Vision

All young people will have equitable access to opportunities to develop their creative potential, to live richer, fuller lives and develop the critical learning and life skills they need to become active contributors to their communities.

Young people thrive when they have opportunities to maximize their creative potential. Research shows that creative youth development supports young people in developing the personal, social, and intellectual skills that are critical to success in life, school and work. However, there are simply not enough CYD programs to meet the needs of youth in our communities and existing CYD programs need more support and investment.

Creative youth development is a recent term for a longstanding theory of practice that integrates creative skill-building, inquiry, and expression with positive youth development principles, fueling young people’s imaginations and building critical learning and life skills.

A growing movement is working to ensure that all young people have opportunities to benefit from creative youth development participation. The Creative Youth Development National Blueprint (2018) was developed by the CYD National Partnership—in concert with a cross-sector, 10-member national advisory committee and three national working groups—to drive collective action. The purpose of this agenda is to increase access to CYD for American youth and holistically support positive change in the lives of young people.

By 2023:

- Creative Youth Development (CYD) will be a broadly known, well-researched, deeply respected and richly funded field of practice that reaches communities throughout the United States to provide life-changing opportunities to youth through the arts, humanities, and sciences.

- Educators, funders, and community leaders will collaborate across sectors to implement Creative Youth Development programs in a variety of contexts in schools and communities.

- Youth will have increased access to CYD programs.

- A broad array of funders will be familiar with Creative Youth Development as a strategy for supporting the development of young people, extending beyond arts-specific funders to include those focused on education, health and well-being, juvenile justice, and workforce development. More funders will be investing in CYD.

- Creative Youth Development practitioners will have a shared understanding of the defining characteristics and principles of CYD practice as well as shared language, models, research, and tools to help build a case for programs.

- A robust community of practitioners across the globe will be connected and work to continually refine and improve the practice of Creative Youth Development to best serve young people and their communities.
Three Strategic Priorities
This Blueprint builds on the 2014 Collective Action for Youth Agenda by prioritizing three strategic areas—Visibility and Impact, Funding, and Field-Building—and identifying specific actions for cross-sector advancement of the field. With support from the National Endowment for the Arts, the CYD National Partnership gathered input from more than 650 stakeholders through numerous community conversations throughout the country in 2016 and 2017. The Partnership also commissioned research by the Forum for Youth Investment that mapped opportunities for alignment between CYD and allied youth sectors. Three cross-sector Action Teams were then formed to analyze and distill the research and stakeholder inputs and make final recommendations for the Blueprint.

Implementation of key strategies is underway in concert with national action teams and the field. Participants include youth, practitioners, researchers, funders, policy makers, and other stakeholders in creative youth development and allied sectors (e.g., mental health, juvenile justice, workforce development, youth development, education, and community development).

VISIBILITY & IMPACT: Documenting and Communicating Outcomes and Impact
Goals:
- Support the CYD field with language and tools to support consistency, clarity, quality, and ease in communicating about CYD and its impact. Determine how to best frame the case for CYD to garner support and attention from policymakers, funders, and allied youth sectors.
- Document and boldly communicate national data on CYD program impact and youth outcomes to support individual youth and programs, influence policy, and garner support.

Key Actions:
- Create a suite of communications tools, informed by and easily accessible, to the field that convey the key characteristics of CYD and its impact.
- Launch a national storytelling campaign to boldly communicate CYD as a powerful solution for positive outcomes for youth.
- Develop and promote a shared conceptual framework for documenting and communicating the impact of creative youth development programs.
- Collect and aggregate field-wide data on impact and outcomes through a shared evaluation tool.
- Develop a CYD national research agenda.

FUNDING: Building Pathways to Funding
Goals:
- Create a market for CYD practice.
- Make pathways to funding more equitable for all CYD programs/organizations.
- Increase & diversify funding.

Key Actions:
- Map the CYD funding landscape & activate a comprehensive funder engagement strategy.
- Develop CYD communications tools and case examples for funder engagement.
- Elevate the role of intermediary organizations and networks.
FIELD BUILDING: Professional Development, Networking & Technical Assistance

Goals:
- Expand and deepen opportunities for the CYD field to connect and learn.
- Cultivate and strengthen local, regional, and national cross-sector relationships with allied youth sectors.

