Convening Goals:

- **OYF Framework**: Learn from the Opportunity Youth Forum (OYF) sites’ work across the five areas of the OYF: Collaborating for Impact, Building Effective Pathways, Rigorous Measurement and Impact, Leveraging Funding for Innovation, and Developing Supportive Policies.

- **Celebrating Network Growth**: Welcome new communities to the OYF while continuing to reinforce the foundational values of OYF, including how we aim to deepen our commitment to equity and justice while also strengthening our commitment to rigorous outcomes.

- **Place-Based Lessons and Solutions**: Share the story of the collective journey of OYF, celebrate accomplishments and progress in communities, and lift up learnings from our work to date.

- **Youth Leadership**: Highlight the work of local and national youth leaders.

- **Employer Engagement**: Facilitate learning exchanges and sharing of effective approaches between and among community leaders, employers, and national convening audience.

- **Funder Engagement**: Engage local, regional and national philanthropy in the collective impact approach.

- **Movement-Building**: In this moment of resistance, continue to build momentum for local and national system change efforts with youth leadership and expertise at the center, and continue to deepen our alignment and solidarity with other local and national equity- and justice-based movements.

**Sunday, October 27, 2019**
4:00 – 6:00 PM  REGISTRATION FOR ALL GUESTS
Hotel Lobby
Walter Isaacson Center

6:00 – 7:30 PM  INFORMAL/DROP-IN DINNER FOR EARLY/INTERESTED GUESTS
Davis Commons
Walter Isaacson Center

7:30 – 8:30 PM  OYF SITE LEAD OPTIONAL NETWORKING
Limeslicers Lounge
Walter Isaacson Center

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2019**

10:00 – 6:00 PM  REGISTRATION FOR ALL GUESTS
Barksdale Lobby
Doerr-Hosier Center

8:00 – 8:30 AM  OYF YOUTH LEADERS BREAKFAST
Davis Commons
Walter Isaacson Center

8:30 – 9:30 AM  OYF YOUTH LEADERS ORIENTATION
Kaufman Room
Doerr-Hosier Center

This session, mandatory for youth leaders, will provide an overview of the Aspen Institute Forum for Community Solutions mission and values, the history of the OYF, and what to expect at the convening.

*Facilitators*
Jamiel Alexander, Aspen Institute Forum for Community Solutions
Shawnice Jackson, National Council of Young Leaders – Opportunity Youth United
Yelena Nemoy, Aspen Institute Forum for Community Solutions
Felix Moran, Arizona State University, Opportunities for Youth
Amanda Shabowich, United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley

9:45 – 12:45 PM  OYF YOUTH LEADERS MEETING WITH LUNCH
Kaufman Room
Doerr-Hosier Center

*Lunch will be served at 11:45 am*

The purpose of this meeting is to strengthen the OYF Youth Leaders peer network, deepen our understanding of collective impact, and provide space for youth and young adult leaders and activists across the OYF network and partner initiatives – including Opportunity Youth United – to share work and strategize around aligning efforts and collective action.
Facilitators
Jamiel Alexander, Aspen Institute Forum for Community Solutions
Ryan Dalton, National Council of Young Leaders – Opportunity Youth United
Felix Moran, Arizona State University, Opportunities for Youth
Yelena Nemoy, Aspen Institute Forum for Community Solutions
Amanda Shabowich, United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley
Shanice Turner, National Council of Young Leaders – Opportunity Youth United

**12:00 – 3:00 PM**
**BERNHARD ROOM**
**WALTER ISAACSON CENTER**

**OPPORTUNITY YOUTH MOVEMENT LEADERSHIP MEETING**

This by-invitation meeting of leaders in the opportunity youth movement is being convened by the Opportunity Youth Network in order to take stock of the infrastructure of the overall movement, identify opportunities to align efforts across the field, networks, and sectors, and identify issues that multiple networks could tackle together in order to improve outcomes for opportunity youth.

**Facilitators**
Thaddeus Ferber, Forum for Youth Investment
Ken Thompson, Aspen Institute Forum for Community Solutions

**12:45 – 1:00 PM**
**OYF YOUTH LEADERS TRAVEL TO ASPEN CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES**

Youth leaders participating in the optional outing to the Aspen Center for Environmental Studies (ACES) will depart on a CTS shuttle leaving from the Paepcke parking lot at 12:45pm. Youth leaders going to the Aspen Art Museum will travel to ACES and walk to town from the ACES campus.

**1:00 – 4:00 PM**
**ASPEN CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES (ACES)**

**OYF YOUTH LEADERS TEAM BUILDING OUTDOORS ACTIVITY AND HIKE WITH ACES AND FRESH TRACKS**

This optional outing will provide youth leaders with an opportunity to explore the outdoors and the natural environment of Aspen, Colorado. Participants will have an opportunity to experience the Birds of Prey program and Nature Preserve Tour offered by the Aspen Center for Environmental Studies (ACES) and go on an optional hike along the Rio Grande Trail back to the Aspen Meadows Resort. Those who are unable to hike back to Meadows Resort will have transportation alternatives available. Participants will also hear about the future of Fresh Tracks, a project housed at the Center for Native American Youth at the Aspen Institute, that works at the intersection of social justice, the environment, and youth leadership development – and our collective vision for a deeper partnership between Fresh Tracks and OYF.

**1:00 – 2:30 PM**
**ALBRIGHT PAVILION**
**WALTER ISAACSON CENTER**

**NEW COMMUNITIES ORIENTATION WITH LUNCH**
This session for new OYF communities and communities in the process of joining OYF will provide participants with an overview of the OYF history and values; technical assistance, learning agenda, and communities of practice; and provide an opportunity to connect with other communities in the network.

