



THE GEORGETOWN PROJECT
Leaders In Youth Development Since 1997

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**The Georgetown Project Wants To Hear From High School Students
Youth Voices Survey Open Through December 15th**

The Georgetown Project has opened its Youth Voices Survey to gather input from local high school students in the community. The link to the survey, which is accessible by computer or cell phone, is

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2019YouthVoicesSurvey>

“The Georgetown Project has a long history of providing young people with the space and opportunity to have a voice in our community,” said Leslie Janca, Chief Executive Officer, “One way we do this is through our Youth Voices Survey, which is open to all high school students from all schools in Georgetown through December 15th.”

“The Youth Voices Survey is important because the top three issues identified by youth will drive the agenda for our next Youth Voices Summit, scheduled for March 11, 2020. Youth Summits are held every few years to bring teens and community leaders together around issues important to youth.

“Many times, youth grow up in Georgetown never having met a community leader. It’s very empowering when a kid who doesn’t feel connected has a meaningful conversation with our city manager, police or fire chief, superintendent or chamber president. Planning with nonprofit and faith leaders can also connect young people with issues they are passionate about. Add time for fun and fellowship, and the Youth Voices Summit is a pretty special experience for youth and adults alike.

“The summit connects the generations in lively discussion around three issues identified by youth. Past summit issues have included everything from the need for free mental health and counseling services to suicide and substance use prevention to employment and service opportunities for teens. Youth care deeply about making Georgetown a better place to grow up. They just need the chance to shine and contribute,” said Janca.

Youth summits offer a springboard for youth to become engaged citizens and are a longtime youth development strategy of The Georgetown Project, dating back to 1997

when the homegrown organization was created to mobilize a common vision for a healthy, intergenerational community.

The Georgetown Project will host the 2020 Youth Voices Summit with its partners in the Afterschool Alliance, a collective of 10 local nonprofit organizations working in tandem to provide safe, enriching and skill-building out-of-school-time programs for youth in the community. Progress around issues from the 2016 Youth Voices Summit will also be highlighted as well so that youth know adults are listening.

Janca, added that The Georgetown Project's Summer Youth Employment Program was created to address the need for employment opportunities for at-risk youth, an issue identified through a previous youth summit. "There are a number of important youth services in our community today because teens connected with community leaders who prioritize the youth voice."

For more information, visit www.georgetownproject.org, or call 512-943-0074.