

A Vibrant Communities Webinar

MEANINGFULLY ENGAGING YOUTH IN EVALUATING

With Corliss Bean, Marika Warner, Bryan Heal & Pamela Teitelbaum

Gratitude & Acknowledgement

We begin this workshop by acknowledging that we are meeting on Indigenous land. As settlers, we are grateful for the opportunity to meet and we thank all the generations of Indigenous peoples who have taken care of this land.

As settlers, this recognition of the contributions and historic importance of Indigenous peoples must be clearly and overtly connected to our collective commitment to make the promise and the challenge of Truth and Reconciliation real in our communities.

Today's Speakers



Pamela Teitelbaum
Director, Evaluating Impact
Tamarack Institute



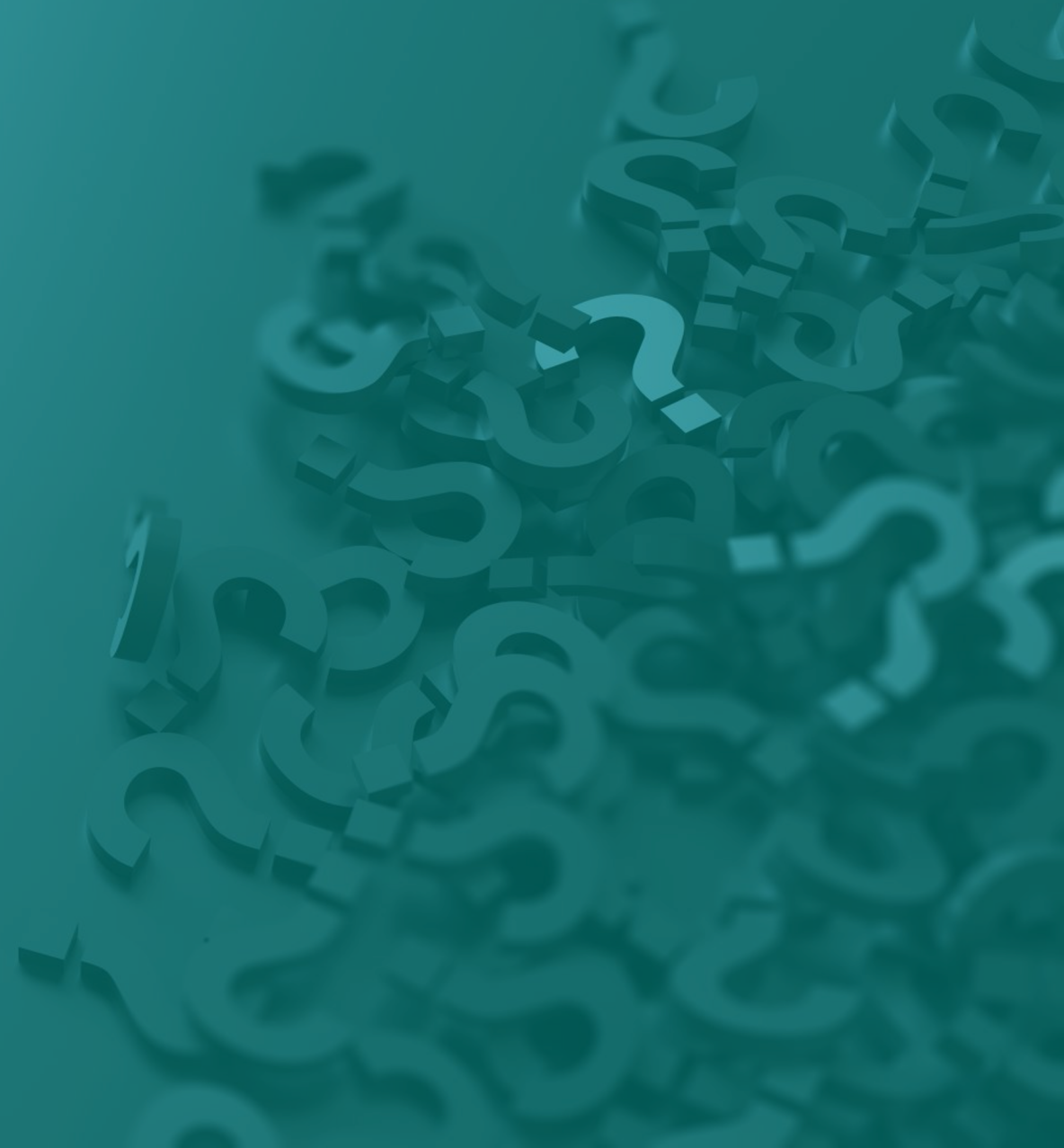
Corliss Bean, PhD
Assistant Professor, Brock University
Academic Network, Youth Research &
Evaluation eXchange (YouthREX)



Bryan Heal & Marika Warner
Manager & Director, Research
and Evaluation MLSE LaunchPad

What is the value of engaging youth in the evaluation process?

Are there any unique factors we should consider in the youth sector?



Benefits of youth engagement in the evaluation process

By encouraging sustainable research and evaluation practices in the youth sector, youth organizations will:

- Be better positioned to measure and track if their programs achieve their intended outcomes and impacts
- Be able to determine areas of program success and how they can be improved
- Tell their stories to funders and each other to improve the overall quality of the sector