Key Actions:
- Utilize conferences and meetings hosted by National Partners as platforms to convene the CYD field nationally and internationally.
- Support, catalyze, and connect local, state, and regional peer learning networks through the Emerging Young Artists’ Leadership Exchange, online learning among stakeholder groups, and documentation of effective models.
- Foster year-round online learning, information resources, and continuous communications.
- Cultivate and strengthen local, regional, and national cross-sector relationships with allied youth sectors.

This plan represents a shared vision for amplifying promising strategies highlighted in recent research and practice, increasing investment in CYD nationally, and catalyzing action that will bring new resources and support to CYD practice throughout the country. Woven throughout the Blueprint are the core values of the CYD Movement: racial equity and social justice, youth voice, and collective action.

Just as the field of CYD is dynamic, this Blueprint is dynamic and will continue to be revised to reflect shifting landscape, context, needs, opportunities, and resources. To start, we have outlined strategic actions for the next 1-3 years. The Blueprint will evolve as implementation unfolds and will be updated online to reflect progress toward goals. The Blueprint will be published to the CYD national website, www.creativeyouthdevelopment.org in March 2018.

March 2018
BYAEP’s Framework for Outcomes in Youth Arts Programs

Quality Youth Arts Programs provide Opportunities, a Positive Climate, and Connections* to create change in the lives of youth.

THEORY OF CHANGE

If youth participate in high-quality arts programs, then they will develop specific skills and competencies (I Create, I Am, We Connect), which lead to a set of intermediate outcomes** (able to engage and be productive, to navigate, and to make connections with others), which in turn lead to a set of long-term outcomes (resiliency, self-efficacy and personal fulfillment, and community engagement) that together constitute life success.

- **I CREATE**
  - Builds Artistic, Problem Solving, and Expressive Skills
    - Youth develop skills in artistic engagement, problem solving, critical thinking, and expression.

- **I AM**
  - Strengthens Identity
    - Youth develop confidence, knowledge of self, an informed cultural identity, and a positive view of their future.

- **WE CONNECT**
  - Develops Community
    - Youth develop meaningful relationships and civic engagement as they contribute to and are recognized by an inclusive community.

- **RESILIENCY**
- **SELF-EFFICACY and PERSONAL FULFILLMENT**
- **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**
- **Able to Navigate**
- **Able to Make Connections**
- **Able to Engage and be Productive**

Boston Youth Arts Evaluation Project (BYAEP) Collaborators:

* Adapted from The National Research Council and Institute of Medicine, 2002, Community Programs to Promote Youth Development.
**Adapted from The Community Action Framework for Youth Development, 2002, Youth Development Strategies, Inc., and the Institute for Research and Reform in Education.
Kristi House’s Project GOLD provides outreach and services to children exploited in sex trafficking to help them escape dangerous lives at the hands of traffickers and predators.

Project GOLD operates a Drop In Center which uses a strengths-based, survivor-advised approach to help girls see a better future for themselves and restore their lives.

The Drop In Center provides youth advocates and therapists who provide programs weekday afternoons and evenings for enrichment, education and diversion from the streets. It operates in the heart of an urban neighborhood close to Midtown Miami, in a beautifully restored and renovated home sitting on a 15,000-square-foot corner lot.

Girls who have been affected by sexual exploitation are welcome at the Center any time it is open. A counselor is always available to talk, or girls can just relax or study in the home-like setting. Food is always available and casual, family-style suppers where staff and clients eat together are provided during evening groups.

The Center is open on weekdays. Special accommodations after hours can be made by calling the 24-hour Project GOLD hotline.

Enrichment programs and groups offered include Life Skills, Health & Sex Education, Cooking & Baking, Art Therapy, Survivor Leadership, Recreational Therapy, Yoga & Fitness, tutoring and GED prep, therapeutic support group and two mentor programs. The Educational Initiative Program recognizes and encourages Members’ school achievement.