*Monique Miles, Aspen Forum for Community Solutions (Facilitator)*

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<td><strong>WELCOME RECEPTION FOR ALL GUESTS</strong></td>
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Across the country systems and sectors are failing to support opportunity youth to achieve meaningful education and career opportunities that advance economic mobility, promote civic engagement and democracy building and deepen organizing and advocacy efforts. At the same time, many leaders from a range of sectors are working to promote more just and equitable system-level outcomes, including organizing for voters’ rights, addressing the broken democratic system and designing new generation campaigns and policies meant to advance a multi-racial society, with an emphasis on racial justice. Please join us for the opening plenary that will include a keynote from Rashad Robinson, president of Color Of Change and “TED talk” style presentations from Maria Teresa Kumar, CEO and president of Voto Latino and Josh Silver, Co-Founder and Director of RepresentUs. Together these leaders will share strategies to advance local systems change efforts for opportunity youth, while placing a spotlight on strategies aimed at holding corporate and government sectors accountable at the national level.

**Opening Performance:**
*Nia Eubanks-Dixon, Creative Praxis, Cultivating Spaces for Liberation*

**Welcoming Remarks:**
*Monique Miles, Aspen Institute Forum for Community Solutions*
*Steve Patrick, Aspen Institute Forum for Community Solutions*

**Keynote Speaker:**
*Rashad Robinson, President, Color Of Change*

**Plenary Speakers:**
*Steve Patrick, Aspen Forum for Community Solutions (moderator)*
*Maria Teresa Kumar, President & CEO, Voto Latino*
Josh Silver, Director & Co-Founder, RepresentUs

9:45 – 10:00 AM  BREAK FOR PASSING

10:00 – 11:30 AM  POSTSECONDARY FUNDER MEETING: Place-Based Strategies for Underserved Students

This small gathering of invited national funders will discuss the role of philanthropy in increasing postsecondary opportunities for underserved students. OYF funders on the Leadership Council are encouraged to attend, along with invited national funders.

Facilitators
Monique Miles, Aspen Institute Forum for Community Solutions
Steve Patrick, Aspen Institute Forum for Community Solutions
Ken Thompson, Aspen Institute Forum for Community Solutions

10:00 – 11:30 AM  CONCURRENT SESSIONS

LAUDER ROOM  BUILDING EFFECTIVE PATHWAYS: Building Apprenticeship Pathways for Opportunity Youth: A Technical Assistance Opportunity

In partnership with the National Association of Workforce Boards, the District 1199C Training & Upgrading Fund, and Social Policy Research Associates, JFF will provide technical assistance to a network of communities who collectively will be enrolling up to 500 youth in Registered Apprenticeship programs in high-growth industries such as advanced manufacturing, information technology, health care, and the building trades. In this session participants will learn more about the initiative and the technical assistance that JFF will be providing and then participate in a planning process to help them determine if they’d like to apply.

Facilitators
Myriam Milfort Sullivan, JFF
Mike Sack, JFF

BOOZ ALLEN HAMILTON ROOM  BUILDING EFFECTIVE PATHWAYS: Building A Just and Equitable Economic Transition: Local Solutions from Central Appalachia

Communities across Central Appalachia are in the midst of a historic economic transition that offers important points of connection for other communities working on building more just and equitable places. While the scale of the challenges faced by coalfield communities is huge, solutions are often local and small – creating a nuanced argument for why place-based strategies and investments matter. During this session, leaders engaged with the Kentucky Equal Voices Network representing a local arts and culture organization, regional community development financial institution (CDFI), and local community foundation will share challenges, opportunities, and lessons learned
from communities across the coalfields of Eastern Kentucky transforming their economies and the trajectory of a region. The session will explore issues of scale for rural regions, investment strategies for building community capacity and local leadership, and ecosystem and rural hub development, and invite discussion from participants to find shared experiences from other under-resourced and underestimated places.

Janelle Choi, Marguerite Casey Foundation (Moderator)
Peter Hille, Mountain Association for Community Economic Development (MACED)
Alex Gibson, Appalshop
Lora Smith, Appalachian Impact Fund

**KAUFMAN ROOM**
**DOERR-HOSIER CENTER**

**BUILDING EFFECTIVE PATHWAYS: Ending This Place of Torment: A Framework for Transforming the Criminal Justice Continuum**

Housing nearly twenty-five percent of the world’s prisoners, the United States incarcerates more individuals than any other nation. Undergirding this fact is the long-term history of structural racism that has disproportionally impacted people of color, low-income individuals and underserved communities. The current bipartisan momentum around criminal justice reform calls for innovative, creative approaches and practices that recognize what can be called the “criminal justice continuum.” Defined as continuous sequences in which adjacent segments differ un-perceptibly from each other, the continuum’s components are both connected and interstitial in nature with one segment bringing about causal effects on others. In this design lab, we will look closely at each segment of the continuum (front, middle, and back) to examine evidence-based and promising practices, polices and research within each and discuss promising implications of such a framework for communities and neighborhoods where there are spatial concentrations of incarceration, poverty, and economic insecurity.

*Douglas E. Wood, Aspen Forum for Community Solutions (Facilitator)*

**STRANAHAN ROOM**
**KOCH BUILDING**

**BUILDING EFFECTIVE PATHWAYS: Introduction to Reengagement**

Curious about the range of reengagement practices in OYF sites and other places, or new to the discussion of reengagement? This session will inform your developing strategies for reconnecting out-of-school youth with positive educational pathways and credentials. The session will be led by the National League of Cities, which functions as the Reengagement Network hub and assists cities in exploring and pursuing reengagement policy and programming.

*Andrew Moore, National League of Cities (Facilitator)*
*Nicole Yohalem, Community Center for Education Results*

**PAEPCKE GALLERY**
**PAEPCKE BUILDING**

**BUILDING EFFECTIVE PATHWAYS: Smart Cities: Building Equitable Learn + Work Ecosystems**
This interactive session will explore how working together with cities, education organizations and other stakeholders to build learn and work pathways can connect all learners to opportunity, regardless of zip code. Since LRNG and SNHU merged, they have been focused on how they can integrate their offerings into a unified pathway that prepares young learners for the future. In this session, participants will review the work LRNG and SNHU are doing in cities such as Birmingham, their badges to credit initiative, how they are supporting workforce development, and the lessons learned in the last year.

