

Background on Denver's CYFC Initiative:

In June 2006, representatives from the Mayor's Office for Education and Children, Assets for Colorado Youth, and the Children, Youth and Environments Center for Research and Design at the University of Colorado at Denver launched the Denver CYFC Initiative, inspired by the principles of the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The CRC guarantees young people the right to supportive environments and processes through which they can make their voices heard in matters that affect them. We are working with key stakeholders from around Denver to implement the CYFC Initiative. By forming a broad-based coalition of public and private partners, we aim to unify and strengthen Denver's efforts to provide healthy, safe, and caring environments for young people, and, by extension, all residents of Denver. This Initiative will not only benefit Denver's children and families, but will also help the city attract and retain the workforce essential to the city's long-term well-being.

Inspired by innovative efforts around the world to create healthy, high-functioning cities for all, Denver's Child & Youth Friendly City Initiative aims to:

- ensure children and youth have a *voice and are decision makers* in their communities and in Denver,
- strengthen people and places that make children and youth feel recognized and valued in Denver, and
- ensure that Denver supports the healthy development of children and youth.

Key features of Denver's Child & Youth Friendly City Initiative:

- Founded on a unique broad based community partnership that actively engages stakeholders from a variety of sectors.
- Strong focus on youth voice and meaningful youth engagement.
- The focus is citywide - spatially, socially & organizationally. Becoming a child and youth friendly city requires that the community consider the built environment, the natural environment, opportunities for youth, and the social structure that supports them.
- Strong focus on the process of engaging thousands of citizens in defining a Child & Youth Friendly Denver and on the many potential outcomes of such an intentional process.
- There is an emphasis on the context in which children and youth grow up. The focus is "place based," rather than program or service based.
- Part of a larger international movement in urban settings that has not yet taken hold in the United States.

Current Phase: A Community Wide Conversation Campaign

Creating a child and youth friendly Denver requires the long-term engagement and commitment of a broad array of citizens. The current focus of the Initiative is to:

- Gather 10,000 Voices.
- Facilitate more than 100 conversations while creating opportunities for meaningful conversations and involvement at every level of the community.
- Collect information about existing resources and relevant data about Denver's children, youth and families.
- Mobilize a group of more than 100 stakeholders to move the conversation forward.

To get involved in the Initiative, or for more information, visit:

www.partoftheconversation.org

or contact us at
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Founding Partners