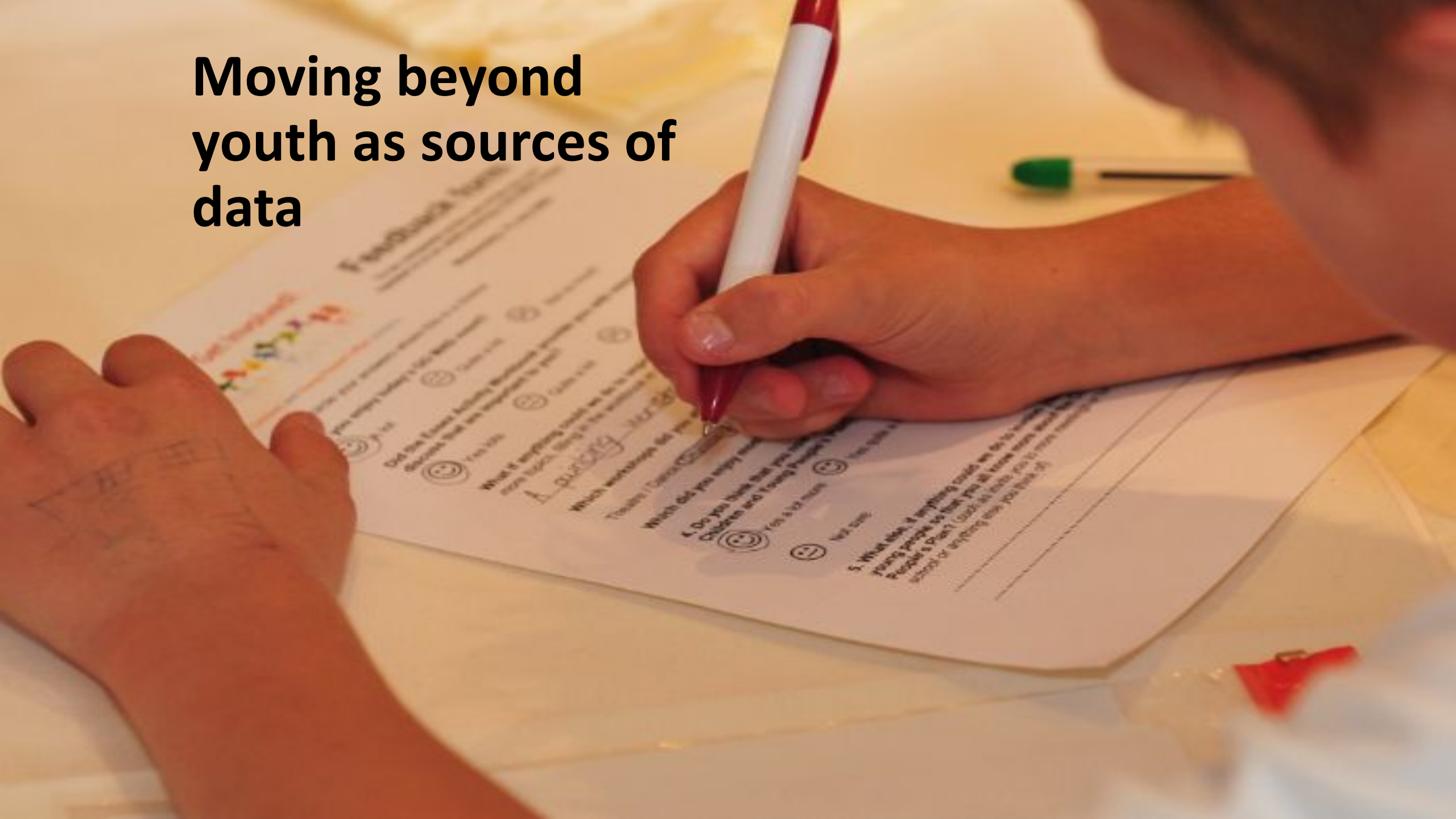
Evaluation supports youth programs to do what they do, better!

What is Youth Engagement?

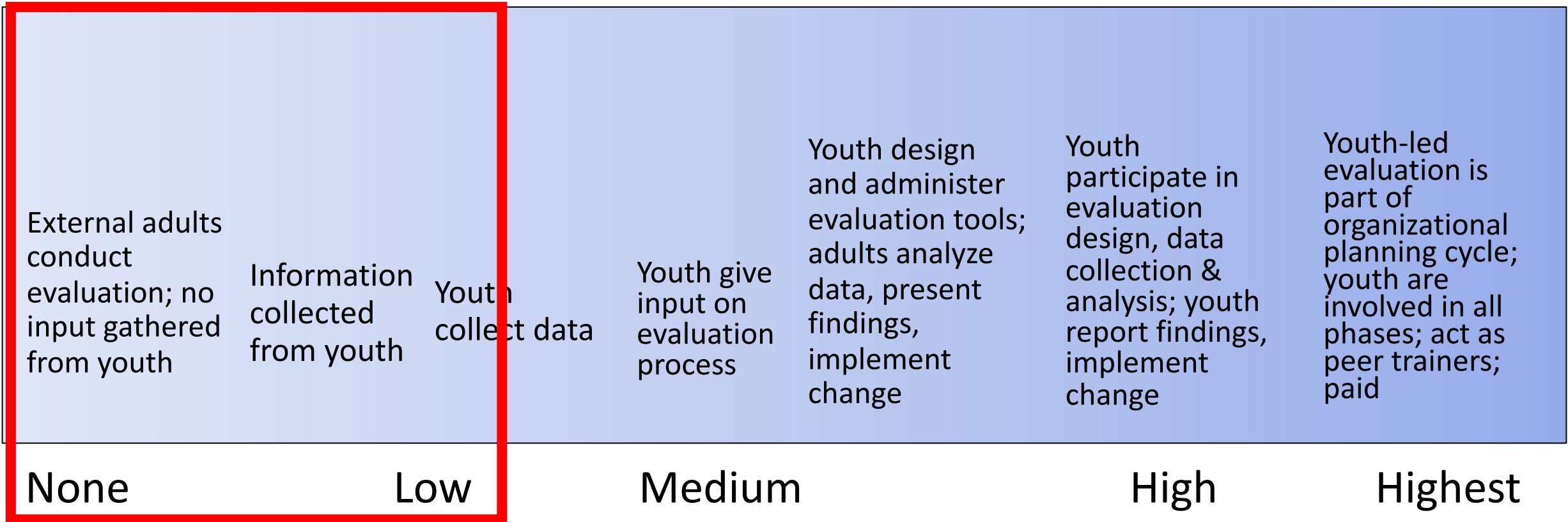
- **Youth Engagement:** when young people are seen as valuable partners and are actively involved in planning, decision making, and carrying out decisions that affect them personally and/or that they believe to be important.
- **Youth Engagement in Evaluation:** engages young people in evaluating the programs, initiatives, and organizations designed to serve them.
- Program design and development can inform program evaluation