Kristi House Children’s Advocacy Center: 1265 NW 12 Avenue, Miami, FL 33136
Kristi House Tel: (305) 547-6800 Project GOLD: (305) 756-6877
www.kristihouse.org
COLLECTIVE ACTION FOR YOUTH
AN AGENDA FOR PROGRESS THROUGH CREATIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

The Need
Too many young people are disconnected from their communities and lack the means to make successful transitions to adulthood. They also face rapidly changing economic, social, technological, and environmental challenges that call for innovative solutions. Given opportunities to develop their creative potential, young people will live richer, fuller lives and develop the critical learning and life skills they need to become active contributors to their communities.

The Opportunity: Creative Youth Development
Out-of-school time and community-based programs in the arts, humanities, and sciences are untapped national assets with great potential to connect youth to their communities. Expanding the reach and impact of the creative youth development sector should be a national priority.

Creative youth development programs link individual growth with the emergence of social responsibility. As young people create their own work in the arts, humanities, and sciences, they build the personal, social, and intellectual capacities they need to succeed in school, career, and life. And as they experience the creative process over an extended period, they learn that they can use it to express their own identities, understand and change the world around them, and connect to the greater human experience.

Across the country, hundreds of creative youth development programs are setting high expectations for young people, encouraging positive risk taking, promoting leadership development, fostering relationships with adult mentors and peers, and offering real-world opportunities to contribute to social change.

National Summit on Creative Youth Development
To capitalize on the work of creative youth development programs nationwide and the impact they have on students, families, and communities, more than 200 leaders, funders, policymakers, researchers, and youth gathered in Boston for the National Summit on Creative Youth Development, March 27–29, 2014. The summit was presented by the Massachusetts Cultural Council in partnership with the National Guild for Community Arts Education and the President’s Committee on the Arts and the Humanities.

The delegates’ work was informed by a national research study that included in-depth interviews with a range of practitioners and policymakers in related fields, focus groups with youth, and a national survey of practitioners and young people from more than 150 creative youth development programs.

The overriding focus of the gathering was collective action: capitalizing on strong partnerships and focused advocacy to effect large-scale change on complex social issues. The summit produced the following agenda to implement at the local, state, and national levels.

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Policy and Advocacy Agenda

Position creative youth development as the catalyst for dynamic cross-sector collaborations to ensure young people’s academic, professional, and personal success.

- Build organizational readiness for collaboration toward shared youth development outcomes.
- Invest in structures and strategies that facilitate collective action to support youth and their successful transitions into careers, college, and adult life.

Establish young people and their creative youth development programs as key leaders in discovering and developing opportunities to improve the livability and economic viability of their communities.

- Connect creative youth development programs with local community development initiatives to improve community outcomes.
- Amplify youth voices and strengthen their roles as key decision makers in community development initiatives.

Develop and deepen opportunities for young people to create a more just and equitable society.

- Collaborate with youth to integrate their voices and leadership into the core structures and practices of creative youth development programs and the broader sector.
- Champion creative youth development programs as spaces in which young people develop positive self-identities, recognize liberating and oppressive forces, and activate these programs’ potential for impact.

Document and boldly communicate the vital impact and experience of creative youth development.

- Invest in capturing and analyzing impact through shared language, systems, and tools.
- Demonstrate impact in order to cultivate shared ownership of creative youth development across sectors.

Support and advocate for a strong creative youth development sector with effective business models, new revenue sources, and partnerships that generate adequate funding and sustain the sector.

- Organize and mobilize as a sector to increase capacity, sustainability, and impact.
- Advocate for and develop funding strategies to increase the strength and long-term impact of creative youth development programs.
The Drop In Center is home to Project GOLD, which welcomes all sexually exploited girls, regardless of their current residential placement, to participate. The Project GOLD Drop In Center is a place where girls are empowered to find their strengths in a non-judging, healing environment.

What is it?

Through award of a major grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Kristi House has begun Project BOLD to reach a highly underserved, misidentified and high risk subset of sex trafficked youth in the LGBTQI community. Project BOLD expands the Child Advocacy Center multi-disciplinary model by building partnerships with faith-based, minority, LBGTQI, and secondary educational organizations.

Who is it for?