Dr. Adrian K. Haugabrook, SNHU and LRNG (Facilitator)
Megan Madel, LRNG
Michael Moretti, LRNG
Renee Marongwe, LRNG
Rachel Harmon, City of Birmingham

BUILDING EFFECTIVE PATHWAYS: Supporting Youth in Career-Track Employment: What Can Communities Do to Help Youth Stay Employed and Advance?

Many OYF communities are implementing programs designed to not only place opportunity youth in jobs, but also to make sure that they stay employed and advance in their chosen careers. This session will use JFF’s CareerNext model as a framework for a discussion about promising approaches for supporting youth in career track employment. Participants will hear from two communities: Boston and Chicago. Boston will share a supervisor training program designed for summer jobs and a recent Schultz Family Foundation-supported project to work with employers to design onboarding and retention interventions for young adults of color. Chicago will share strategies and lessons learned supporting young people working in partnership with tech employers through Everyone Can Code and retail employers through the Reimagine Retail Chicagoland initiative.

Mamadou Ndiaye, JFF (Facilitator)
Dywaine Betts, Thrive Chicago
Kathy Hamilton, Boston Private Industry Council
Abigail Hollingsworth, Bank of America Charitable Foundation

COLLABORATING FOR IMPACT: Collective Impact: Structuring for Success

Collective impact is a structured, multi-sector approach to systems change that can profoundly improve population level outcomes. Learn how to effectively structure and fund these types of initiatives in an FSG-led session that is designed to expose practitioners in emerging collaboratives to the mindsets, practices, and structures associated with successful efforts across the globe. FSG is a social impact-oriented consulting firm that has significantly shaped the field of collective impact. It also co-leads the Collective Impact Forum with the Aspen Forum for Community Solutions.

Ursula Wright, FSG (Facilitator)
COLLABORATING FOR IMPACT: Native Youth Leadership Community of Practice
Design Session

As part of its commitment to increasing investments in tribal communities and developing resources to strengthen their capacity, the Opportunity Youth Forum is developing a new community of practice focused on tribal youth programs. In this interactive design session, participants will learn from current OYF tribal communities about their experience in the network and work together to develop a shared learning agenda aimed at increasing the capacity of tribal programs that support Native youth leaders. Aspen staff will use this agenda to develop ongoing programming, resources, and support for tribal youth programs.

Erik Stegman, Center for Native American Youth at the Aspen Institute (Facilitator)

DEVELOPING SUPPORTIVE POLICIES: Pamoja Tutashinda - Together We Will Win! Co-Develop the Opportunity Youth Forum’s Policy Agenda Part 1: Workforce, Postsecondary Pathways, Immigration, and Criminal Justice

The Opportunity Youth Forum comprises more than two dozen communities. Together, about one-quarter, or about 1.2 million, of all opportunity youth in the U.S. live in the areas in and around Opportunity Youth Forum communities. In total, this network works on creating systems-wide and community level changes. Reconnecting all opportunity youth will require attention to policy change and dismantling systemic barriers by placing equity at the center. This is why the Opportunity Youth Forum is developing a policy agenda.

What does this mean and what would this agenda look like? Here is your opportunity to come roll up your sleeves and work on answering these questions together. The OYF is building on the policies OYF sites and national advocates are currently working on, seeing where there is common ground, and where there are key gaps to fill in order to have a common agenda we can all see our work in.

Please note that OYF is hosting two sessions on developing the policy agenda. Today’s session focuses on policies related to workforce development, postsecondary pathways, immigration, and criminal justice. Tomorrow’s session will focus on policies related to child welfare; juvenile justice; health, food and nutrition. Participants are welcome to come to one or both sessions.

Facilitators
Kisha Bird, Center for Law and Social Policy
Thaddeus Ferber, Forum for Youth Investment

RIGOROUS MEASUREMENT AND IMPACT: The OYF Common Measures and Equity Outcomes: I Have My Data, Now What?!

In September, each OYF collaborative received its community’s data using newly developed community-wide measures to track youth connection – the OYF
Common Measures. During this highly interactive session, participants will have an opportunity to discuss and interpret their data in greater depth. Participants will work together to interpret their data and share strategies for focusing community-wide efforts on specific outcomes and address inequities among population subgroups. Attendees will also explore how partner-level data – including schools, service providers, and workforce partners – can supplement these efforts and help understand root causes for youth disconnection. Participants are encouraged to bring others from their communities – as well as their 2017 Common Measures and Equity Outcomes Data spreadsheet – to review their community data together.

Facilitators
Justin Piff, Equal Measure
Robert Roach, Equal Measure
Suzanne Towns, Aspen Institute Forum for Community Solutions
Jennifer Thompson, Equal Measure

11:30 – 11:50 AM    BREAK FOR PASSING
11:50 – 1:05 PM    LUNCH & AFTERNOON PLENARY: Our Greatest Civil Rights

Building on the themes of democracy, equity and justice, the lunch plenary will bring together two national leaders – Elizabeth Cuna, formerly the national field director at United We Dream and Desmond Meade, president and chief executive officer at Florida Rights Restoration Coalition – that are working on the front lines to advance civil rights for undocumented young adults and returning citizens. These leaders will share insights from their successful organizing efforts, including strategies aimed at reinstating voting rights to returning citizens in the state of Florida and building a more inclusive and representative democracy with young adults at the center. These leaders will discuss fighting for immigration policy – including reform aimed at dismantling crimmigration (defined as policies that intersect criminal justice and immigration). Both leaders will share advice for cross system and sector collaboration and communication strategies aimed at narrative change – including communicating across the aisle. The leaders will share their vision for the future, with an emphasis on the important role of young adults in building a truly inclusive democracy.