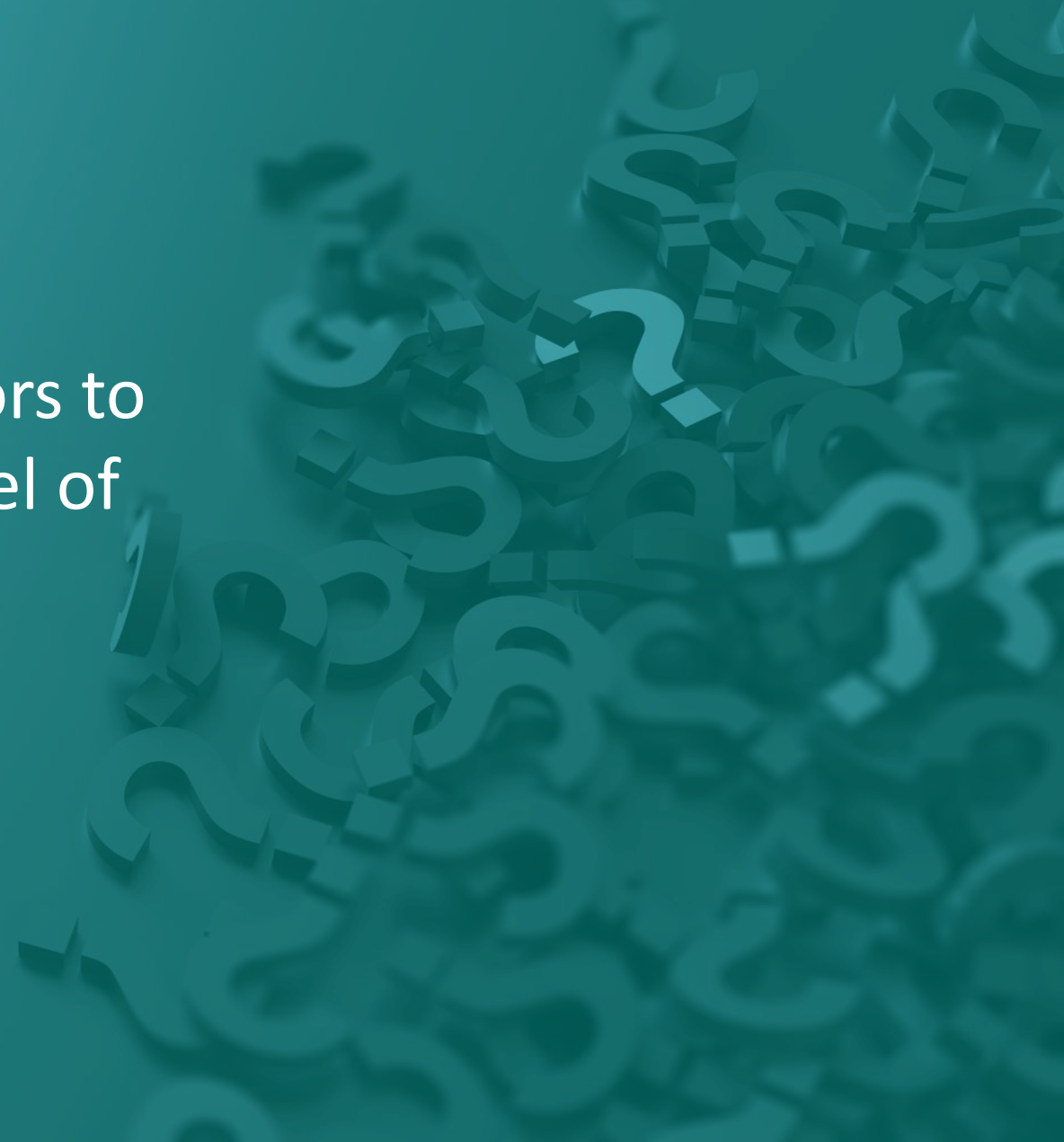
Moving beyond youth as sources of data



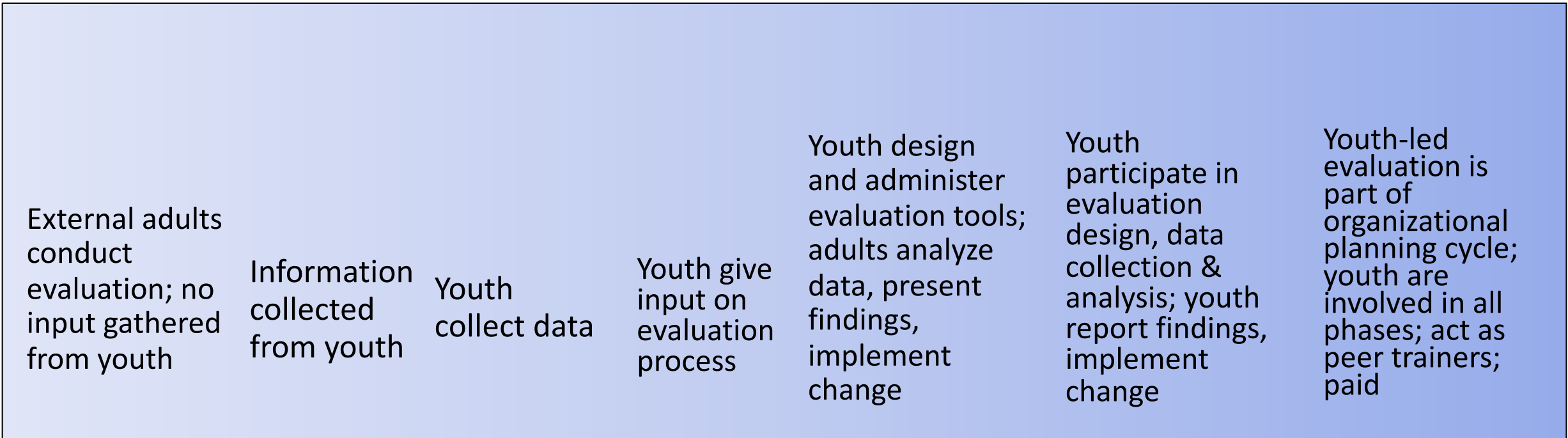
Continuum of Youth Engagement



What are the most important factors to consider when deciding on the level of youth engagement in evaluation?