Girls who have been affected by sexual exploitation are welcome at the Center any time we are open. A counselor is always available to talk, or girls can just relax or study in the home-like setting. Food is always available and casual, family-style suppers where staff and clients eat together are provided during evening groups.

The Center is open on weekdays. Special after-hours accommodations can be made by calling the 24-hour Project GOLD hotline. The Center is located in a residential neighborhood close to midtown.

Please call the Drop In Center at 305-756-6877 for address and directions.

Kristi House and Project GOLD are supported in part by:

The Women’s Fund Miami-Dade • The Ware Foundation • Lovelight Foundation

Open messages from Project GOLD girls to girls who are thinking about making a change:

Dear Love,

I just want you to know that you are loved and cared about. You are too precious to let any man or woman disrespect you or your body. I think Project GOLD would be good for any girl that is, or has been, in the life, because you will have people who care and are willing to listen and can relate and also understand what you are going through. They can give you resources to help you with things that you need, but all I’m asking is just think of so much better things you could do with your life. If I could do it, I know you can.

Love,
Project Gold leadership group member

Dear Friend

Stop choosing the wrong path, tell someone, make the correct decision. Be who you are. Don’t sell your body. You deserve to be treated with respect and dignity. Stop letting men, not even, boys, manipulate you. You’re too beautiful for that. I recommend Project GOLD because you have someone to talk to and someone who cares, who you can trust. Most people will just be disgusted and look at you in a dirty way, but the therapists and interns won’t. They won’t judge you and especially keep your info in confidentiality. Take this letter into consideration.

Love,
Project Gold leadership group member

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While Project GOLD works as a team for each girl, we do believe that one-to-one relationship-building is essential to healing. Therefore, each girl who becomes a Member at the Drop In Center will be assigned a specific staff member for mentoring, advocacy, and coordination for their specialized needs relating to exploitation. Each girl who becomes a Member will have the opportunity to earn monetary rewards by attending groups. Additional incentives are available in the educational initiative and through part-time internships and fellowships. These two pages describe the types of groups offered at the Center.

Project GOLD Drop In Center Programs

New Members’ Orientation

Orientation is designed to welcome new Members and to help them get a better understanding of the organization, the program, staff and all services available. Orientation takes place once a month.

Parent Orientation

This Orientation is designed to help parents/legal guardians get a better understanding of the organization, the program, staff and all services available. Orientation takes place once a month.

My Life (Trauma-Therapeutic Group)

This group is designed for clients to have the opportunity to discuss traumatic situations and/or events that have occurred in their lives. Clients will learn psycho education, feeling identification and regulation, and cognitive coping and processing. They will also be able to incorporate relaxation techniques such as meditation, guided imagery and progressive muscle relaxation. This group takes place once a week and incorporates the first four modules of Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. Upon completion, may transfer to individual therapy from this group.

Survivor Support Group (Therapeutic)

This therapeutic group provides a safe environment for survivors to share their experiences while gaining insight and support. It is also designed to empower survivors to make healthy decisions and avoid self-destructive behaviors. The group’s leader-mentor-facilitator is Katariina Rosenblantt, Ph.D. author and founder of There is Hope for Me, a non-profit organization dedicated to freeing victims of human trafficking.

Safer Sex

This class teaches girls appropriate use of various birth control and protection methods, with the goal of reducing the risk of getting a sexually transmitted disease or infection. In this class, Members will learn how to protect themselves and make healthier decisions. They will be able to explain the importance of STD testing and condom use, distinguish between bacterial and viral STDs and the consequences and treatment of each. They will also learn to identify key aspects of practicing safe sex, as well as use of contraception dates and proper use of condoms. This class will take place once every other month or more as needed.

Yoga & Fitness Classes

Partners provide classes that empower girls by addressing the symptoms of trauma and poverty such as limited education, addiction, violence, incarceration, teen pregnancy, HIV, and more through the practice of yoga. Girls will learn techniques for grounding themselves, connecting both their bodies and their minds. Fitness classes will help girls feel better and develop healthy habits.

Arts & Crafts Group

The creative process involved in expressing oneself artistically can help girls resolve issues as well as develop and manage behaviors and feelings, reduce stress, and improve self-esteem and awareness. This group will enable girls to use different mediums to express themselves creatively and non-verbally, while discovering new talents and enhance existing ones. It will also develop artistic skills, craft abilities, fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, analytic skills, color coordination and creativity, fostering individual creativity and provide a sense of hope for the future.