Opening Performance:
Francisco “Enuf” Garcia, 3Nuf86

Plenary Speakers:
Monique Miles, Aspen Institute Forum for Community Solutions (Moderator)
Eli Cuna, Co-Founder and Senior Advisor, New Mexico Dream Team (NMDT)
Desmond Meade, Executive Director, Florida Rights Restoration Coalition (FRRC) and former Chair, Floridians for a Fair Democracy
1:05 – 1:15 PM  BREAK FOR PASSING

1:15 – 2:30 PM  ADVANCING COMMUNITY PATHWAYS FORUMS

ALBRIGHT PAVILION  Creating Entrepreneurship Pathways for Opportunity Youth: Lessons from the Youth Entrepreneurship Fund

WALTER ISAACSON CENTER

As opportunity youth continue to struggle to connect to the economy, entrepreneurship programs can offer a chance to learn the skills and mindset needed to thrive in today’s economy. Through the Youth Entrepreneurship Fund (YEF), three OYF communities have launched programs to explore entrepreneurship as a pathway to economic self-determination for opportunity youth and a strategy for wealth-building in low-income communities. The programs take a collaborative approach that brings together entrepreneurship education with wraparound supports and additional services from partners that facilitate access to key elements of the entrepreneurship ecosystem in these communities. This forum will provide attendees with the opportunity to learn more about these projects, including strategies for adapting entrepreneurship curriculum to the unique strengths and needs of opportunity youth; how projects were designed with an equity lens; and strategies for engaging youth voice in the design and implementation of the collaboratives.

Joyce Klein, Business Ownership Initiative, The Aspen Institute (Moderator)
Ruth Barajas, Bay Area Community Resources
Michelle Carrillo, Wild Rivers Community Foundation
Dornella Harvey, Philadelphia Youth Network
High Lo, Redwood Voice
D’angelo Villavicencio, Roadmap to Peace

HINES ROOM  Criminal Justice Funder Panel

KRESGE BUILDING

Hear from numerous funders about justice reform, including juvenile justice reform, and their strategies for achieving long lasting criminal justice transformation. With less than five percent of the world’s population, the United States incarcerates nearly a quarter of the world’s prisoners. Racism is stubbornly present, minorities and the poor and are disproportionately impacted, and that harm extends to families and communities, leaving them damaged with profound distrust of our justice system. In 2017, blacks represented 12% of the U.S. adult population but 33% of the sentenced prison population; whites accounted for 64% of adults but 30% of prisoners; and while Hispanics represented 16% of the adult population, they accounted for 23% of inmates. The overall numbers are stark: there are 2.2 million people incarcerated (2.8 million children have at least one parent who is incarcerated); an average of 500,000 people get out of prison every year with little or no access to continuing education, housing, employment, transportation and healthcare, which contributes to high recidivism. At the same time, nearly 70 million people have criminal records in the United States. This panel will focus on the philanthropic investment strategies of several national foundations who are seeking to promote not just criminal justice reform but criminal justice transformation.
In the current political context, activism lives a lot of pivotal momentums that are key for the pursuit of movement building and achieving liberation for all. Yet, frequently we don't optimize our momentum for movement purposes; instead we just leverage the momentum for media purposes. This workshop will share the basic organizing tactics that allow activists to optimize momentum towards movement building.

Eli Cuna, New Mexico Dream Team (NMDT)

Completion of higher education is particularly valuable to boys and men of color, unlocking human potential, ingenuity, opportunities, increased earning power and facilitating deeper contributions to their families and communities. Beyond personal benefits, postsecondary education is essential to national health and vitality, strengthening the nation's labor force and economic systems and fortifying our national fabric. We reject the dominant, deficit-based narratives, suggesting that male students of color are “broken,” “unprepared,” or have “low skills,” and that “personal failure” is the cause of low graduation rates. Instead, we critically examine the quality of educational experiences and contextual factors, shifting the focus to how institutional systems, policies, programs, and practices can facilitate or hinder educational pathways. The national demonstration project outlined in this forum examines how postsecondary education stakeholders in six metropolitan areas, Detroit, Newark, Los Angeles, and Oakland, have worked in distinctive ways and with unique populations of male students of color.

Christine Robinson, Postsecondary Success for Men and Boys of Color, Lumina Foundation (Facilitator)

2:30 – 2:45 PM BREAK FOR PASSING

2:45 – 4:45 PM JUSTICE FUNDER MEETING
The purpose of this funder meeting is to convene investors in the justice reform space to discuss investment strategies and how to expand the donor base in the criminal justice field, and to get feedback and advice on the development of the Aspen Justice Summit in 2020 and the reimagining of Aspen’s Justice and Society program. OYF funders on the Leadership Council are encouraged to attend, along with invited national funders.

Facilitators
Doug Wood, Aspen Institute Forum for Community Solutions
Steve Patrick, Aspen Institute Forum for Community Solutions

2:45 – 4:15 PM
LAUDER ROOM
KOCHE BUILDING

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: Advancing Youth Voice to Change the Narrative about Opportunity Youth

Collaborative leaders in Boston, Del Norte and Tribal Lands, Oakland, and San Francisco are partnering with young leaders to encourage youth to use their voice and tell their stories both to support young people in developing storytelling and advocacy skills, and to change public narratives about opportunity youth to more asset-based frameworks. This discussion among and between youth and adult representatives of these communities will address strategies to promote youth voice, the potential healing power of storytelling, ways young people are influencing public perception and public policy by making sure their voices are heard, initiatives using storytelling to build empathy for and an asset-based narrative about opportunity youth, and ways adults can better support youth and young adult leadership in the opportunity youth space.

Please note that this roundtable conversation will be recorded and documented in a forthcoming paper from the Aspen Institute Forum for Community Solutions. While there will be an opportunity for the audience to react to the discussion and interact with panelists at the end of the session, this roundtable has been intentionally designed to focus on the conversation between the panelists.