Continuum of Youth Engagement



None

Low

Medium

High

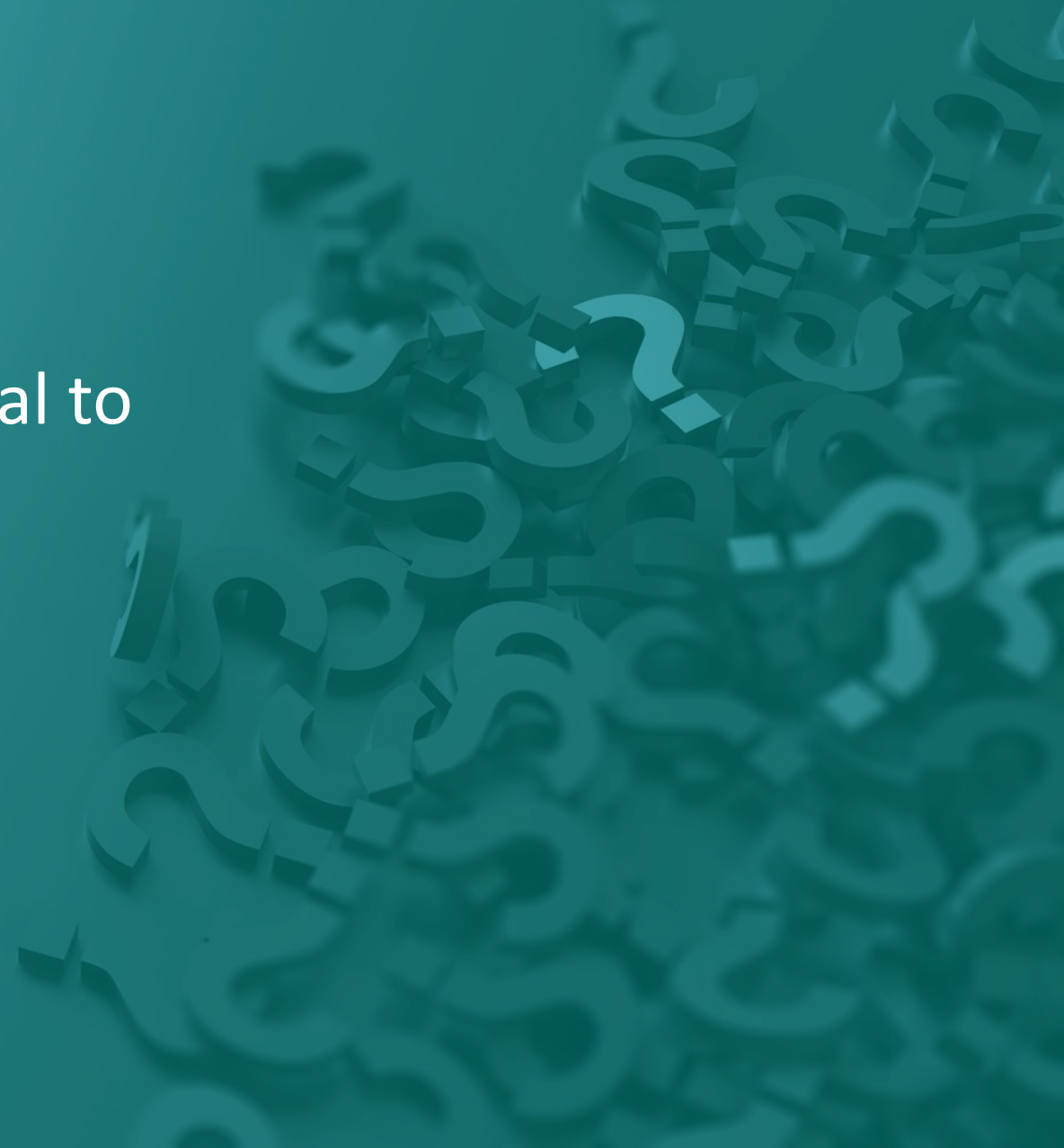
Highest



"Youth are not merely respondents of methods created by adults nor are they consultants on adult-led evaluations... they are creators of knowledge, shaping their own methods, analyzing the data gathered, and reporting their findings."

Sabo Flores, 2008

How is youth engagement beneficial to youth and the organization?



Benefits of Youth Engagement in Evaluation

For Youth

Skill development (e.g., leadership, communication skills, marketable skills)

Relationship building (with peers, adults)

