

SDG youth inter-space: Draft Concept



What

At the ACGC we are mobilizing a small group of youth (and youthful people) interested in being part of a youth inter-space for exploring the Sustainable Development Goals through a critical/collaborative/creative approach. The SDGs will serve as a lens, or as talking points, for exploring youth stories and perspectives. Much like a social innovation lab, maker space, creative hub, or co-lab, this emergent inter-space is participant-driven and will thus soon be (re)named by the participants. While one focus of the inter-space is the exploration of SDGs, participants will also have the opportunity to gain new creative, communication and collaboration skills relevant to their own lives and initiatives.

Possible opportunities or venues for sharing outcomes and processes include an ACGC digital and print magazine highlighting how Albertan's are contributing to the SDGs; Make Something Edmonton's 100 in 1 Day on June 3; Next Gen's Petcha Kutch event on June 1, a youth forum or intervention at the ACGC SDG symposium in Calgary this October, a presentation or intervention at the Centre for Global Citizenship Education and Research's conference also in October, and more as they arise!

Who

We are looking to mobilize youth from a wide range of cultural, gender, educational, etc. backgrounds who are interested in this approach and bringing their skills and ideas to it. It is anticipated that we will meet for workshops twice a month, or as needed, according to the availability of the participants. We will be welcoming participants on an ongoing basis.



Why

There are several reasons for this initiative, here are a few of them:

Make sure youth voices are included in discussions around the SDGs

During fall 2017, the Alberta Council for Global Cooperation, in collaboration with Price Waterhouse Coopers, the Government of Canada, the Government of Alberta, and the City of Calgary, will host a symposium to engage Canadians in collaborative, innovative, solution-based conversations about the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals and how Canadians will achieve these goals by 2030. It is imperative to bring youth voices to this stage so that youth don't go unheard in the conversations that will shape our futures.

Bring art and community culture to the SDGs

While the collective response to the SDGs has been generally much more positive than that of the millennial goals, a notable criticism of the SDG framework is that it does little to emphasize the role of arts and culture in sustainable development. This arts-led and community driven initiative will provide an opportunity to address this.

Pilot a community-engaged approach to communications at ACGC and beyond

ACGC has a longstanding commitment to international cooperation that is people-centred, democratic, just, inclusive, and respectful of the environment and Indigenous cultures. We hope that modeling a collaborative and engaged approach to communication will offer opportunities for innovating new practices and new relationships. Leslie Robinson, drawing from her own practice as an 'artist' and participatory designer, is eager to share her practice with ACGC, our members, youth participants and the community at large in support of the shared goal of achieving sustainable development.

When

It is anticipated that we will meet for workshops twice a month, or as needed. Our first meeting is Thursday, April 24th at 1pm at ACGC.

Contact

Please contact Leslie Robinson (leslie.robinson@acgc.ca) for more details.