

# Engaging the Youth in Our Community

Presented to Durango City Council  
June 8, 2010 Study Session





# How Did We Get Here?

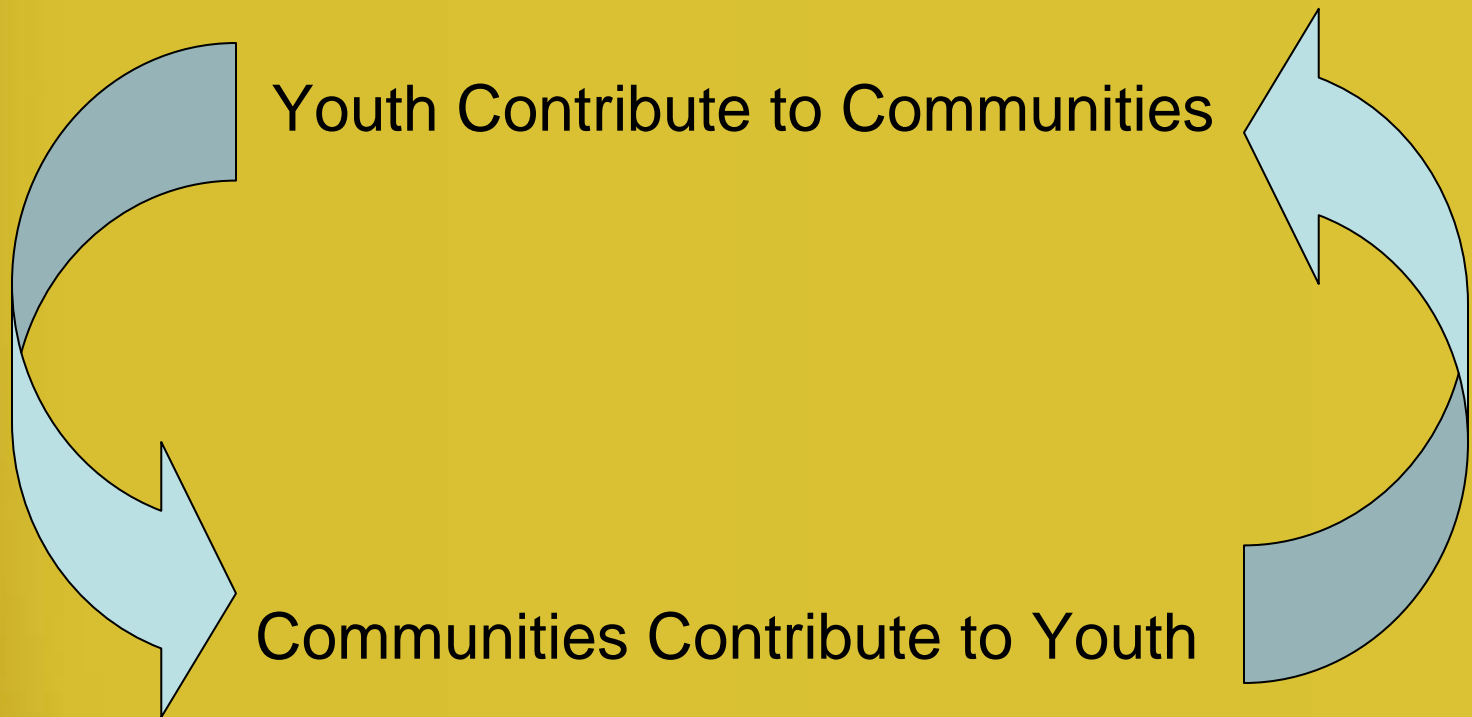
- Children, Youth, and Families Master Plan
  - Resolution adopted March 3, 2009 – Council commits to:
    - “Creating opportunities for meaningful youth involvement, such as internships or service on appointed boards or commissions”
    - “Offering training and mentoring opportunities to employees to learn how to meaningfully engage youth in decision making that affects their lives”
    - “Seeking alignment with CYFMP when making policy or procedural decisions that directly impacts children, youth, and families
- Council direction
- Community interest

# Why Youth Civic Engagement?

- Provide avenues for youth to express opinions
- Involve youth in planning and decision-making
- Prepare youth to be good citizens
- Builds skills, experience and confidence
- Provides opportunities to make a difference
- To build a better community!



# Importance of Youth Engagement



“There must be an unwavering belief that youth engagement in government is good for government.”

