

# Cultivating a Smart Equity-Driven Policymaking Infrastructure to Improve Youth Learning Opportunities

Award #: 1952144

Sheena Erete, DePaul University  
PG, FY2020



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**Maddy Williams,**  
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**Bradly Johnson,**  
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**Catherine Stapleton,**  
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**Deborah Williams,**  
*Habilitative Systems*

**Deonna Hart,**  
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**Edwina Hamilton,**  
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**Helen Slade,**  
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**Jackie Glass,**  
*Hartgrove Hospital/Garfield Park  
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**Jai Jones,**  
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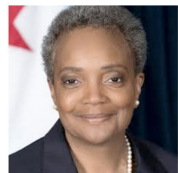
**Juan Villalobos,**  
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**Kenesha Palmore-Edwards,**  
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**Roberta Logwood,**  
*Westside Health Authority*

**Sandra Diaz,**  
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**Sharif Walker,**  
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**Mayor Lori Lightfoot**



**First Lady Amy  
Eshleman**



**Sybil Madison**  
Deputy Mayor for  
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Services



**Cameron Hardamon**  
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Senior Advisor to  
Deputy Mayor of  
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**Sahrish Saleem**  
Mayoral Fellow

# Project **OVERVIEW AND GOALS**

- To engage the OST stakeholders throughout Chicago at city level (e.g., city agencies funders) and community level (e.g., informal OST educators, youth, parents) in **creating a data-driven, community-led equitable out-of-school learning ecosystem**
  - ◆ Define a socio-technical infrastructure and shared language needed to create equitable OST learning opportunities.
  - ◆ Identify policies and practices that inhibit or support collaboration between city agencies, funding organizations, and community organizations in using smart data that informs the OST ecosystem.
  - ◆ Establish a framework of policies, practices, and a community-based collaboration structure to transform the OST landscape that is co-created by city agencies, community-based OST program providers, community residents and youth.

# Project **OVERVIEW AND GOALS**

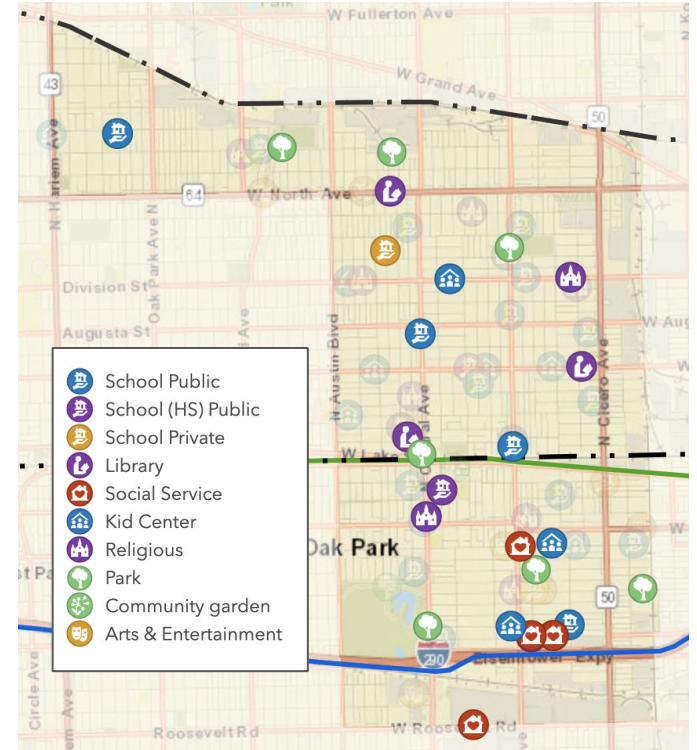
- This is a collaborative project with My CHI. My Future. (MCMF), a **Mayoral city-wide** initiative with the goal to:
  - ◆ Connect the out of school ecosystem in Chicago and make access to opportunity more equitable for Chicago's young people
- Our project is **community-led** with the **Austin** community, where the goal is to:
  - ◆ Establish a web of community hubs that enables CBOs to share resources and serve residents from every corner of Austin
  - ◆ Make Austin's opportunities and resources accessible to youth & families
  - ◆ Engage Austin's youth, amplify their voices, and build youth leadership