Youth Leader Roundtable
Yelena Nemoy, Aspen Institute Forum for Community Solution (Moderator)
Jocelyn Gama, Urban Strategies Council
Dottie Hatter, True North Organizing Network & Youth Training Academy
Anna Lor, Wild Rivers Community Foundation
Fernando Madrigal, Roadmap to Peace Youth Warrior
Amanda Shabowich, United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley

Practitioner Roundtable
Jamiel Alexander, Aspen Institute Forum for Community Solution (Moderator)
Katherine Almendares, Roadmap to Peace
Amy Campbell-Blair, True North Organizing Network
Breeanna Decker, Urban Strategies Council
Kristin McSwain, The Boston Opportunity Agenda
DEEP DIVE & INNOVATIVE DESIGN STUDIO SESSIONS

Building Power Among Opportunity Youth – Mobilizing for 2020

Opportunity Youth United is a movement made of opportunity youth and adult allies. The movement has been mobilizing in 18 communities to increase civic participation, especially among opportunity youth. In this session, leaders from Opportunity Youth United’s Community Action Teams (CATs) will share practices, challenges, and future projects around building electorate power among opportunity youth and other constituents within their community. OYU also partnered with the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE) to conduct a community based participatory research project in order to better understand young people’s perceptions and barriers to voting. Panelists will share some of the findings from the research project, as well as their plans to mobilize their communities for the 2020 national election.

Lashon Amado, Opportunity Youth United (Moderator)
Ryan Dalton, National Council of Young Leaders – Opportunity Youth United
Terry Green, OYU Columbus CAT
Ashley Richardson, OYU Greenville CAT
Hikma Sherka, OYU South King County CAT
Jaquell Sneed, OYU Boston CAT
Ana Taukolo, OYU Sacramento CAT

Current and Future Research on Opportunity Youth: Recent Results and a New Research Agenda for Opportunity Youth

Join this lively session to find out more about the recent results of program- and community-level evaluations of opportunity youth projects. This will include brand new evaluations just out of the Opportunity Works, LEAP (Learn and Earn to Achieve Potential) and P3 (federal opportunity youth Performance Partnership Pilots) initiatives, which happened in many OYF communities. We’ll summarize key highlights from all this research and dig deep on the amazing results that Seattle Education Access saw from its Opportunity Works investment. But wait, there’s more: we’ll also have the opportunity to contribute to a new federal research agenda on opportunity youth that’s being developed by the Interagency Working Group on Youth Programs, so come with your ideas about what new research projects could most help you and your communities advance and improve.

Ken Thompson, Aspen Institute Forum for Community Solutions (Moderator)
Jeff Corey, Seattle Education Access
Lisa Trivits, US Department of Health and Human Services

Restoring Voting Rights of Returning Citizens in Florida: Organizing Strategies on the Long Road to Victory
This deep dive session will provide participants with an opportunity to explore in-depth the work of the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition (FRRC). FRRC is a grassroots, membership organization run by Returning Citizens (Formerly Convicted Persons) who are dedicated to ending the disenfranchisement and discrimination against people with convictions, and creating a more comprehensive and humane reentry system that will enhance successful reentry, reduce recidivism, and increase public safety. In 2018, FRRC was instrumental in the passage of Amendment 4, which restored voting rights to over 1.4 million Floridians with past felony convictions. This session will provide participants with an opportunity to hear from Desmond Meade about FRRC’s campaign strategies – including narrative change and communications – and other key actions that led to this historic victory which represents the largest expansion of voting rights in Florida and the United States in over 50 years.

Desmond Meade, Florida Rights Restoration Coalition (FRRC) and former Chair of the Floridians for a Fair Democracy (Facilitator)

Scaling Outdoor Experiences for Opportunity Youth to Drive Community Well-being Outcomes and Equitable Access to Nature

This youth-led session will present best practices and evidence based strategies of the power of culture to drive social justice, community well-being, and leadership development by using the outdoors as a safe and supportive platform for systems change and healing. Participants will have an opportunity to hear from an interactive panel of youth and funders from diverse communities who have been impacted by the outdoors and are leading the strategic wave of future opportunities within the OYF network. Panelists will highlight their experience with the Fresh Tracks outdoor leadership program, a partnership between the Center for Native American Youth at the Aspen Institute, the Opportunity Youth Forum, and the Children & Nature Network. As OYF expands its commitment to rural and tribal communities, participants will engage in interactive conversations with panelists about how to integrate the outdoors into their existing and future work as they tackle inequity.

Introduction
Juan Martinez, Fresh Tracks and Center for Native American Youth
Sarah Milligan-Toffler, Children & Nature Network

Moderators
Kimberly Pikok, Fresh Tracks
Trenton Casillas-Bakeberg, Fresh Tracks

Panelists
Marc Berejka, REI Co-Op
Dr. Cynthia Weaver, The Annie E. Casey Foundation
Dr. Sharoni Little, Fresh Tracks Evaluation Expert

The Global Opportunity Youth Initiative – Accelerating Youth Economic Opportunity at Scale
The world is reaching “peak youth” with 1.8B youth, concentrated in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. This is an incredible global asset, however, 1 out of 3 young people are not enrolled in education, training or jobs and youth with access to informal work face poverty and limited career prospects. These global opportunity youth represent immeasurable human capital for their communities and countries and have inspired the creation of a Global Opportunity Youth Initiative (GOYI).

Since its announcement in fall 2018, GOYI has partnered with three communities to begin shaping OY collaboratives and develop eco-system blueprints to inform priorities and identify the most impactful career pathways for youth. GOYI design partners from Global Development Incubator, Accenture Development Partners, and YouthBuild International will join community leaders from Colombia, India, and Kenya to share insights from GOYI’s design and planning process and engage session participants in a creative problem-solving exercise around key barriers faced in each community.