Recreational Group

This group is designed to help girls improve their mental and emotional well-being and help reduce depression, stress and anxiety, build confidence and socialize more effectively through fun and recreational activities. Activities may incorporate sports, games, dance and movement, drama, music, movies and more.

PhotoVoice Therapeutic Group

In this exciting program, members are given cameras to use photography to express themselves. Led by doctoral student Lauren Gutman of University of Miami who has been working with Project GOLD girls in groups will use Photo voice, an exploratory research methodology grounded in the principals of empowerment education, critical theory, constructivism, health promotion and documentary photography to help clients express themselves, and their trauma, through photography.

Educational Initiative Program

The Educational Initiative Program is designed to recognize and encourage Members’ school achievement.

Project GOLD provides group and individual tutoring to assist clients with school and GED, as well as assist with acquiring financial aid and other support for further education. Incentives are as follow:

- $100 for enrolling into a GED Program, training program, or into College.
- $100 for a Report Card with all Cs and above.
- $500 for a final Report Card with all As and Bs.
- $750 for earning a High School Diploma/GED.
- $2,000 for earning an Associate’s Degree or a certificate/license for a long-term training/vocational program.
- $4,000 for earning a Bachelor’s Degree.

The Educational Initiative Members meeting takes place once per week.

The GED Online Study program takes place three times a week.

Life Skills Group

This group helps promote the mental well-being and competence in girls as they learn the necessary skills to deal effectively with the demands and challenges of everyday life. The group empowers girls to master essential life skills needed for problem solving, critical thinking, effective communication, decision-making, creative thinking, interpersonal relationships, self-awareness, empathy and coping with stress and emotions. We even provide DRIVER’S ED!

Cooking & Baking Class

In this Life Skills class, girls will have hands-on experience and be exposed to various palates. This class is designed to help clients learn cooking and baking skills that last a lifetime and that can also help them increase self-esteem, life skills, and perceptions of abilities. Led by cooks and chefs from the community.

Youth Leadership Intensive Program

This program is designed to move Members from victims to survivors to leaders. It helps to build critical thinking and concrete leadership skills in a supportive and loving environment. Girls build public-speaking and community-organizing skills through outreach, events, advocacy and media work. The goal is to prepare youth survivors to lead the national movement to end CSEC as peer mentors and community educators. Graduates of this program are eligible to apply for internship and later for fellowship positions at Project GOLD. Successful completion of both will make a client eligible to apply for permanent staff positions with the program. This program is also helps prepare participants for college and other educational settings. Internships and Fellowships are a critical aspect in preparing girls to enter the professional working environment. The first step is the 90-day Internship, followed by the nine-month Fellowship. Both are stipend activities. The eight-week Youth Leadership Intensive takes places over the summer. Members must apply.

Our Community Cares...Providing Mentors to Project GOLD Girls

- The Links, Inc. Miami Biscayne Bay Chapter
- NOVA Southeastern University, College of Health Care Sciences and Nursing
- University of Miami (SPARK Program, William Butler Center for Volunteer Service and Leadership Development)
- Life Coach Kristin Sheffer of Simply Free Professional Coaching Services

projectgoldreferals@kristihouse.org

Drop In Center: (305) 756-6877

How does the Project GOLD Drop In Center work?

Project GOLD Hotline: 1-877-GOLD-916
Key trauma messages to a young person who may be experiencing trauma-related triggering:

1. It is not happening now.
2. You are safe.
3. You are not inherently dangerous or toxic.
4. You are good.
5. You have a future.

GUIDE FOR RELATIONSHIPS WITH TRAUMATIZED CHILDREN

- Communicate that the child is not responsible for the trauma.
- Have a relationship that serves the child’s needs instead of yours.
- Have a relationship based on truth
- Remain calm when confronted with horrifying information
- Be historical for the child- remember their stories
- Facilitate information sharing system (When appropriate, such as if you work in partnership with their counselor.)
- Communicate that the child is worthy of love, protection and care.