## Understand Existing Ecosystem

## Transform Ecosystem

	Step 1 Make Visible Infrastructure & Assets	Step 2 Identify Goals and Challenges	Step 3 Collaboratively Plan Sustainable Actions	Step 4 Activate Assets & Connect Ecosystem
EXAMPLES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Built infrastructure</li> <li>• Locations/spaces</li> <li>• Programs</li> <li>• People/orgs</li> <li>• Associations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community network</li> <li>• Transportation</li> <li>• Safety</li> <li>• Spaces</li> <li>• Food</li> <li>• Youth interests</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a community hub that makes existing resources accessible</li> <li>• Build a local shuttle to connect the community</li> <li>• Develop a community calendar</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a community timeline to execute plans</li> <li>• Distribution strategy to share community hub resources</li> <li>• Shared practices for new collaborations</li> </ul>
ACTIONS/METHODS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asset mapping</li> <li>• Workshops</li> <li>• Surveys</li> <li>• Leverage existing data sets and asset maps</li> <li>• Visualize data</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bring data to community to interpret and iterate on visualizations</li> <li>• Hold space for diverse members of the ecosystem to discuss their experiences</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a representative community-body to lead the initiative</li> <li>• Hold regular public gatherings to network and collaboratively plan</li> <li>• Identify potential support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work in interest groups</li> <li>• Connect assets, youth, families, &amp; OST entities</li> <li>• Seek funding from philanthropic and govt organizations to support transformation efforts</li> </ul>
CASE STUDY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth conducted on-the-ground physical asset mapping</li> <li>• Leveraged existing program data from online platform</li> <li>• Conducted workshop activities &amp; surveys</li> <li>• Mapped asset data with crime and walkability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interpreted data visualizations with community partners, residents, youth, and school principals and administrators</li> <li>• Identified community goals as well as barriers to achieving those goals</li> <li>• Discussed community history and prior efforts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify partner assets we can leverage and funding to allocate</li> <li>• Plan how to access &amp; leverage external assets to close gaps</li> <li>• Hold regularly meeting with community body with specific areas of focus</li> <li>• Create and present community proposal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting school district in efforts to identify and support most vulnerable families in community using existing community resources</li> <li>• New collaborations between youth-serving organizations based on goals</li> <li>• Executing community hub to support youth/families</li> </ul>