Improved self-confidence

Identity exploration

Establish sense of ownership over program

Foster creativity

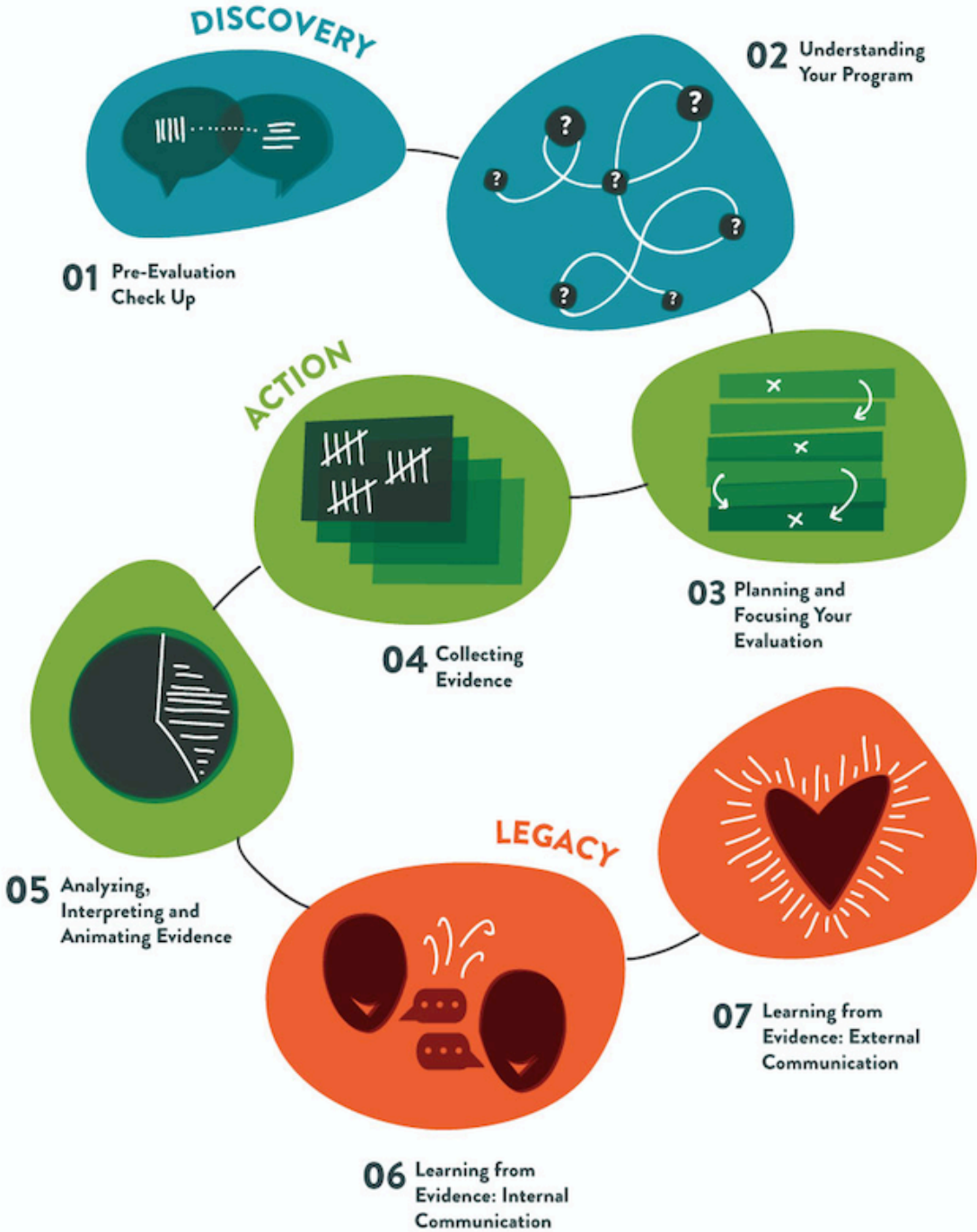


Benefits of Youth Engagement in Evaluation

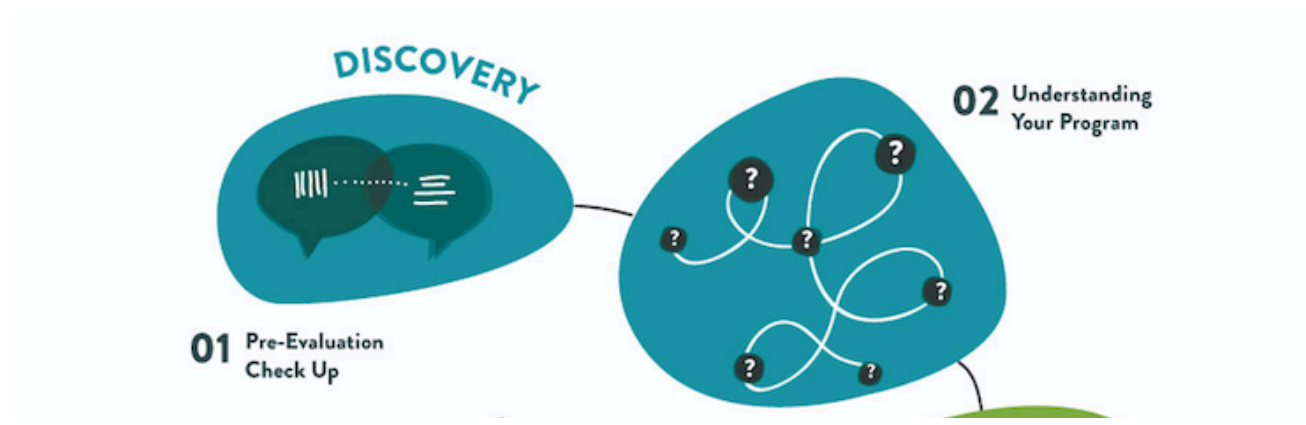
For Youth	For the Organization (Stakeholders)
Skill development (e.g., leadership, communication skills, marketable skills)	Better access to data (access hard-to-reach samples)
Relationship building (with peers, adults)	Enables new perspectives
Improved self-confidence	Improved data collection process & tools
Identity exploration	Increased understanding/improved interpretation of results
Establish sense of ownership over program	Democratization of knowledge
Foster creativity	Validates diverse experiences of youth; equalizes power relations

Can you share the practice of the youth-engaged evaluation process of YouthREX and the great example of MLSE Launchpad?

YouthREX's Framework for Evaluating Youth Wellbeing



YouthREX's Framework for Evaluating Youth Wellbeing



STEP 01: PRE-EVALUATION CHECK UP

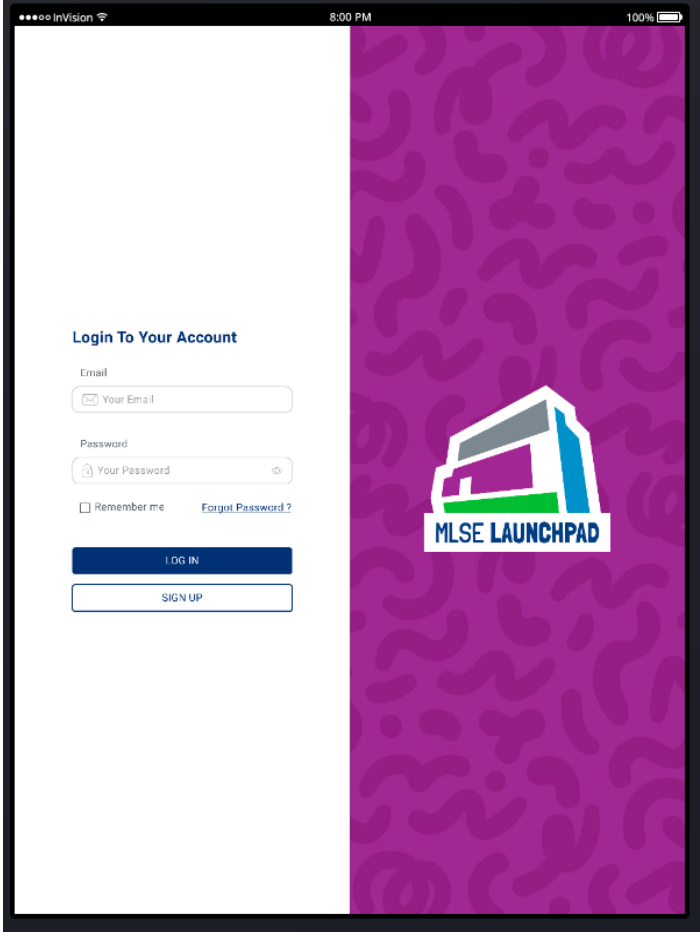
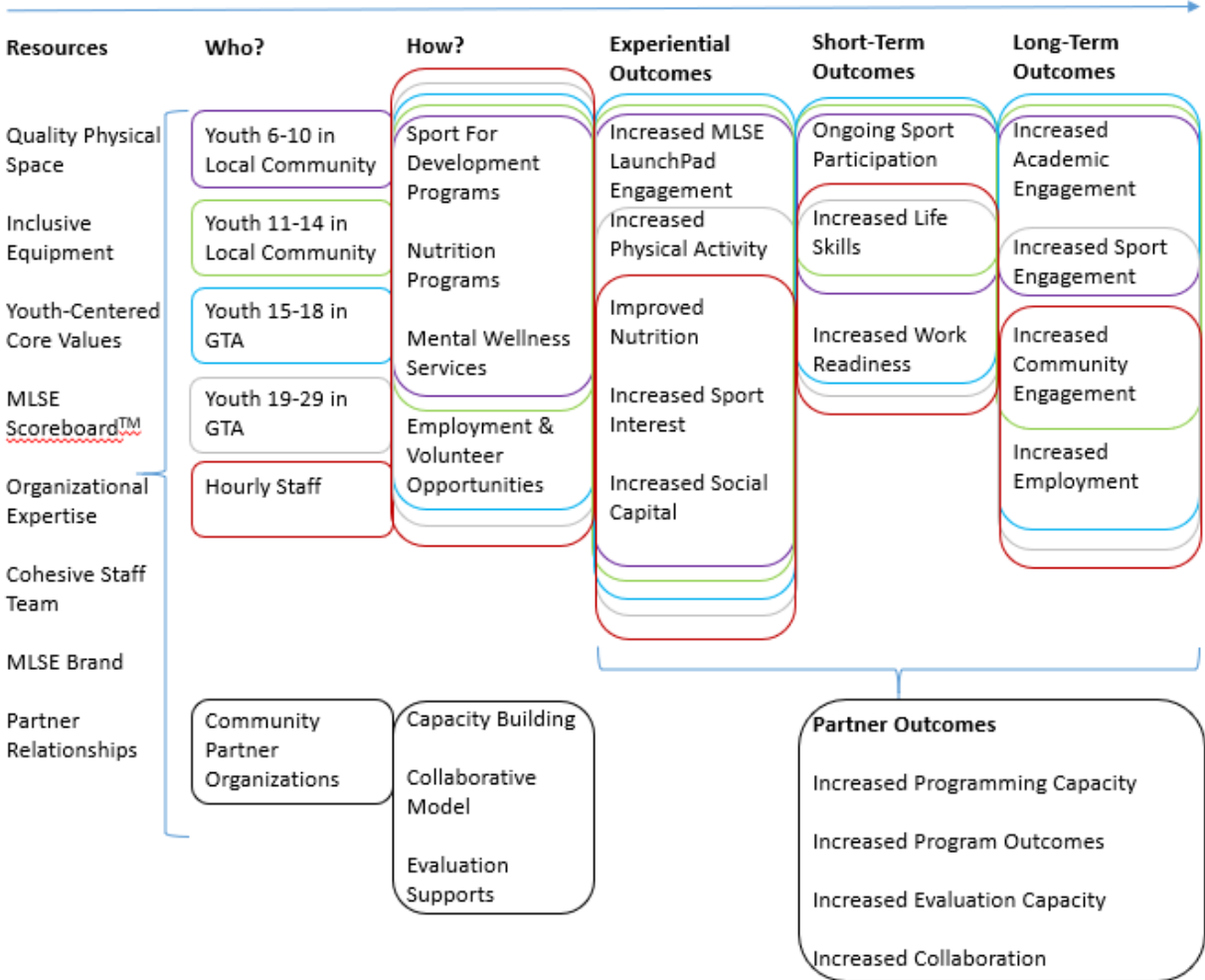
Where is your organization on your evaluation journey and what is your capacity to undertake this journey? What are your evaluation assets? What resources do you need to successfully complete this journey?

