

## Who are we?

- The [Boston Youth Action Board](#) was started in 2016 as part of the YHDP application process.
- We currently have 20 to 25 active members, ages 18 to 25.

## How we operate

- We have an annual budget from the city of \$75,000 plus an additional grant of \$20,000.
- YAB general meetings happen twice a month and are held at a local drop-in center. Meeting participants are paid \$10 cash per meeting, up to 15 people per meeting.
- Facilitation and leadership comes from three YAB Directors (some with lived experience), and seven young adult facilitators. The facilitators take on leadership roles, operational support, and special projects. The pay structure for the team is as independent consultants.
- For outreach and communication we use Facebook Messenger, email, text messages, and a Google Groups mailing list to reach everyone at once.

# Where's the Action?

## What makes us unique

- Our YAB members are fierce and have important expertise. They feel empowered by this work. Youth and young adults have carved out space for themselves, and don't back down when they believe something is important.

## Our 3 Biggest Successes

- Our [Truths and Values](#) documents are respected and upheld in our community by our partners.
- YAB members have been involved in *every* aspect of Boston's YHDP planning process, from the top down.
- We won an award from True Colors United for being a leading example in ending youth homelessness.

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# The Gab on YABs

meet the Boston Youth Action Board



## Our 3 Biggest Challenges

- Securing food for our meetings and a consistent space to meet. We approach community partners for contributions.
- Keeping core members involved long-term. It seems like at every project end/beginning, we have a turnover of general YAB membership.
- When we have a particularly large YAB group, we don't always have enough facilitation capacity or budget. It is difficult when a YAB member who has been invested is the 16th person that day, and we can't pay them.

# Where's the Action?

## Who are we?

- The [Austin Youth Collective to End Homelessness](#) was launched in 2017 as part of Austin's YHDP project.
- Our five current members are 18–29 years old. We have diverse racial representation but not yet in LGBTQIA+. We are working toward equity and inclusion, so that diversity doesn't become tokenization.



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## How we operate

- Our yearly budget is \$27,000. Members are paid \$13/hour in cash, and the rest goes for lunch at our monthly meetings, travel, trainings, and supplies.
- We meet monthly for check-ins, event planning, debriefs from trainings, and discussions. Meetings are mostly facilitated by an adult staff member of our sponsoring organization — but we're working toward rotating this responsibility among members.
- When making internal decisions, if consensus cannot be reached, then it goes to a ¾ majority vote. When our group collaborates with other partners, we are consulted first for input, but older adults make the final call.
- Trainings have included project management, public speaking, grants & compliance, and Undoing Racism.

## Our 3 Biggest Successes

- Our #HaveYouSeenUs event: great attendance, donations, community-building, raising awareness... "It was a turning point for the collective."
- The ability to see where our struggles are and being able to bring that to the forefront.
- The growth in the lives of our team as they have learned to navigate and challenge systems to create a more equitable experience for youth and young adults.

