UNHEARD VOICES OF YOUTH: HOW PHOTOVOICE CREATES MEANINGFUL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
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Moderator: Julie Seltz, Executive Director, PCs for People

Speakers:
Tricia Anstey, Portfolio Integration Manager, North Denver Cornerstone Collaborative

Cara DiEnno, Associate Director, Center for Community Engagement & Service Learning, University of Denver

Gabrielle Roffe, Natural Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Structure of our session

- Welcome & Introductions
- What brought you here?
- Brief introduction to Photovoice
- We are Nature Case Study
- Denver Smart City Case Study
- Q & A
- Discussion
PHOTOVOICE & YOU: What brought you here?

- What brought you to this workshop?
- What questions do you hope we will answer?
How familiar are you with Photovoice?

What does a photograph mean to you?
PHOTOVOICE

- What is Photovoice?
- How we use Photovoice to engage youth
- Why youth engagement is so important
WE ARE NATURE CASE STUDY: Creating a Connected Conservation Community

- Goals
- Partnerships
- Storytelling

“How do you connect with nature?”

“How does nature make you feel?”

“What does nature look like in urban areas?”
“I know that social media plays a huge role in how a lot of teens think. I know that when I share photos, a lot of people ask me ‘Oh, where is that at?’ and ‘That’s so cool.’ Once my friends saw me posting cool pictures of me being outdoors, they wanted to do the same.”
WE ARE NATURE CASE STUDY

“We are nature…what are we without nature? Together, regardless of race and culture and all that. I mean it’s pretty self-explanatory.”

“The reason I take photos is a way to show people to see what I see. I think the best way is through my photos. Its powerful.” — Magali Rocha, 19
“When you can see it, that’s when it becomes intriguing in my eyes… That’s why I like this “we are nature” project.” #WeAreNature refers to anything living, anything breathing. I feel like we are connected to that, we are nature… We kind of run it, we have to maintain it, we own it, this is how we protect it and make sure it’s okay. And that’s why I respect the U.S. Fish and Wildlife and Groundwork Denver, the youth corps and all of the other groups that are promoting stuff like this, because it's important. We have to protect our land.” –Jai, age 23
WE ARE NATURE CASE STUDY: Impact

www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/ea/community/index.html
DENVER SMART CITY CASE STUDY

Smart City Photovoice Project
Summer 2017

smartcityphotovoice.wordpress.com
DENVER SMART CITY CASE STUDY: Partners

DENVER SMART CITY

GROWHAUS

NORTH DENVER CORNERSTONE COLLABORATIVE

UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & SERVICE LEARNING

pcsforpeople
DENVER SMART CITY CASE STUDY: Goals

“What do you love about your community?”

“What would you like to see change in your community?”
DENVER SMART CITY CASE STUDY: Recruitment & Participants

City Photovoice Project

Teens - share your experience. Take pictures. Earn prizes!

13 Participants
All participants were between the ages of 13-17

11 of the 13 participants fall below the 200% poverty level and were, therefore, eligible to receive a laptop following completion of the project.

8 of the 13 participants attended every workshop offered.
DENVER SMART CITY CASE STUDY:
Structure

**WORKSHOP 1: INTRODUCTION TO PROJECT**
- Participants got to know one another
- Participants learned about the Photovoice process, Smart Cities, and the Project
- Participants learned about basic photography skills including aesthetics, ethics and consent

**WORKSHOP 2: PHOTOS & EXPERIENCES**
- Participants continued to build relationships based upon trust
- Participants learned basic photo editing skills
- Participants decided how they wanted to share their work with the public, and with decision makers
- Participants created flyers for the public exhibit

**WORKSHOP 3: REVIEW OF WORK**
- Participants explored topics and themes from their own photos, as well as from peer photos
- Participants deepened their understanding of issues in their community through discussion with peers
- Facilitators guided teens in photo selection and narrative development to have the greatest impact in sharing their experiences.

**WORKSHOP 4: FINAL PREPARATION**
- Participants prepared themes to share at the exhibit and created artist statements
- Participants helped create the agenda for the exhibit and decided on who would speak
- Facilitators guided teens through preparing talking points.

**Dates:**
- JULY 10, 2017
- JULY 17, 2017
- JULY 24, 2017
- JULY 31, 2017
DENVER SMART CITY CASE STUDY:
Public Exhibits

- August 3, 2017: GrowHaus
- October 2-4, 2017: Wellington Webb Building
DENVER SMART CITY CASE STUDY:
Impact on Participants

Janet
Balancing Life

Ruby
Open up
DENVER SMART CITY CASE STUDY: Impact on Participants

9 of 13 participants completed pre and post assessments.

Some questions included:

- I determine what will happen in my life
- I can make a difference in my community
- I am optimistic about the future
- I am powerful
DENVER SMART CITY CASE STUDY: Informing Land Use Decisions
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What issues do you see highlighted in these photos?

How can Denver address the issues illustrated in these photos?

A safe place to learn, live, and play improves our communities and our quality of life. This includes protecting our environment and natural setting.

Make streets safe for everyone — residents, kids, police, safety, etc.

Increasing the number of parks and playgrounds is important. People should be able to enjoy the outdoors. Parks and playgrounds should be accessible to all ages.
It was a pleasure interacting with the students and talking to them about their pictures. Those interactions always remind me of the importance of engaging some of our youngest citizens in the work that we do and the decisions that we make to further improve our great city, and it reinforces with them the importance of their involvement in driving outcomes within their communities.

-Bob McDonald, Director of the Denver Department of Public Health and Environment
DENVER SMART CITY CASE STUDY: Benefits of Partnerships

Build Trust

Incentivize

Community building

Greater impact

Farther Reach

Commitment
QUESTIONS

- Questions for the presenters
- Questions for you
THANK YOU!

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