STEP 02: UNDERSTANDING YOUR PROGRAM USING LOGIC MODELING

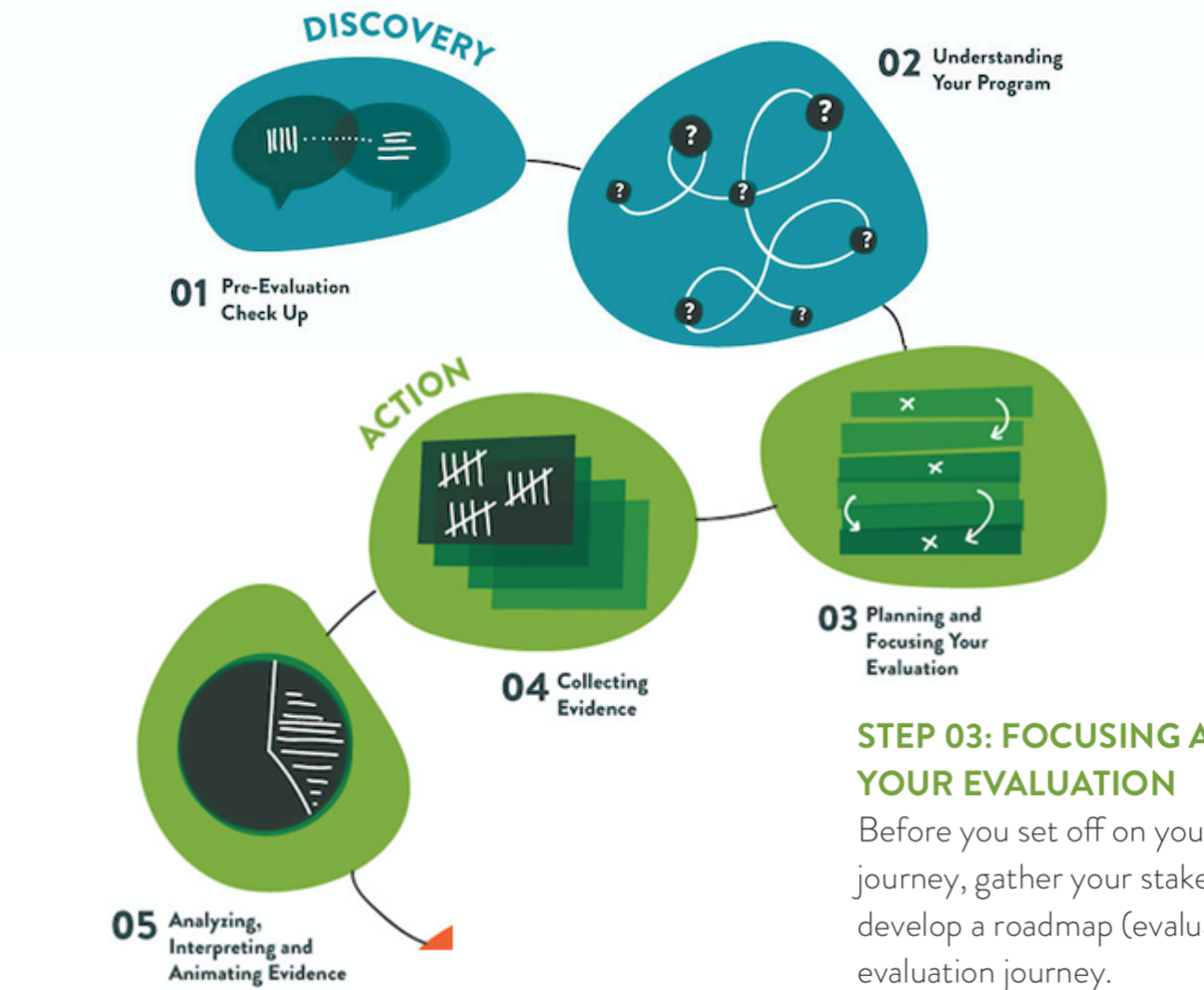
What is your program theory? What are your program components and your intended outcomes? A logic model is a visual representation of your program and how it is intended to work.

Building an evaluation culture on youth-centred values

An evidence-based model for collaboration and innovation in the youth development sector.



YouthREX's Framework for Evaluating Youth Wellbeing



STEP 03: FOCUSING AND PLANNING YOUR EVALUATION

Before you set off on your evaluation journey, gather your stakeholders and develop a roadmap (evaluation plan) for your evaluation journey.

STEP 04: COLLECTING EVIDENCE FOR A PROCESS & OUTCOME EVALUATION

Collect data + stories to answer your process and outcome evaluation questions.

