



ENGAGING ADOLESCENTS INSTITUTE
NOVEMBER 9, 2011
BOSTON, MA

ENGAGING ADOLESCENTS: SELF-ASSESSMENT WORKSHEET

For further information on the themes and ideas presented here and throughout the day, see *Engaging Adolescents: Building Participation in the Arts* (© 2011, National Guild for Community Arts Education).

I. WHY ENGAGE ADOLESCENTS?

Why does your organization want to more fully engage adolescents? What are the specific benefits you hope to achieve with success in this effort?

How important is this to your organization? How important is this to you? To whom else is this important? What are the implications?

II. CONNECTING WITH ADOLESCENTS

Given teens' unique developmental stage in life, why should they be more engaged in your organization? What's in it for them, *according to THEM and the things they need, want, and desire?*

If you don't know the answer to the question above, how might you find out?

III. CREATING THE CONDITIONS FOR DEEPER YOUTH ENGAGEMENT: THREE CORE COMPONENTS

Organizational Commitment:

In what ways can you demonstrate the organization's commitment to deeper engagement with teens?

What does your organization need to further develop? What work do you have ahead of you to broaden and/or deepen the organization's commitment?

Youth Empowerment

What do you and/or your organization have to offer? What people and/or policies are already in place to encourage authentic youth empowerment?

What do you need to further develop? What work do you have ahead of you to encourage more authentic youth empowerment?

Supportive Environment

In what ways is your organization and/or programming already set up to provide a supportive environment for teens?

What do you need to further develop? What work do you have ahead of you to develop a more supportive environment for teens?

IV. ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES

What specific strategies sound particularly relevant/exciting/promising/important in your context?

Engagement Strategy	Why relevant to us	Outside models to look at/people to consult	Who within my organization to involve/consult/enlist	Who outside our organization to involve/enlist/collaborate with

Additional thoughts

V. NEXT STEPS

When you get home

Who do you need to talk to?

Who do you need to meet?

What do you need to learn about?

What do you need to study?

Which of the above is first?

When asked by colleagues, "What did you learn at the Engaging Adolescents Institute," what will you tell them?