



Checklist for Youth Participation

by Naomi Ortiz

- 1) Get a group of youth together.
- 2) The more diverse group of youth to participate, the better (diverse in race, sexual orientation, gender, class and disability).
- 3) Have one or more specific adult as a contact for them to talk about any problems with logistics, feeling uncomfortable, etc.
- 4) Make sure there are clear expectations about what you may expect from the youth. For example, "We want your opinions & ideas and the appropriate time to express them is at the board meeting."
- 5) Make sure you are as consistent as possible in everything you do with the youth.
- 6) Watch out for using big words or acronyms (if you do, make sure you explain).
- 7) Make sure youth understand that they have a right to challenge and their opinions are as important as the adults.
- 8) Don't put the youth on the spot; they will contribute if they feel comfortable.
- 9) Realize that this is a learning experience for all involved, don't freak out over mistakes in protocol, etc.

If you have additional tips you would like to share, send them to Julie@fvkasa.org. Feel free to distribute widely, with attribution. Thanks.