Alice Gugelev, Global Development Incubator (Moderator)
Kira Gidron, Accenture Development Partners (Colombia)
Camilo Carreño, Fundacion Corona (Colombia)
Tim Cross, YouthBuild International
Khethiwe Nkuna, Accenture South Africa
Mahmood Noor, Swahili Pot / Aga Khan Foundation (Kenya)
Alfred Sigo Odhiambo, Pwani Youth Network (Kenya)
Bobby Zachariah, Pune City Connect (India)

Using an art-centered framework, Art and Liberation: The Power of the Arts to Create Anti-racist Decolonizing Principles for Liberation will walk with participants to build and implement liberation principles for self and the organizations/programs they work with. The workshop aims to ground the group in the history, legacy, and impact of two systemic forms of oppression—racism, and colonialism—and how we have internalized the corresponding ideologies personally and in our organizing efforts. The workshop introduces a running theme of the LIAR (racism) and the FARMER (colonialism) and the role the arts can play in fostering healing, reflection, and action. Participants will walk away from this interactive session feeling energized while having new, active tools and principles that they can take back to their communities to continue in the fight for freedom.

Nia Eubanks-Dixon, Creative Praxis (Facilitator)
The purpose of this meeting is to convene COYN to discuss issues of interest to the California sites in order to deepen their community of practice.

**4:30 – 5:30 PM**
**Northeast Opportunity Youth Network (NEON) Meeting**
**Paepcke Library**
**Paepcke Building**

The purpose of this meeting is to convene NEON to discuss issues of interest to the Northeast sites in order to deepen their community of practice.

**4:30 – 5:30 PM**
**Rural Cohort Meeting**
**Paepcke Gallery**
**Paepcke Building**

The purpose of this meeting is to convene the Rural Cohort to discuss issues of interest to the rural sites in order to deepen their community of practice.

**4:30 – 5:30 PM**
**Workforce Community of Practice Planning Meeting (Optional)**
**Bernhard Room**
**Walter Isaacson Center**

The purpose of this optional meeting is to bring together OYF communities and partners with an interest in workforce issues in order to identify an emerging framework, goals, and timeline for the OYF Workforce & Building Inclusive Economies Community of Practice.

Yelena Nemoy, Aspen Institute Forum for Community Solutions (Facilitator)

**4:30 – 5:45 PM**
**Hikes (see app for more information)**
**Meet in the Barksdale Lobby**
**Doerr-Hosier Center**

**4:45 – 6:45 PM**
**JPMorgan Chase & Co Partner Meeting**
**Kaufman Room**
**Doerr-Hosier Center**

The purpose of this meeting is to bring together JPMorgan Chase & Co partners in order to share a brief overview of the history and current state of the OYF network; lift up stories of impact and key accomplishments; and co-design and finalize the JPMorgan Chase/Aspen Forum programmatic strategy, including design elements, key partners, programmatic goals and objectives, and long-term impact and outcomes.

Steve Patrick, Aspen Institute Forum for Community Solutions (Facilitator)

**5:00 – 6:30 PM**
**Film Screening & Discussion: Falling Forward: On the Road to Social Impact**
**Albright Pavilion**
**Walter Isaacson Center**

Failing Forward: On the Road to Social Impact is a short film revolutionizing the way the nonprofit sector thinks about failure. By demonstrating what it looks like when learning becomes an organizational priority, Failing Forward invites grantees and grantors to be curious about what’s working, what’s not, and dialogue openly about ways to improve.
What happens when our data doesn’t show improvement? Instead of turning a blind eye, we must embrace the “bad data” as an opportunity to learn, and ultimately, improve the programs and services provided to the community. In *Failing Forward*, learn how LifeWorks’ curiosity about relevant internal data led to a complete program overhaul, supported by board members, funders and clients.

Following the screening of *Failing Forward*, a panel discussion will prioritize questions from the audience for a candid conversation about the challenges and the very real risks LifeWorks took – and continues to take – on their journey to use data to learn and improve.

*Kate Robinson, Nonprofits Failing Forward (Moderator)*
*William Buster, St. David’s Foundation*
*Susan McDowell, LifeWorks*
*Monique Miles, Aspen Institute Forum for Community Solutions*
*Liz Schoenfeld, LifeWorks*

5:45 – 6:45 PM  
YOGA (SEE APP FOR MORE INFORMATION)

7:00 PM  
DINNER ON YOUR OWN

7:00 PM  
OYF YOUTH LEADERS DINNER & ART NIGHT

Join us for an evening of creativity and networking to color, sketch, collage, make beats, or perform spoken word. All are welcome!

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2019**

7:00 – 8:00 AM  
YOGA (SEE APP FOR MORE INFORMATION)

7:00 – 8:00 AM  
BREAKFAST

8:00 – 9:45 AM  
MORNING PLENARY: Postsecondary Opportunities: Pathways to Equity and Justice

While postsecondary schooling may not be the choice of every young person, it should be available as a workable, affordable and welcoming option for all opportunity youth. The good news is that many places are making advances on these issues, including new approaches to making sure the most underserved students get a better chance at a postsecondary credential. However, even while postsecondary access and completion rates are trending in the right direction, large inequities remain by race/ethnicity, income level, prior systems-
involvement, and other dimensions...and new promising efforts are not well connected yet. Historically, the postsecondary system was built largely around excluding many people from opportunity; can we turn this system on its head and make it truly inclusive? This plenary will delve into a wide range of postsecondary programs, practices and policies meant to assist underserved students and peek under the hood to see what’s working for students, looking at both national systems and policies, and local community and institutional efforts.