STEP 05: ANALYZING, INTERPRETING AND ANIMATING EVIDENCE

Identify themes in your qualitative data, patterns or trends in your quantitative data and make sense of your findings.

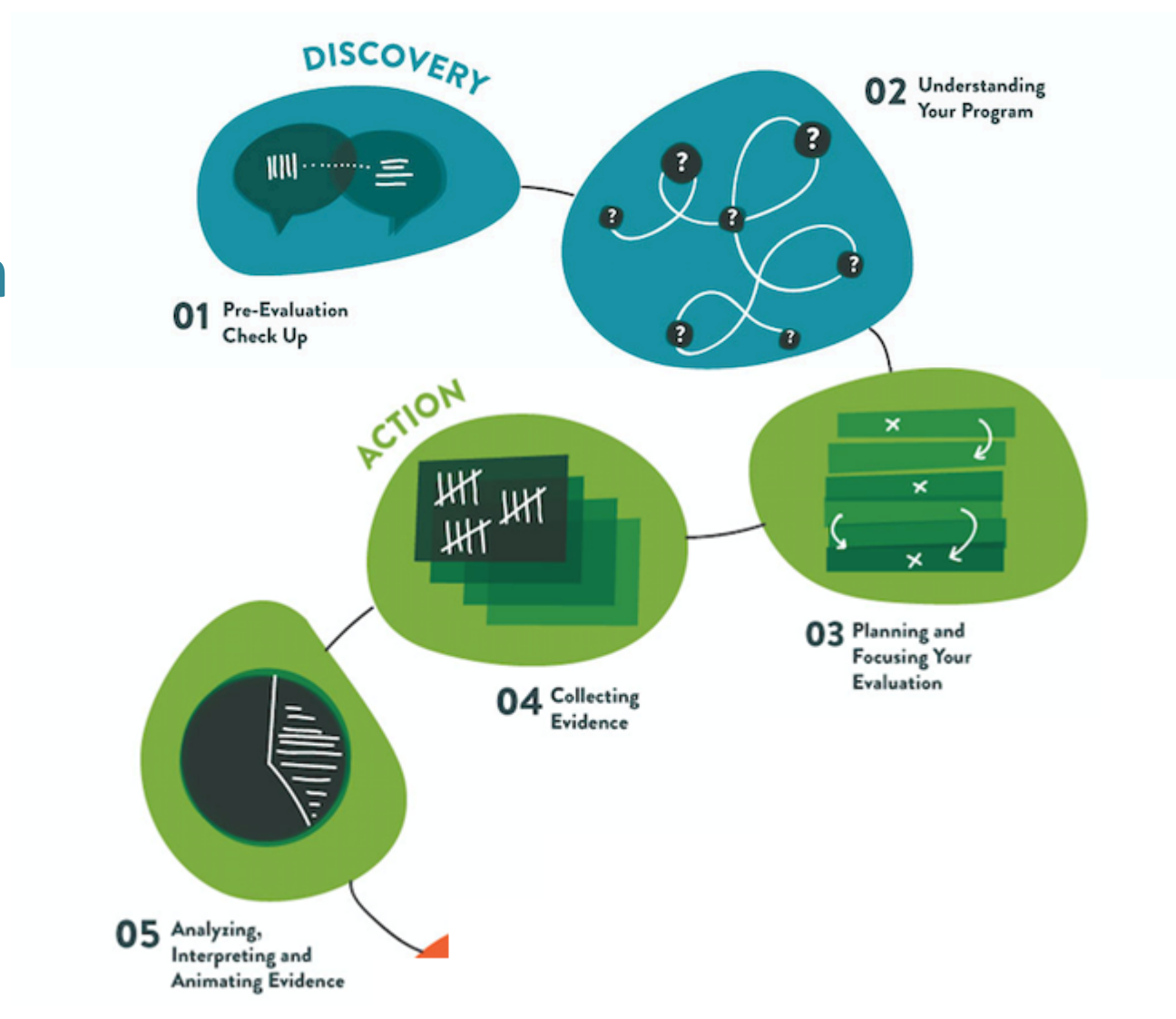
MISSION in practice at MLSE LaunchPad



- M Minimal
- I I-Statements
- S Short
- S Strengths-Based
- I Involve Coaches
- O Online
- N No Neutrality



YouthREX's Framework for Evaluating Youth Wellbeing



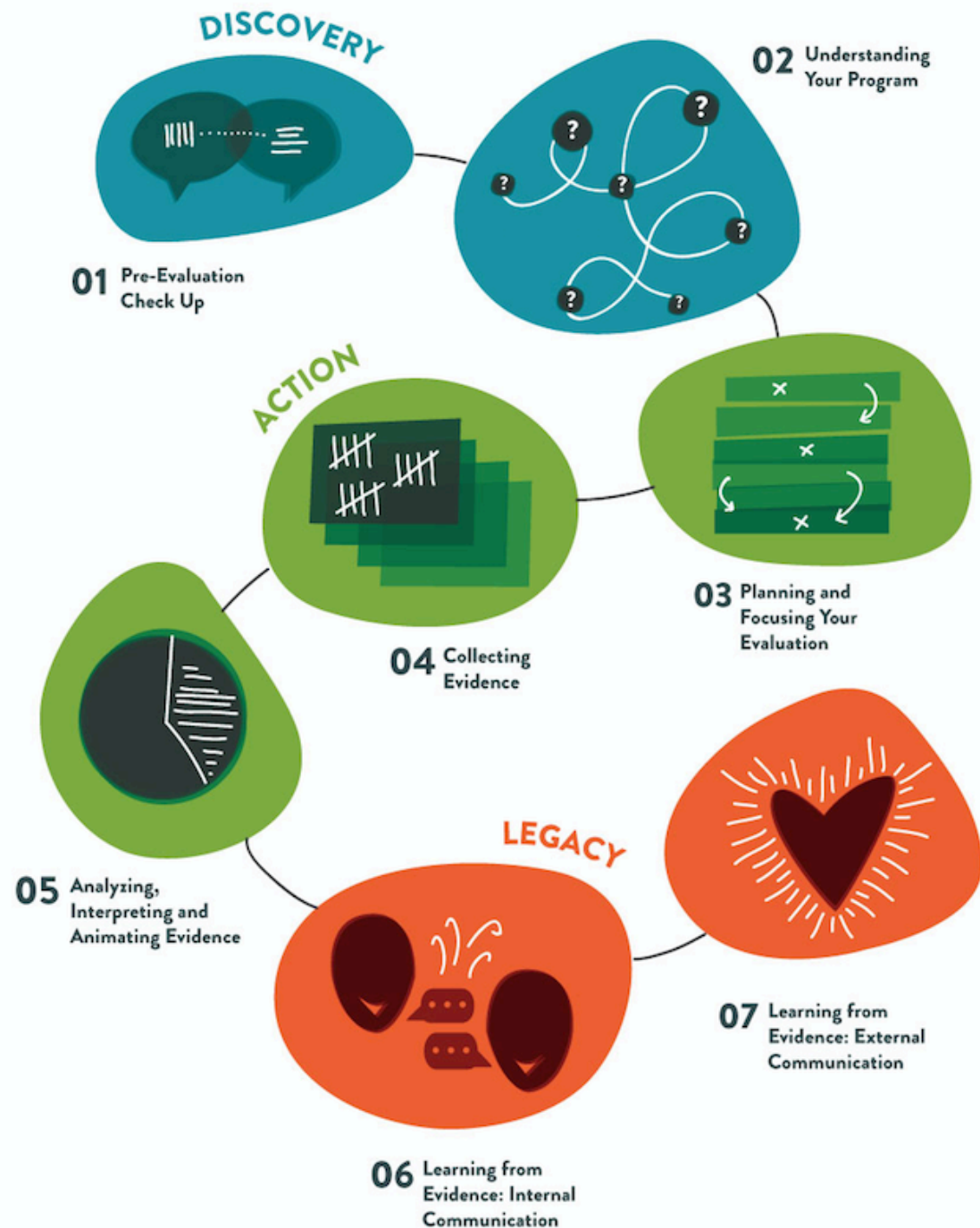
YouthREX's Framework for Evaluating Youth Wellbeing

