



Vision: Young people are regularly involved in spaces that help them feel connected to one another and their culture or identity.

Goal: Build community collaborations that provide opportunities for youth to connect to others and their culture, elevating youth voice in this work.

Strategy	Action Items
<p>Organizations will collaborate and build relationships to focus on providing opportunities for youth to connect to others and their cultures. Break down the barriers that can block that. A convener will bring this group together. Youth voice/engagement will be a formal part of this structure.</p>	<p>Identify what youth want in order to connect to their culture by asking and involving them. Provide youth appropriate training in order to do this (ex: strategic sharing, policy, etc.).</p>
	<p>Identify key partners/organizations/types of organizations to convene. Identify what will motivate them to participate.</p>
	<p>Identify a convener. Look at organizations already doing this work successfully.</p>
	<p>Develop best practices/roadmap for bringing organizations together to ensure young people feel connected to one another and their culture. Acknowledge that communities are different so best practices need to be adaptable to different needs/communities.</p>
	<p>Adults doing this work need training in how to work with and honor youth voice. This should include diversity, cultural humility, etc.</p>
<p>Youth will be connected to others with shared interests. This includes outside of school and in the community. Youth will have the skills they need to explore their culture, and barriers in connecting will be addressed.</p>	<p>Engage youth of all cultures to identify barriers to youth in connecting with others and their culture (ex: focus groups, surveys). Look at youth community organizers to help.</p>
	<p>Resource map of existing programs and cultural activities/sources in a community so that youth can find them.</p>
	<p>Provide structured and unstructured opportunities for youth to connect with others in the community and with organizations reflective of their culture/interests.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These take place in safe and welcoming environments. • Offer options in involvement (ex: online, app, in person). • Utilize social media and other virtual communication tools.
	<p>Create, identify, and/or facilitate funding opportunities to start relevant cultural programs in schools, community facilities, etc.</p>

	<p>Start in early childhood settings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide DEI/cultural belonging training, consultation, and coaching with early childhood educators. • Develop culturally responsive family engagement opportunities to bring families together.
<p>Adults will look at systemic change, policy, and legislation. Rules/laws will change and funding will support this work. Adults will ask youth what they want and include their perspectives. Adults will know their identities/culture and be supported.</p>	<p>Leverage partnerships to increase advocacy (ex: WAFCA, NAMI).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify legislators/policymakers interested in supporting this work. • Connect with all potential supporters – neighborhood associations, churches, nonprofits.
	<p>Ask partners how they are engaging with youth voice. Underscore the need to engage with all youth, not just the high achievers but those falling through the cracks and live in different geographies.</p>
	<p>Get and keep children's mental health on the policy agenda.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate legislators. • Help policymakers who support children's mental health, guide them in this work. • Tie these initiatives to organization/county/state level existing strategic planning efforts. • Educate communities on policy and legislative issues (e.g., process of agenda setting, budgeting, legislative action, systems change). • Grassroots efforts – hold events that connect to constituents. Include youth in this work.
	<p>Training for adults on cultural humility so they understand how their cultural lens impacts beliefs, assumptions, attitudes, and actions. For identity work, need ongoing trainings that build empathy and unite rather than divide.</p>
	<p>Create regular form of data collection (every X years) to guide efforts. To achieve a change in rules/laws a body of evidence must be created and shared.</p>