



Survey gives teens a voice in Dayton's future

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The City of Dayton, with local nonprofit Learn to Earn Dayton, announces the next step in the Student Voice for Dayton – a survey for Dayton high school students to help shape the future of Dayton. This short survey offers teens the opportunity to elevate their voice and help form a better tomorrow for our city.

The survey, found at tinyurl.com/UseYourVoiceDayton, is available through March 22, 2024. Students from participating schools will be entered to win one of 10 \$50 Amazon gift cards in appreciation of their involvement.

High school students living within the city of Dayton or attending the partner schools of Belmont High School, David H. Ponitz Career Technology Center, Paul Laurence Dunbar High School, Meadowdale Career Technology Center, Mound Street Academy, Stivers School for the Arts, Thurgood Marshall High School, Dayton Digital Academy, DECA, and Chaminade-Julienne High School are invited to participate.

With the survey results in hand, Learn to Earn Dayton will review the data and invite interested students back to brainstorm solutions and imagine the possibilities of a stronger Dayton for teens. Through this effort, an action plan will be generated to make Dayton a better place for youth and set the framework for an ongoing Youth Commission.

The Student Voice for Dayton is a collaborative effort to foster an inclusive and participatory environment where young people will have a prominent role in shaping the priorities, strategies and action steps featured in the plan. By involving students directly in the decision making process, we aspire to create policies and programs that truly reflect their needs and aspirations, and center the power and leadership of making their vision a reality directly with our young leaders.

The effort to draft and formalize a plan centering youth voice sustains the momentum from the Mayor's Teen Youth Summit. On September 13, 2023, Mayor Jeffrey J. Mims, Jr. announced the initiative at the second annual Summit, encouraging students to use their voice in setting priorities for their own academic and career path and shaping the future of their city.

Mayor Mims expressed excitement about the partnership, stating, "Right now, Dayton's youth is 20% of our population, but they are 100% of our future. Their perspectives and ideas are invaluable, and this partnership reflects our commitment to actively involve them in shaping the policies and programs that affect their lives."

Learn to Earn Dayton will facilitate the three-year initiative and generate a public plan that centers student voice. Surveys, focus groups, work sessions, and interviews will be conducted to determine a vision for the future, the priority topics to be addressed, and specific strategies to drive Dayton toward the future – all determined by teens. The final plan, with long-term goals and short-term opportunities, will be published on both the City of Dayton and Learn to Earn Dayton websites.

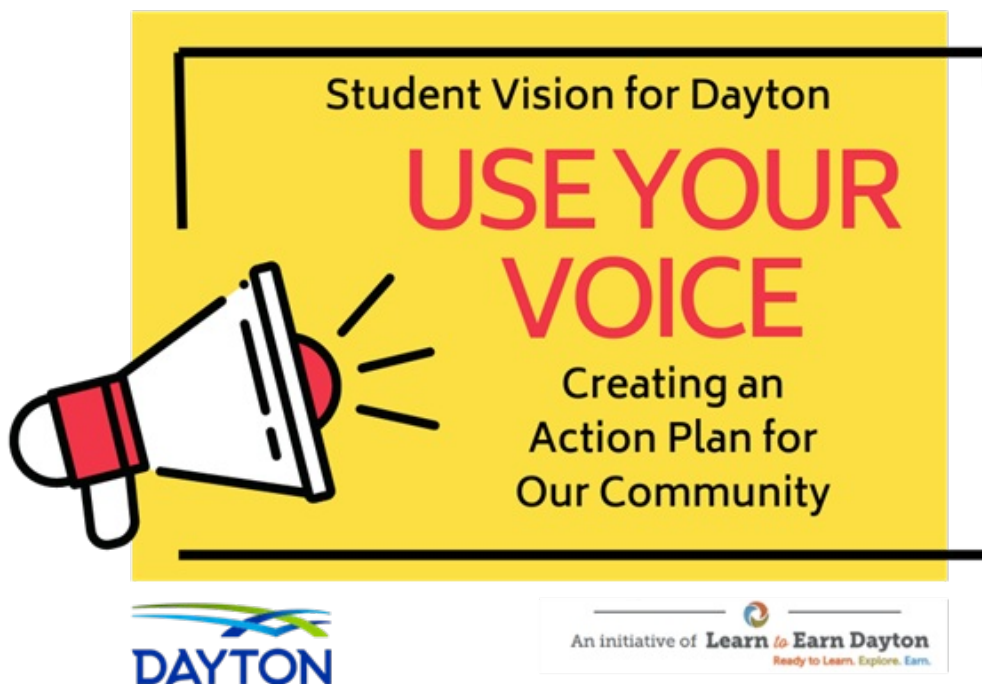
“The priority topics and areas of discussion will all be driven by the youth, as they share their needs, expectations, and aspirations over the course of the year-long process,” said Learn to Earn Dayton CEO Stacy Schweikhart. “Learn to Earn Dayton, the City of Dayton, Dayton Public Schools all reaffirm our dedication to elevating and amplifying youth voice and leadership.”

For more information about the Student Vision for Dayton and upcoming events, please contact Erica Fields, Director of Place-Based Strategies at Erica.Fields@LearntoEarnDayton.org.

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About Learn to Earn Dayton:

Learn to Earn Dayton is the regional cradle-to-career intermediary organization, leveraging data, policy, and partnerships to improve student outcomes along the educational continuum with the goal of increasing the number of students who earn a college degree or marketable credential. Learn to Earn Dayton serves the community as a convener, collaborator, innovator, and incubator, centering youth voices and driving for solutions that can improve our local communities.



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