

Long Branch Collective Action for Youth Newsletter

Issue No 3. | September 2022



Photo: Long Branch Community in Montgomery county, MD

Updates from the LBCAY leadership team

The LBCAY Leadership Team is planning the second Stakeholder Meeting - see details below.

- **Special Event**

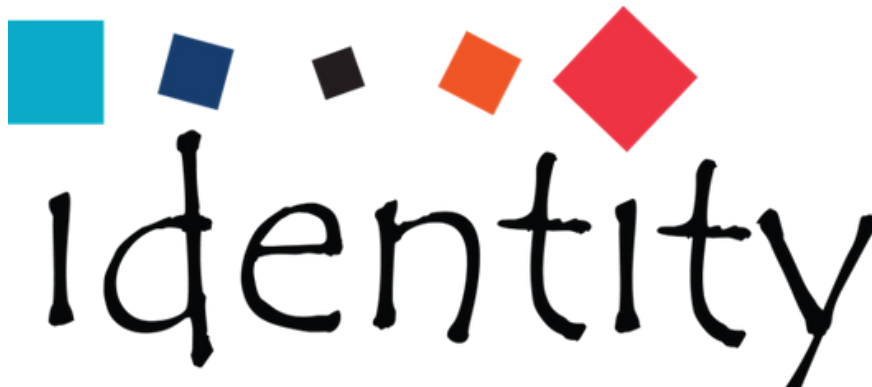
Long Branch Collective Action for Youth

September Stakeholder meeting IN PERSON

When: Tuesday September 13 from 3:30-5:30pm EST

Where: Long Branch Community Recreation Center
8700 Piney Branch Road Silver Spring, MD, 20901
(240)777-6975

If you have questions, send email to Aixa Alemán-Díaz
aixa@communitycheer.org



Partner Highlight: Jacob Ahnen - Program Coordinator, Identity Crossroads Youth Opportunity Center

Identity, Inc. is a member and collaborator with LBCAY. In 2001, Identity conducted the first-ever needs assessment of Latino youth in Montgomery County, which laid the foundation for the programs that we have developed and implemented since then, including academic support, social and emotional learning, job-readiness, and workforce development. Programs and services are provided after school, in the community and on playing fields and are complemented by case management, mental health and substance abuse counseling, non-clinical emotional support, and recreation.

Our culturally and linguistically appropriate, trauma-informed programs and services are based on Positive Youth Development competencies that build and strengthen qualities that enable youth to grow and flourish throughout life. Identity is excited for continued collaboration with LBCAY in working toward enriching the lives of Long Branch youth and their families.

For links to the Long Branch Collective Action for Youth LBCAY Unified Plan and supporting documents:

<https://www.communitycheer.org/lbcay>

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Youth Participatory Action Project by Dunya

Taking part in the YPAR summer project has opened my eyes in so many ways. First, I have been able to hear other community members' opinions, who are the same age as me. It has been very interesting and thought provoking. Usually, adults are the ones who tend to talk, so it's hard for youth to voice their concerns, needs, and ideas. YPAR changes that. It's a very empowering experience to be able to not only let my voice be heard, but also to gather other people's voices and create something from it. In YPAR, we create solutions with many different minds who share one common link: the Long Branch community. It's an amazing moment to connect with kids and teens whom I would have never met otherwise and build off of each other to take action on changes we want to see. During YPAR meetings, I can share my voice as a leader, and everyone is heard, and I am easily able to work with and discuss subjects meaningfully with my peers.

I'm very happy to be part of this project because I am able to observe, analyze, and build solutions realistically and in creative ways I haven't done before. It's also a perfect opportunity to finally be able to enact changes we want to see in the Long Branch area instead of being a bystander in the community in which we grew up and want to see flourish!



Photos: YPAR Summer program. June-August 2022
Long Branch, Maryland

Jóvenes de Acción Participación Comunitaria por Dunya

Ser parte del programa de Jóvenes de Acción Participación Comunitaria (inglés "Youth Participatory Action Program or YPAR") este verano me ha abierto los ojos. Primero, he aprendido a escuchar a otras personas de la comunidad, quienes tienen la misma edad que yo. Esto ha sido bien interesante y me ha generado muchas preguntas. Usualmente, los adultos son los que tienden a hablar más, por ende, se les hace difícil a los jóvenes compartir sus preocupaciones, ideas y necesidades. El programa YPAR cambia esta dinámica. Es una experiencia positiva poder compartir mis ideas, al igual que escuchar a otros y crear juntos algo nuevo. En el programa YPAR, construimos soluciones juntos como grupo con ideas diferentes que tienen algo en común: la comunidad de Long Branch. He podido conectar con jóvenes que de otro modo no hubiera conocido y así tomar acción juntos. Durante las reuniones de YPAR, me he convertido en líder, y me concentro en que todos puedan ser escuchados, y así podamos trabajar juntos.

Estoy bien contenta de ser parte de este proyecto porque puedo observar, analizar, y construir soluciones reales y de formas creativas. Es una oportunidad para generar cambios en la comunidad de Long Branch en vez de quedarnos como espectadores en donde crecí y quiero desarrollarme.

Recent Event in Long Branch

Ambassadors Energy in the Park 2nd year

Thursday August 11, 2022

A total of 21 youth in Long Branch participated in this program for the second time. This event took place in New Hampshire States neighborhood park. Youth obtained training and served in two roles: most served in tables where energy organizations shared information about how to save energy and related resources and a small group assisted with serving food for attendees. Youth received gift cards for being Ambassadors this year.

Long Branch Events

YPAR program with new partners: Audubon Naturalist Society and Defensores de la Cuenca

18 months project that just started this summer!

Come and apply before **September 12, 2022**

[click here for link to YPAR program application](#)

Contact Vanesa Pinto at vanesa@communitycheer.org

Gandhi Brigade Partner shared various events:

-Art and Activism: October 4-October 25, 2022 (art workshop)

-Classical Drawing: September 17-October 8, 2022 (art workshop)

-The Animal Inside You: September 17-October 22, 2022 (art workshop)

-Storytelling and Scriptwriting: September 13-October 4, 2022 (film workshop)

-Interviewing for Documentary Film: September 14-October 5, 2022 (film workshop)

-Scriptwriting and Filming a Short Documentary: September 17-October 8, 2022 (film workshop)