# The Gab on YABs

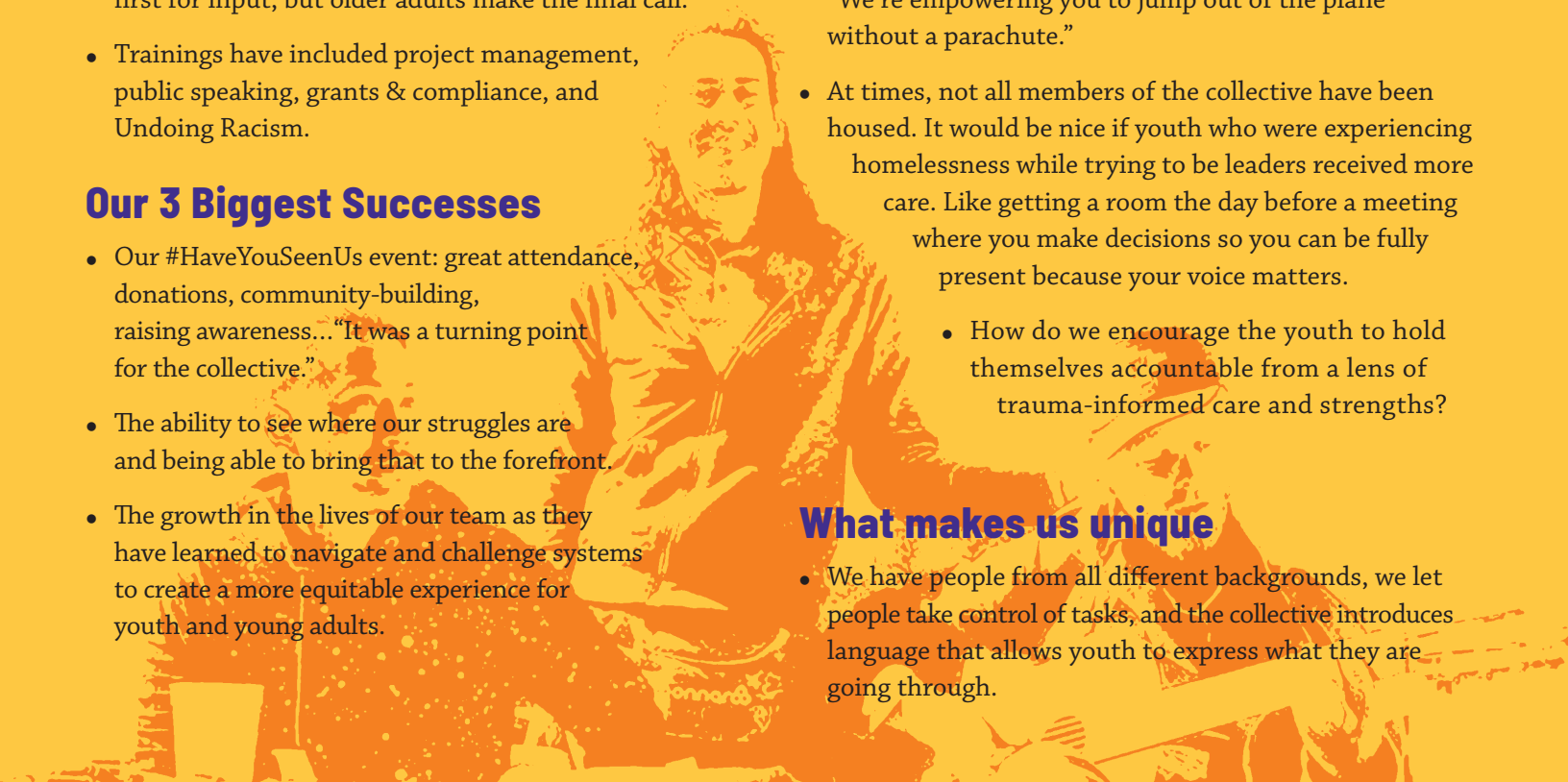
meet the Austin Youth Collective to End Homelessness

## Our 3 Biggest Challenges

- It feels like we are given power, but it's limited. Like, "We're empowering you to jump out of the plane without a parachute."
- At times, not all members of the collective have been housed. It would be nice if youth who were experiencing homelessness while trying to be leaders received more care. Like getting a room the day before a meeting where you make decisions so you can be fully present because your voice matters.
- How do we encourage the youth to hold themselves accountable from a lens of trauma-informed care and strengths?

## What makes us unique

- We have people from all different backgrounds, we let people take control of tasks, and the collective introduces language that allows youth to express what they are going through.



# Where's the Action?

## Who are we?

- We founded the [Anchorage Youth Task Force](#) in June 2016 thanks to YHDP funding. We receive support from Covenant House Alaska and other local grants.
- Our members range between 18 and 25 years of age with diverse and inclusive representation from many populations; including LGBTQI+, Alaska Native, Polynesian, people of color, and white populations.

## How we operate

- Yearly Budget: approximately \$9,000.
- We recruit through various events, online posts, and youth groups. “Mini-parties” have proven the most effective.
- We communicate to members through Facebook, phone, and email.

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## The Gab on YABs

meet the Anchorage Youth Task Force

### 3 Biggest Successes

- Bringing youth voice to the forefront of every decision-making process.
- Creating space for participants to share and express their true selves.
- Hosting our first event with no adult involvement other than the logistics.

### 3 Biggest Challenges

- Finding grants to create events, activities, and awareness.
- High turnover of youth coming in and out.
- Keeping our members involved and occupied to push and enhance the passion they have within.

## What makes us unique

- The talent and mentorship we each bring to the table. Check out the music video “[Streets 2 Success](#)” we put together for the Community Thrive Challenge representing Anchorage as a community.





# Where's the Action?

## Who are we?

- We started up in 2018 in Columbus, OH with support from YHDP.
- We currently have around eight members, ages 18 to 24. We are a racially mixed group that includes former foster youth, youth with lived experience of juvenile justice, and parenting youth.



## How we operate

- Currently, we are funded by the City of Columbus, the Attorney General's office, and philanthropic foundations. Each YAB member is paid \$15/hour. Funding also covers transportation and food for our meetings.
- We meet at the library twice a month. Once a month, there is also an Executive YAB meeting, with up to six members who help with planning and facilitation.
- The YAB makes decisions by voting or consensus, depending on the topic. One YAB member sits on the Continuum of Care.