**Opening Remarks:**
Ken Thompson, Aspen Institute Forum for Community Solutions

**Keynote Speaker:**
Dr. Paul LeBlanc, President, Southern New Hampshire University

**Plenary Speakers:**
Mamadou Ndiaye, Director, JFF (Moderator)
Tiffany Jones, Director of Higher Education Policy, Education Trust
Danika Martinez, Program Director, Seattle Education Access
Deveraux Smith, PhD Candidate in Public Policy, University of Maryland Baltimore County

9:45 – 10:00 AM  BREAK FOR PASSING

10:00 – 11:30 AM  CONCURRENT SESSIONS

**Booz Allen Hamilton Room**
**Koch Building**

**Building Effective Pathways: Capitalizing on Employer Demand: Field Standards for Young Adult Talent Development**

In a time of unprecedented employer demand for talent, opportunity youth still face barriers to entry into and advancement in the labor market. Employers are more willing than ever to partner with CBOs to provide pathways to employment, but too few CBOs have the expertise and capacity to effectively partner with employers. In this session, JFF will share field standards for young adult talent development that it co-developed with leading demand-driven organizations to drive quality and alignment in the field. Participants will review the standards and consider what it would take to help CBOs in their communities to develop strategies to meet the standards.

*Lili Allen, Jobs for the Future (Facilitator)*

**Lauder Room**
**Koch Building**

**Building Effective Pathways: Hearing from Young Adults Working in the Gig Economy: What Do They Tell Us and How Can We Help Them Navigate It Successfully?**

The gig economy refers to independent workers paid by the gig (i.e., a task or a project) and the companies that connect the worker to the consumer including app-based technology platforms. While there has been considerable research and popular reporting on the gig economy, none focuses specifically on its
implications for young adults ages 18-26 residing in low-to-moderate income communities. With support from Citi Foundation, JFF conducted interviews with young adults operating in the gig economy to gain a better understanding of how the gig economy is supporting or hindering the skill development and economic mobility of this population of young adults, and their motivations and strategies for working in the gig economy. The lessons JFF learned have important implications for the field including what types of supports young people need to succeed in the gig economy. In this session, JFF will share an overview of the research methodology and key findings and engage participants in an exercise designed to identify young adults’ needs and discuss strategies programs and communities can implement to assist them to navigate and thrive in the gig economy.

*Mamadou Ndiaye, Jobs for the Future (Facilitator)*

**BUILDING EFFECTIVE PATHWAYS: Learnings from the Pathways to Careers Fund: Partnering with the Tech Sector**

This session will provide participants with an opportunity to go deep on strategies for developing relationships with technology employers by highlighting the partnership between Bixel Exchange and Snapchat that is supported by the Pathways to Careers Fund. Session leaders will discuss their journey from guest speakers to immersive experiences to internships to their most recent apprenticeship-like program, the Snap Design Academy. Participants will have an opportunity to hear from Taylor Kim, who participated in the program and leveraged other Bixel employer partners into an internship position at Snap Inc. and an apparel and brand design apprenticeship at Nike.

*Facilitators*
Lindsey Heisser, Bixel Exchange, LA Area Chamber of Commerce
Taylor Kim, Snap Inc. and Nike

**BUILDING EFFECTIVE PATHWAYS: The Power of Art to Heal & Thrive in Native American Communities**

Since its founding, art and culture have been at the center of the Cheyenne River Youth Project’s (CRYP) work to support the children and youth in their community. In this interactive session, participants will learn about the innovative strategies CRYP uses to inspire their youth, explore their cultural identities, and build their leadership through programs like Red Can Graffiti Jam, the Waniyetu Wowapi Art Park, and more. The session will feature a panel discussion with staff from CRYP, and one of their volunteer artists. Participants will also have the opportunity to share best practices in using art for healing and personal growth while workshopping new strategies together.

*Julie Garreau, Cheyenne River Youth Project (Facilitator)*
Heather Steinberger, Cheyenne River Youth Project
COLLABORATING FOR IMPACT: The Value of Storytelling: How the Boston Opportunity Youth Collaborative Told and Amplified our Story

To provide momentum to the OY career pathway-building effort during the transition from national to local funding, Boston used the strategy of telling the story of the OY collective impact work to grow and connect career pathways. It published two reports within a year, one written by collaborative anchors, the other written by researchers using a youth-led research design. The release of each report was accompanied by a public event featuring a panel of diverse, dynamic voices. This allowed Boston partners to get their narrative out and to put out some future-facing recommendations for the “ecosystem” to provide them with direction for the Collaborative’s future work and for the different systems that frame current and imagined career pathways. In this session, Boston leaders will share the strategies that collaborative leaders and partners – including youth – can implement in order to change the narrative about opportunity youth, tell their story of impact, build public will, and engage community stakeholders in the work of systems change.

Facilitators
Kathy Hamilton, Boston Private Industry Council
Cameron Mendes-Moreau, Boston Boston Private Industry Council
Amanda Shabowich, United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley

DEVELOPING SUPPORTIVE POLICIES: A Promise Fulfilled: A Framework for Equitable Free College Policy

The cost of higher education is in the news like never before, with discussions around “free college” and eliminating student debt very prominent political topics. But with lots of competing approaches to free college (and debt relief), which are the more equitable approaches? How do policy decisions impact who will really be served by these programs, or other key postsecondary policy decisions like reauthorization of the Higher Education Act? Whether you live in one of the 300+ communities now offering ‘free college,’ or not, this session will arm you with what you need to know about looking at postsecondary policy change with an equity lens, so that you can talk with higher ed leaders, or local and state officials, about how to increase equitable access to college. The discussion is led by Tiffany Jones, Director of Higher Education Policy at the Education Trust, the leading equity-focused education advocacy organization in the US.

Tiffany Jones, Education Trust (Facilitator)


The Opportunity Youth Forum is comprised of more than two dozen communities. Together, about one-quarter, or about 1.2 million, of all opportunity youth in the U.S. live in the areas in and around Opportunity Youth
Forum communities. In total, this network works on creating systems-wide and community level changes. Reconnecting all Opportunity Youth will require attention to policy change and dismantling systemic barriers by placing equity at the center. Which is why the Opportunity Youth Forum is developing a policy agenda.