STEP 06: LEARNING FROM EVIDENCE: INTERNAL COMMUNICATION

Turn the sense making into learning that strengthens your program and improves the well-being of your youth participants. Use your evaluation insights and findings to inform decisions that improve your program.

STEP 07: LEARNING FROM EVIDENCE: EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION

Share your evaluation findings in a variety of oral and written formats tailored to different audiences to help stakeholders understand the REAL story about your program.





Insight to Action at MLSE LaunchPad

- How Baseline Insights and Mid-Program Challenges became established in the evaluation and program culture

MS & EVENTS

Types of Points

Choose the Type of Point You'd Like to Reward



All Challenges

Life Skills

Choose Life Skill

Leadership
The ability to analyze one's own strengths and weaknesses, set personal and professional goals and carry them out, guide or direct others on a course of action, influence the opinions and behaviors of others, and serve as a role model AKA: Motivating people to reach goals Sport example: take charge of a practice if the coach is held up 10

Social Competence
The ability to build positive and healthy interpersonal relationships and to resolve interpersonal conflicts, the development of a clear self-identity and a group or collective identity, and the orientation to be a responsible citizen in one's society and a caring citizen in the world. AKA: Connecting meaningfully with people Sport example: Developing long-lasting friendships with teammates and coaches 10

Critical Thinking
Ability to evaluate, reason, and bring thoughts and actions in line with evaluation. AKA: Using your brain Sport example: Knowing when to shoot and when to pass 10

Self-Regulation
Ability to monitor and control thoughts, behaviours and emotions in a way that is appropriate for the demands of a given situation. AKA: Being able to control your responses Sport example: Resisting the urge to hit back when repeatedly fouled 10

Jasper Bernales
COACH

Search Participant

Time

8:30 – 9:30 AM

Participants

PRESENT

PRESENT

Reflections & Lessons Learned

MLSE LaunchPad's Lessons Learned

- Live your **values**. Youth First, Always.
- Remember your **MISSION**. How does “involvement” show up in evaluation tools and processes?
- Reflect on how evaluation contributes to your organization’s **culture**. From the youth perspective, evaluation activities are part of their experience, not something separate or on the side of the program.
- Meet youth where they are, whether that is **on court** or **online**.
- When youth share feedback or contribute data, **act**.



Lessons Learned



- Create an evaluation plan together from the start; discuss your collective vision for evaluation journey
- Provide in-depth trainings (e.g., on importance of evaluation, how to host focus groups)
- Work towards a significant milestone (e.g., knowledge translation event); helps to focus energy and maintain momentum
- Analyze findings together
- **LISTEN!**

Program Evaluation for Youth Wellbeing

A free 10-week online certificate course about the main concepts, approaches and practices relevant to conducting evaluation of youth sector programs and initiatives.

APPLY NOW!

Download Two-Pager



[Applications Open: November 16, 2020](#)

Registration Deadline: December 9th, 2020

Runs from January 2021-March 2021

Using Spreadsheets In Program Evaluation

A free 4-week online certificate course about key concepts, tools and techniques required to manage, analyze and visualize quantitative data for a youth program evaluation.

APPLY NOW!

Download Two-Pager



[Applications Open: November 16, 2020](#)

Registration Deadline: January 17th, 2021

Runs from February-March 2021



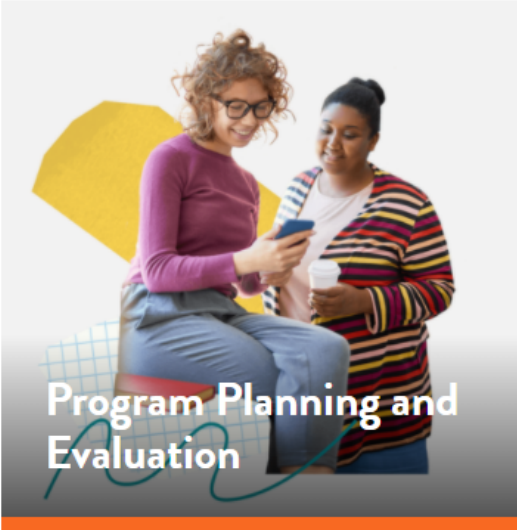
www.youthrex.com

Connecting shared knowledge to youth work

Search 1343 resources or browse a collection below.

AREA OF INTEREST

POPULATION GROUP



Community Board

Explore upcoming opportunities to learn, connect
and shape the future of Ontario's youth!

Location



Type of Opportunity



Submit an event or

EVENT

Through Our Eyes Part II –



FUNDING

The EnterpRISEing Youth

Free Community Building Webinars

Equip yourself for **Community Change** by joining us for free community building webinars and live podcasts

View our free community building webinars:
<https://bit.ly/tamarackwebinars>



**A Professional's Guide to Working With Young People in the Citizen Space
December 3, 2020**

Learn about developing youth-centered community development approaches, gain tools for precipitating youth-led action and how to build a framework for place-based community building.

Learn more or Register: events.tamarackcommunity.ca/abcd-virtual

A silhouette of a group of people walking across a dark, rounded hill against a soft, pinkish-orange sunset sky. The figures are positioned along the crest of the hill, moving from left to right. The text 'THANK YOU' is overlaid in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the middle of the image, partially obscuring the silhouettes of the people.

THANK YOU