

May Care Package

The Power of Youth Co-Design



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Bite (5-10 minutes)

Article Review – “I’m a service designer and I’ve never done co-design – here’s why” – Martha Edwards



The article shares why a co-design model shouldn’t be approached, but not because it doesn’t work - because there needs to be more intention in the approach and planning.

This article shares a few main points to consider when approaching co-design with youth and/or lived experts:

- **Is there space for power sharing** – does your agency or organization have the ability to share power and decision-making with lived experts?
- **Are the timelines to complete the co-design equitable** – Does this project need to be done with a quick turnaround? If so, co-design might not be the best approach.
- **Are we creating something that genuinely affects the community** and if not, should engagement methods be used, or should we use engagement/feedback?

Some organizations are not creating conditions for true co-design. However, there are things we can do to work towards a co-design model.

Ask Yourself

- What is missing that would allow you to work with youth/lived experts in a co-design capacity?
- What can you do to authentically build trust with the lived experts in your community?
- What community partners might be able to help approach a co-design model?

Snack (20-30 minutes)

Option 1: Take a Quiz

The [“But is it co-design?”](#) quiz by Beyond Sticky Notes¹ is tool designed to help you think about co-design. It is anonymous and does not provide



¹ [Beyond Sticky Notes](#) – A service design and co-design training, coaching, facilitation and support for communities, new practitioners, and senior leaders.



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exhaustive advice on *how* to execute co-design but provides suggestions and considerations, based on your answers.

Option 2: How Are Decisions Currently Being Made in Your Organization?

Young adults and lived experts want the freedom to choose where and how they engage in decision-making. Quaglia School Voice² data shows that when students have a voice they are:

- 3x more likely to experience self-worth in school
- 5x more likely to be engaged in school
- 5x more likely to have a sense of purpose in school

Review the table below created by the Institute for Youth Success at Education Northwest³ and answer if decisions are made mostly by adults, youth or if there is shared control.

How Are Decisions Currently Being Made in Your Organization?			
	Adults Control	Youth & Adults Share Control	Youth Control
Decisions in settings where there are more youth than adults:			
Establishment of group norms and expectations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Management of conflict	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recruitment of new program participants	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Use of space	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Program development & curriculum design	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Facilitation of program activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Planning of special events	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Decisions in settings where there are more adults than youth:			
Fundraising	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communications and outreach	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Evaluation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff hiring, orientation, and evaluation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discuss with Your Team

- Reflect on how youth are currently engaged with different aspects of your programming, decision-making, and operations. Are there opportunities for more youth involvement? What are they?
- If mostly adults are making decisions, where can youth or lived experts share that space with the decision makers?
- How can we strengthen a sense of belonging without tokenizing?

² Quaglia Institute for School Voice and Aspirations. School voice report 2016.

³ Exploring Youth Voice and Youth-Adult Partnership | Institute For Youth Success at Education Northwest



Meal (90 minutes +)

Watch & Discuss the May Graduation Equity Webinar

The Power of Youth Co-Design



An effective and evidence-based way to improve schools, nonprofits, and government agencies is to learn from the perspective of those being served. You may have heard the quote: “nothing for us, without us.” Co-design provides youth and lived experts a space to assist in decision-making. We know that staff and students need extra care this year. Join OSPI as we share the principals of co-design, what co-design is not and how it’s being used today. We will be joined by Sam Martin from SDM Consulting. Sam works with lived experts in their community to advocate for positive change. We will also be joined by Cindy Cholico, Migrant Education Program Manager from ESD 105. She will share about the Migrant Education Program and how co-designed helped improve the engagement and education in the community. Free Clock Hours are available for participating. [Register](#) for live content on November 10 or [watch the recording](#).

Discussion Questions for Your Team

- How can the principals of co-design connect to your coaching and how do you see it working in the schools you’re involved in?
- What steps can be taken to move to a co-design model in your district?

Contact Us



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