What does this mean and what would the agenda look like? Here is your opportunity to come roll up your sleeves and work on answering these questions together. The Forum is building on the policies OYF sites and national advocates are currently working on, seeing where there is common ground, and where there are key gaps to fill in order to have a common agenda that all communities see their work in.

Please note that Aspen is hosting two sessions on developing the OYF policy agenda. Today’s session focuses on policies related to child welfare; juvenile justice; health, food and nutrition. Yesterday’s session focused on policies related to workforce, postsecondary pathways, immigration, and criminal justice. You don’t have to have attended yesterday’s session to participate in today’s workshop.

**Facilitators**
*Kisha Bird, Center for Law and Social Policy*
*Thaddeus Ferber, Forum for Youth Investment*

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**RIGOROUS MEASUREMENT AND IMPACT: Why Failing Forward is Important and How You Can, Too!**

Much of the data that agencies collect is shaped by funder requirements and contract compliance. Compared to time spent reporting to external stakeholders, organizations spend considerably less time analyzing their data in ways that would allow them to better understand their clients, refine their programs, or measure their social impact. During this workshop, participants will learn about the risks and rewards of building a learning culture, and how organizations’ internal capacity, executive leadership, and funders collectively influence their ability to leverage data in meaningful ways. In addition to providing attendees with concrete recommendations and opportunities for discussion, the presenters will show selected segments of *Failing Forward: On the Road to Social Impact*, a short documentary that spotlights how one agency used data to identify a programmatic failure, select and implement an evidence-based model, and ultimately achieve powerful outcomes. This session is designed for funders, evaluators, program managers, and agency leadership.

*Kate Robinson, Nonprofits Failing Forward (Facilitator)*
*Susan McDowell, LifeWorks*
*Liz Schoenfeld, LifeWorks*
The purpose of this meeting is to convene investors and rural and tribal communities to discuss challenges and opportunities associated with investing in rural and tribal communities, explore the targeted universalism framework and its implications, share updates on relevant OYF efforts, and collectively reflect on opportunities for learning and deepening impact. OYF funders on the Leadership Council are encouraged to attend, along with invited national funders.

Facilitators
Steve Patrick, Aspen Institute Forum for Community Solutions
Wynn Rosser, T.L.L. Temple Foundation
Erik Stegman, Center for Native American Youth at the Aspen Institute

10:00 – 12:30 PM
ALBRIGHT PAVILION
WALTER ISAACSON CENTER
DATA FOR IMPACT (D4I) RFP INFO SESSION AND 1:1 SITE-SPECIFIC “OFFICE HOURS”

This information session will provide an overview of the Data for Impact (D4I) Request for Proposals (RFP) content, process and application requirements, and include time for Q&A with prospective applicants. Following the RFP overview and group Q&A, sites will have the opportunity to meet with members of the AICFS and Equal Measure teams for 1:1 questions and consultation about their draft proposals and or the OYF Common Measure baseline data analysis they received in September. Individual consultation will be available on a first come, first served basis.

Facilitators
Justin Piff, Equal Measure
Robert Roach, Equal Measure
Suzanne Towns, Aspen Institute Forum for Community Solutions
Jennifer Thompson, Equal Measure
Ken Thompson, Aspen Institute Forum for Community Solutions

11:30 – 11:45 AM
BREAK FOR PASSING

11:45 – 12:45 PM
TEAM PLANNING TIME

Site teams will be assigned rooms to debrief the convening and consider implications of the convening’s lessons for their work in their communities.

11:45 – 12:45 PM
OPEN SPACE & NETWORKING

11:45 – 12:45 PM
YOUTH LEADERS DEBRIEF

Youth leaders will share learnings from the convening and identify opportunities to implement what they learned in their communities.

Facilitators
Jamiel Alexander, Aspen Institute Forum for Community Solutions
We have the youngest generation in the history of the world. Some 3 billion people are under the age of 30 and 1.2 billion people are between the ages of 15-29. Yet, many of these young people – most heavily concentrated in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia – are reaching adulthood with limited prospects for a job or a decent means of self-employment. Our next generation of opportunity youth will yield tremendous dividends for their regions and for the world if we can collectively lift their voices, engage them as co-creators of their destinies, and work with governments, businesses, and educational leaders to determine better ways to coordinate, integrate, and accelerate pathways into dignified work. In this plenary, leaders from Sub-Saharan Africa, India, and Latin America (the first three regions of the Global Opportunity Youth Initiative) will discuss their ideas for advancing more powerful solutions to address the challenge of economic mobility for the world’s opportunity youth. We will end with a youth dialogue between a young leader from the U.S. and a young leader from Kenya to highlight common challenges and aspirations.

**Opening Remarks**

*Monique Miles, Aspen Institute Forum for Community Solutions*

**Plenary Speakers:**
*Jamie McAuliffe, Aspen Forum for Community Solutions (Moderator)*
*Tim Cross, President, YouthBuild International*
*Ndungu Kahihu, Executive Director, CAP-Youth Empowerment Institute*
*Lucy Murdoch, Managing Director, Accenture Global Corporate Citizenship Delivery*
*Daniel Ricardo Uribe Parra, Executive Director, Fundacion Corona, Colombia*
*Santhosh Ramdoss, Director, Skoll Foundation*
*Alfred Sigo Odhiambo, Founder, Pwani Youth Network*
*Shanice Turner, Council Member, National Council of Young Leaders – Opportunity Youth United*

**3:00 – 4:00 PM**

**PATHWAYS TO CAREERS FUND GRANTEE AND PARTNER OPTIONAL NETWORKING**

The purpose of this meeting is to provide space for the Pathways to Careers (P2C) grantees and partners to network and discuss issues of interest to P2C sites in order to deepen their community of practice.