



# Minneapolis Afterschool Network

## Citywide Out-of-School Time System for Minneapolis

An Initiative of the Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board

Newsletter

April 2018

## Afterschool Regional Convening Held April 11th

On April 11th the Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board and Ignite Afterschool co-hosted a regional afterschool convening to discuss afterschool policy and learn afterschool best practices from the Beyond the Bell toolkit.

Ignite staff engaged over 50 attendees on advocating to their legislators on supporting state and federal funding for afterschool. You can further Ignite's advocacy efforts by attending [the June 6th Youth Policy Forum](#).

Ayolanda Evans of Amack Consulting led a session on family engagement that called on organizations to recognize the fundamental 10 truths of family involvement and different strategies to engage families. Nigel Perrote of the Minneapolis Health Department led a workshop on building effective partnerships and how the Beyond the Bell tools can support organizations to think strategically about shared work.

This was the third Beyond the Bell workshop for afterschool programs that has been held this year in Minneapolis, after sessions introducing the tool and on staff development practices. Look for it to be included in this summer's [Blueprint Approved Cohort](#) by the Minneapolis Health Department.

## Help Shape City Policy! Provide Feedback on Minneapolis' 2040 Plan to Support Young People

There's no telling what Minneapolis will look like in the

## Upcoming Events

### Visit our Professional Development Calendar

Find out about events, seminars and classes for youth work professionals on YCB's Professional Development Calendar.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

## SAVE THE DATE

### 2018 Youth Policy Forum June 6, 2018

Join Ignite Afterschool Wednesday, June 6, for their Youth Policy Forum. This event is for anyone interested in public policies designed to close the afterschool access and opportunity gap. To view last year's agenda, click [here](#).

[Register](#)

**Location:** Amherst H. Wilder Foundation, 451 Lexington Pkwy N, St Paul, MN 55104

## Highlight Your Afterschool Program in What's Up 612!

Help families and youth find things to do in the 612! With [What's Up 612!](#) now it's even easier to let others know about opportunities and resources available



next 20 years, but as it continues to grow and change city staff want to be prepared. Minneapolis 2040 is a draft Comprehensive Plan covering topics such as housing, job access, new buildings, as well as healthy youth development. Below is a list of action steps the City has included related to youth development and young people.

Now is the time to give input to the City on how Minneapolis can best support young people! [Give input online](#) or [attend one of five open houses in May!](#)

**The City will seek to accomplish the following action steps to support the healthy development and education of all children, youth, and young adults through City goals, decision making, policies, and programs.**

1. Ensure that all children, youth and young adults are physically, psychologically and socially healthy.
2. Provide safe environments across the City of Minneapolis for children, youth, young adults, and their families and support systems.
3. Ensure that all children, youth and young adults are safely and stably housed.
4. Support outside-of-school activities that promote social and emotional learning, soft skills development, educational achievement, career readiness, and community and civic engagement.
5. Invest in career readiness, career pathways and steady living-wage employment for all children, youth and young adults.
6. Eliminate barriers that prevent children, youth and young adults from participating in civic opportunities in their communities.
7. Prioritize cross-jurisdictional collaboration to support policies that promote positive and healthy development for children, youth, young adults, and their families and support systems.

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## Find Things to do on the New What's Up 612! Map



outside of the classroom. To have your program, resources, and/or events featured in What's Up 612! simply submit the following:

- Brief description of program
- Activity Type; Health & Fitness, Academics, Arts etc.
- Targeted grade level(s)
- Location address
- Contact information and website address
- Photo and/or video (recommended but not required)

**What's Up 612!** is an online resource for children and youth ages 5-21 where citywide afterschool programs, summer activities and resources can be found. To have your program listed, click [here](#).

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Thank you all for your work to benefit Minneapolis children and young people. Please share this e-newsletter with colleagues, especially with those who work with children, young people, families and the broader Minneapolis community.

For more information on the Minneapolis Afterschool Network and its initiatives as well as ways to engage, please contact our Director of Projects [Phil Rooney](#) via email or at 612-673-2131.



As warmer temperatures approach, Minneapolis children and youth will soon have a break from school. To make sure parents and youth know "what to do in the 612" we are reaching out to you in the effort to feature your programs, as well as ensure youth and families find quality afterschool and out-of-school programming on [What's Up 612!](#)

We recently developed a customized map that allows youth and families to search by organization name, program and category. Under the searches, users will be able to find out all they need to know about youth programs as well as where they can find them.

As of now our map features programs that take place throughout the school year. We are working closely with Minneapolis Public Schools to make sure Minneapolis youth are not only engaged during the school year, but inside and outside of the classroom all year long. MPS will be assisting in promoting this new information on **What's Up 612!** throughout the city, so make sure your organization isn't left out.

Now its easier than ever to have your program(s) featured on **What's Up 612!** [Click here to enter summer program information](#). Even if your organization is not looking to recruit new youth and or your information is already featured, we encourage you to feel out our new form. This will ensure we have a better understanding of the summer offerings in Minneapolis as well as accurate information to provide to our users.

Make sure to visit [What's Up 612!](#) to checkout our [new map](#).

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## Sign Up For Free YPQA Observations

The Regional Quality Collaborative Project is now accepting requests for YPQA observations, which include a coaching session. Partners of the Minneapolis Afterschool Network who serve youth in **grades 4th - 12th** are invited to submit a request for no-cost technical assistance. [Requests](#) will be taken until **May 2018**. Assistance will be offered on a first-come first-serve basis.

### Background information on the project:

Launched in 2015, the Regional Quality Collaborative Project was created to address the limited supply of Youth Program Quality Assessment External Assessors of ethnically diverse backgrounds in Minnesota, and to efficiently coordinate and promote continuous quality improvement throughout the metro area.

Funded by [Youthprise](#), the Regional Quality Collaborative

Project has made it possible for a number of Youth Work professionals from afterschool and out-of-school time systems in the Twin Cities and the Brooklyns to be trained as External Assessors to assess program quality, and to provide coaching to youth-serving organizations within the metro area. The [Quality Assessor Coaches](#) are skilled and certified to conduct YPQA assessments and coach organizations' continuous program improvement efforts, while leading with an equity lens.

For more information please contact Fatima Muhammad at [fzmuhammad@gmail.com](mailto:fzmuhammad@gmail.com)

\*The Youth Program Quality Assessment (YPQA) is a validated instrument designed to evaluate the quality of youth programs and identify staff training needs. It has been used in community organizations, schools, camps, and other places where youth have fun, work, and learn with adults. For staff, the Youth PQA process is a great way to see what is really happening in their programs and to build professional competencies.

