

ADVANCING TOWARD EQUITY



Brooklyn Bridge **ALLIANCE** FOR YOUTH

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**2021
ANNUAL
REPORT**





Youth Engagement

Expanding youth leadership and voice

Collaborating with youth has always been a part of our strategy. Therefore, this year we expanded our youth engagement by launching the Youth OnBoard Initiative to permanently share decision-making power with youth in the Brooklyns.

Youth OnBoard Initiative

- ✓ Added four youth directors to the Alliance's board of directors
- ✓ Confirmed seven leadership tables who want to include youth
- ✓ Recruited 23 youth to be a part of the Youth OnBoard initiative
- ✓ Hired 34 youth for research, marketing, organizing, and governance projects

"Youth OnBoard, this is a marathon, not a sprint." -Cory McIntyre, Superintendent ISD 279 Osseo Area Schools

"The Youth OnBoard initiative is a great example of living out the values of the BBA, and is a benefit to all the Alliance partners"
-Jay Stroebel, Brooklyn Park City Manager

"Organizing youth, hiring youth, creating internships, embedding in schools, youth engaged in research, this is great!"
-Kristin Keller, Community Education Anoka-Hennepin Schools

"Whether it's Youth OnBoard, Blueprint, Equity...the BBA's intention in engaging youth as partners in ALL of the work we do, it's real. Youth voice and engagement throughout." -Pam McBride, Youth Services Manager City of Brooklyn Park Recreation

Youth OnBoard Initiative

Youth OnBoard is about preparing, training, and developing young adults and matching them to decision-making tables such as boards, commissions, and advisories that inform the decision-making within our community.

Our inaugural table partners include the cities of Brooklyn Park, Brooklyn Center, and Hennepin County, as well as our very own board of directors at the BBAY. In 2022 we seek to expand to include any decision-making tables that impact youth.

- ✓ Youth do not have to be in school to join
- ✓ We are looking for young people from all backgrounds
- ✓ This is a great opportunity if youth are looking to build their resume or if they are looking to make impactful changes in the systems that serve our community
- ✓ By being a part of YOB, youth will be paid for attending meetings
- ✓ Decision-making tables will benefit from youth view and voice

Visit [Brooklynsallianceforyouth.org](https://brooklynsallianceforyouth.org) to apply or follow us on Facebook at: [Facebook.com/TheBrooklynBridgeAllianceForYouth](https://facebook.com/TheBrooklynBridgeAllianceForYouth)

THESE EMERGING LEADERS MADE HISTORY WELCOME TO OUR BOARD

MOSIA VANKPANAH
- NHCC BOARD
APPOINTMENT
CLASS OF '17)



PRISCILLA MAYOWA
- HTC BOARD
APPOINTMENT
CLASS OF '16



BASHIRU KORMAH
-BBA BOARD
APPOINTMENT
CLASS OF '15



ALEXANDER GARDUNO GARCIA
-BBA BOARD APPOINTMENT
SENIOR AT BCHS & PSEO AT
NHCC



Resources

Bringing treasure and talents together

In the midst of a pandemic, civil unrest, and burnout across youth service providers, we expanded our efforts to include those most impacted. We centered on youth needs and pivoted to serve families in new ways. We accomplished this by increasing our online visibility and strengthening our social media presence which we will continue to grow in 2022. We also:

- ✓ Secured **\$70,000** to lead Health on the Go and Expand Online Outreach to address the health needs of our community in new ways
- ✓ Partnered with Youthprise to transfer **\$200k** in funds to the community, with direct aid to families impacted by civil unrest and to organizations building community
- ✓ Strengthened our connection to families; **273** new Facebook followers and **4,744** email recipients — an increase of **114%** in one year
- ✓ Raised **\$90,000** to launch Youth OnBoard

“In spite of pandemic fatigue, we deepened connections to BCCS, also were able to remain flexible and responsive to the needs of the community and the program partners serving them” -Jackie Hayden, BCCS College and Career Readiness



Coordination

Coming together to take action

At the Alliance we bring together youth and community to respond to the needs of youth. We take pride in incubating new programs and investing in collaboration & cross-sector partnerships to better serve youth in the Brooklyns. We took another step when:

- ✓ We transitioned Health on the Go pilot project to city, county, and community partners who continue to serve the public health needs of the community in new ways
- ✓ Youth council members began work on addressing student needs around college, career, and mental health
- ✓ Created a new short-term responsive strategic plan based on the 2020 Youth-to-Youth Survey
- ✓ Convened 10 project and governance teams that brought together roughly 100 youth and community leaders to take action

“HOTG and other responsive initiatives have been critical to community. Coordination of groups like the community engagement team is a helpful way to share resources that meet the specific needs of communities served.” -Community Engagement Team

“Drawn to the coordination work...WHAT A POWERFUL LEVER for us to pull.” -Christa Mims, Director Education Services, Hennepin County



Emerging points of focus for 2022

2021 could be referred to as tumultuous times, yet we are stronger for these efforts. The successes shared this year demonstrate our ability to advance equity, share resources, and work together to build a healthy community in partnership with young people in the Brooklyns.

1. Extend youth engagement and equity initiatives

- a. Grow Youth OnBoard
- b. Implement Youth-to-Youth Survey and Anti-Hate Campaign
- c. Complete equity projects with College and City Partners
- d. Plan next phase of Blueprint for Persistence

2. Respond to needs of youth and the community

- a. Support BYC's 'Youth Mental Health Project' and explore opportunities for deeper investment
- b. Accelerate Blueprint for Persistence and other priorities
- C. Remain flexible, pivot, and respond to the community

3. Strengthen joint powers partnership

- a. Nurture relationships, reimagine policies, and recreate strategic plans to strengthen collaboration
- b. Support board development
- c. Develop the BBAY equity policy
- d. Leverage resources and make decisions based on youth and community centered data

Thank you to our Private Sector partners who worked with the Alliance partners to accelerate youth success in 2021.

Special thank you to Youthprise, and the ongoing support from the McKnight Foundation that continues to accelerate positive youth development, access to opportunities, and systems change.



Equitable Access

Opportunities for each young person

We imagine a future where young people have access to networks, resources, and support based on where they are and where they want to go. As a result, we shifted our equity work from program level to department level and supported our partners as they addressed disparities in their departments. We took another step when we piloted five equity and disparity reduction projects to improve youth outcomes.

“Impressive. Complex and impactful work.”

-Christa Mims, Director Education Services, Hennepin County

“The focus on moving more deeply into equity work is so beneficial to program partner staff and systems”

-Lennisha Walker, Outreach and Prevention Coordinator, Brooklyn Park

