amount of work being done in communities around supporting students of color and amplifying their voices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➢ StoryArk- Amplifying the experiences of youth of color and lbgtq+ youth through story-telling in a way that is youth led. The students write and direct their own stories based on their experience.</li><li>➢ Minnesota Youth Climate Strike- Chapters in schools around this region, educating those in their schools/communities.</li></ul>	<p>Partnerships with groups that are amplifying youth voice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➢ Donating time, money, or giving space to work collaborate etc.</li><li>➢ Making an effort to promote and collaborate</li></ul>

### INSIGHTS

What do you feel were your biggest lessons or surprises about 1) the regional planning process, 2) the project process and 3) about yourself and your/your community's role in developing a strong/equitable future?

What surprised me and seemed to echo throughout my conversations was how much of the process lacked relevance. No matter how the cities felt about the process itself, positive or negative, the general consensus seemed to be that it left little space for individualized planning. The issue of development and sustainability looked way different for an older, more compact city like Stillwater compared to a bigger, growing one like Woodbury.

What I learned about my communities role is that though their were a lot of local youth initiatives, none were given much recognition or support from local governments. How has this project/approach changed your views on regional planning?

I also learned that engagement can only go so far with a regional planning process that is so tightly defined and structured. I think what people want to see in their communities and what the comprehensive plan allows do not match up.



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