## Our 3 Biggest Successes

- The YAB is fully involved in our community's efforts to end youth homelessness, including reviewing proposals and providing technical assistance.
- We've been able to connect YAB members with housing opportunities and...
- maintain funding to pay for the YAB.

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# The Gab on YABs

meet the Columbus Youth Action Board

## Our 3 Biggest Challenges

- It is sometimes a challenge for YAB members to contribute in meetings.
- We can't always offer YAB members services they may need.
- Transportation is an ongoing issue.

## What makes us unique

- Our bylaws define diversity so that we can work on this intentionally in our recruitment efforts via youth-serving partners.



# Where's the Action?

## Who are we?

- The Vermont Youth Action Board was founded in 2018 as part of a YHDP award to the Vermont Balance of State Continuum of Care (CoC).
- We currently have four members, from 15 to 25 years old, who live in four different regions of our rural state.

## How we operate

- Our annual budget is \$6,000, which covers travel costs and youth stipends of \$25/hour. YAB members are paid in Visa gift cards.
- Regular YAB meetings are held online or by phone. YAB members also attend quarterly in-person meetings of the CoC's stakeholder group and the Youth Homelessness Prevention Plan Committee.

## What makes us unique

- The geographic area covered by our YAB is most of the state, which lacks public transportation. This has shaped the way that meetings are held (online or by phone).

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# The Gab on YABs

meet the Vermont Youth Action Board

## 3 Biggest Challenges

- We need ongoing recruitment and engagement.
- Payment for staffing at a meaningful level would help strengthen the YAB.
- Our geographic spread makes it hard to have engaging meetings.

## 3 Biggest Successes

- Our initial recruitment was strong, bringing in eight members at our peak.
- We secured funding for the YAB from the Vermont Department for Children and Families for the first 2 years of our operation.
- YAB members feel like a meaningful part of the CoC's Coordinated Community Plan.



# Where's the Action?

## Who are we?

- The King County YAB was started in Seattle, WA in 2017 with YHDP funding.
- We have between seven and ten members, ranging in age from 13 to 25.

## How we operate

- Our annual budget is \$20,000. YAB members are paid \$20/hour by their choice of check, automatic deposit, or gift cards.
- We meet twice a month, plus extra meetings for committees on issues like young adult justice, student homelessness, and behavioral health. YAB members must participate in at least two meetings before voting on any topic.

## What makes us unique

- The Youth Action Board is working on how to be a fellowship.

## Our 3 Biggest Challenges

- Adulthood and other isms impact our work. There is a lot of stigma on those who experience homelessness.
- Our local homeless housing and services system is undergoing restructuring.
- Resources are limited for youth and young adult populations.

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# The Gab on YABs

meet the King County Youth Action Board

## Our 3 Biggest Successes

- Together with other decision-makers, our YAB helped direct about \$3.4M in federal funding to four projects.
- In early 2019, we changed the name of our group from the Youth Advisory Board to the Youth Action Board – this is more accurate!
- YAB members have been trained in homeless housing and services, stress management, sexual violence awareness, anti-oppression, and other topics.



# Where's the Action?

## Who are we?

- The Homeless Youth Task Force, which has applied for YHDP funding, is a broad coalition that launched in 2012 to serve Sacramento County and surrounding towns. The YAB was started in July 2013.
- Our YAB members are very diverse, with a holistic range of experiences, backgrounds, race, and LGBTQ identities.

## How we operate

- The Task Force annual budget is approximately \$3,000–\$5,000. In our YAB, only the co-chairs are paid – about \$90/month. The budget also covers pizza, transportation, and street outreach materials.
- We meet weekly in a drop-in center, co-facilitated by staff members from three local nonprofits that are engaged with ending homelessness and serving youth.
- For recruitment and diversity, we create LGBT-specific messaging and events, as well as celebrating events like Juneteenth. Youth are mostly recruited through word of mouth.

## What makes us unique

- It's a loving, fun space where we talk about the issues that matter to us in the community. It's become a family.



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# The Gab on YABs

meet the Homeless Youth Task Force

## Our 3 Biggest Successes

- The friends we make along the way! Relationships are everything, and the most consistent feedback from youth about why they attend.
- With our participation in the 100-Day Challenge, we helped to house 260 youth.
- We conceptualized and led the launch of a peer-to-peer street outreach program.

## Our 3 Biggest Challenges

- It is a challenge to build institutional support, in terms of both funding and decision-making.
- It is not always recognized how much time it takes to do authentic youth engagement well.
- For big decisions, “Youth input is theoretically taken into consideration. It happens sometimes, but we often aren't given decision-making authority despite our best advocacy.” The Continuum of Care tends to “assign” tasks to the YAB.