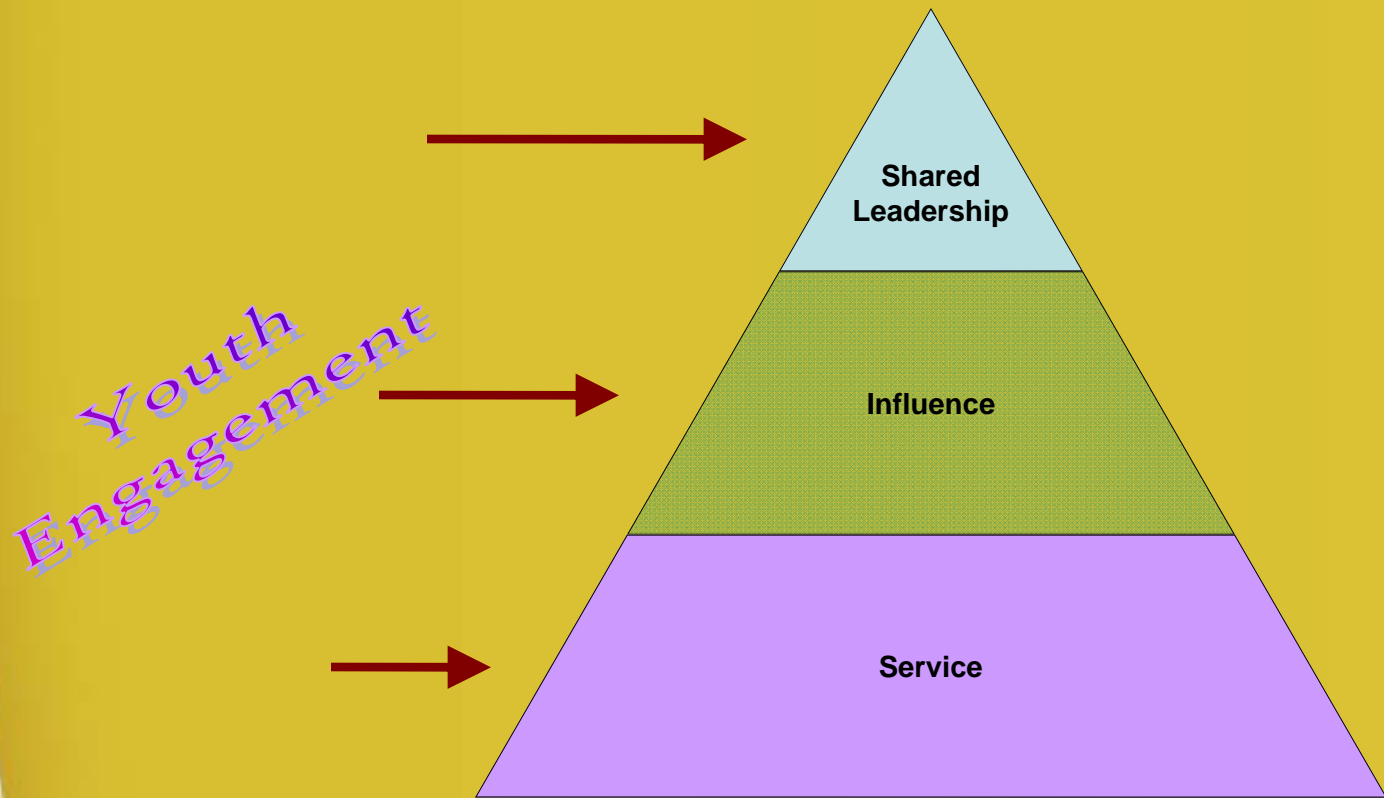
*-Building Effective Youth Councils*



# Developing the Model

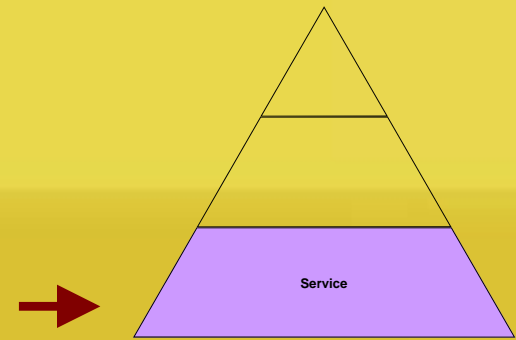
- Staff researched national models
  - Hampton, Virginia
  - Caldwell, Idaho
  - NLC – Institute for Youth, Education, and Families
  - Alliance for Innovation
  - Children, Youth, and Family Master Plan
- Range of options
  - Informal ad-hoc group
  - Formal with Youth Engagement Coordinator

# Youth Engagement Pathways at the City of Durango



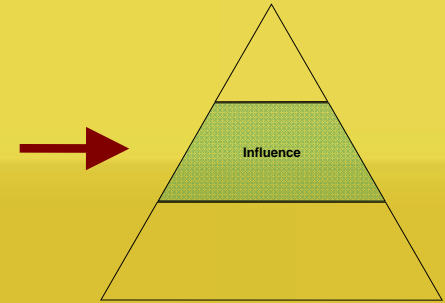
Model adapted from Hampton, VA Youth Commission

# Service Pathway



- Short-term, meaningful volunteer opportunities that introduce community engagement to broad range of youth
  - Durango High School requirement for graduation
  - Animas High School commitment to community service
- Examples:
  - Trash pickup/park maintenance
  - Special events
  - Developing flyers, brochures, etc.
  - Library
  - Recycling center

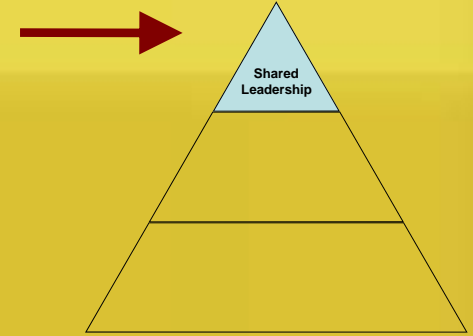
# Influence Pathway



- Youth participate in advisory roles to provide input
  - Ex-officio members of City Boards & Commissions appointed by Council
  - Council liaison
  - Focus groups
- Higher level of commitment than Service Pathway
- Some examples:
  - Public Art Commission
  - Teen Library Advisory Board
  - Transit Advisory Board
  - Water Commission
  - Natural Lands Preservation Advisory Board
  - Parks and Recreation Advisory Board



# Shared Leadership Pathway



- Mayor's Youth Advisory Commission
- Mentorship opportunities
- Skill development
  - Leadership
  - Municipal budgeting
  - Public speaking
  - Leading change
- Other opportunities
  - CML annual conference
  - NLC Congressional City conference (D.C.)
  - NLC Congress of Cities (Denver, Dec. 2010)

A vertical strip of five images on the left side of the slide. From top to bottom: 1. A close-up of colorful puzzle pieces in shades of red, orange, and purple. 2. A close-up of colorful puzzle pieces in shades of green, pink, and yellow. 3. A close-up of colorful puzzle pieces in shades of green, yellow, and black. 4. A close-up of colorful puzzle pieces in shades of yellow, red, and blue. 5. A close-up of colorful puzzle pieces in shades of green, yellow, and black.

# Mayor's Youth Advisory Commission Recommendations

- Composition
  - 7 members + 2 alternates
  - Open to all 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders in the City
    - Animas High School
    - Durango High School
    - Home schooled
  - No predetermined make-up of commission – seek to represent all grades
  - Elect among themselves:
    - Chair (or Co-Chairs)
    - Vice-Chair
    - Secretary
    - Treasurer

# Mayor's Youth Advisory Commission Recommendations (cont.)

- Terms
  - One-year term
  - September 1 through August 31
  - Youth apply and are interviewed and appointed by Council
  - Interviews in March/April (mid September for 1<sup>st</sup> year)
- Meetings
  - Monthly meetings
  - Likely Thursday evenings
  - Council Chambers
- Budget
  - Projects
  - Skills development/possibly travel



# Mayor's Youth Advisory Commission Recommendations (cont.)

- Recruitment Strategy
  - Flyer and application
  - Work with media to generate interest
    - Herald
    - Radio
    - City Span 10
    - Student Newspapers
  - Work with Jr. High Schools to generate interest among 8<sup>th</sup> graders





# Mayor's Youth Advisory Commission Recommendations (cont.)

- Staffing

- Mayor is Council liaison to Commission
- Joint staffing commitment
  - City Manager's office
  - Dale Garland – Durango High School
  - Jake Lauer – Animas High School

- Work plan

- Resolution to create Commission
- Memorandum of Understanding with 9-R and AHS
- Develop draft by-laws
- Orientation Program
- Recruitment Strategy/Communication Plan

# Mayor's Youth Advisory Commission Recommendations (cont.)

- Authentic participation
  - Assign real issues and ask for recommendations
  - Need to see outcome or results
  - Examples of issues:
    - Their own by-laws
    - City use of social media
    - Education channel programming
    - Graffiti prevention
    - Others??



# Questions?



A BIG Thank You to:

- Dale Garland, Durango High School
- Jake Lauer, Animas High School
- Michael Ackerman, Animas High School