# Project **OVERVIEW AND GOALS**



Austin Community Workshop to discuss learning opportunities

Network 3 Area Chief

Parents

Librarian

Elementary Principal

After School Matters

Parks

Hospital

Out-of-school time Provider



Violence Prevention Workers

Youth

DePaul Research Team

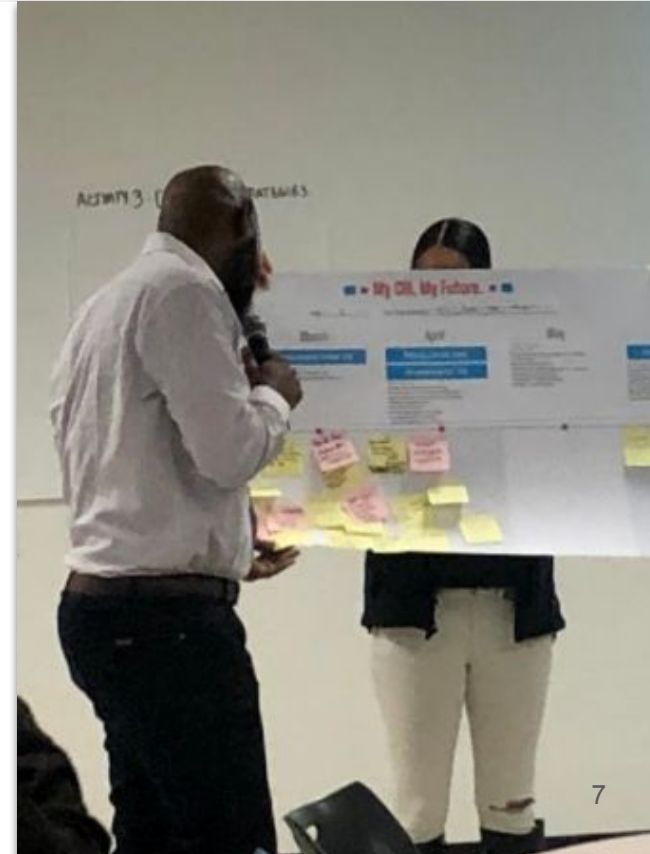
# Community Conversations

# PROJECT UPDATE (prior to grant and COVID-19)

## AUG. 2019 - MAR. 2020

*6 in-person workshops*

- **Shared** community data on OST programs, locations, street violence, and walkability
- **Connected our community** through
  - ◆ networking and a community resource directory
  - ◆ action maps for connecting youth to opportunities
  - ◆ a community calendar
- Collectively determined **Austin's priorities** for youth learning and supporting families
- Developed a **proposal** to build an Austin Hub

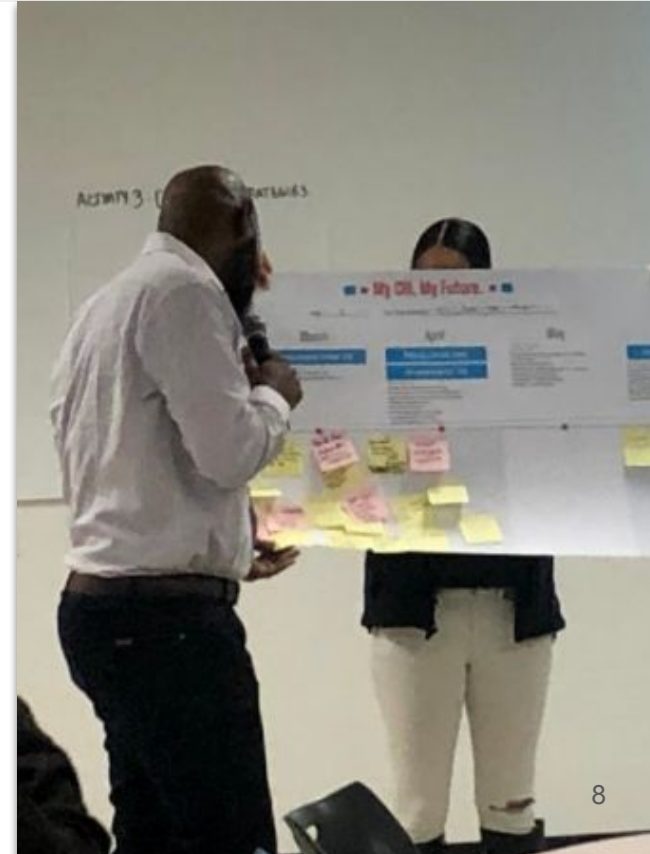


# PROJECT UPDATE

## MAR. 2020 - FEB. 2021

*6 virtual workshops and 11 virtual steering committee meetings*

- **Strategized** and **supported one another** through COVID-19
- **Talked with CPS** to lay out how organizations can best partner with schools
- **Shared resources for** supporting young people who are remote and the implications & precautions for in-person programming
- **Set the goal** of developing an **Austin web of hubs**:
  - ◆ Build off of ACT's Austin Hub and the existing assets in Austin
  - ◆ Connect providers to each other and residents to providers, both through physical sites connected by a shuttle and through a digital hub
- **Developed** long-term plans and funding goals for each working group





# PROJECT EVOLUTION

- This has all led to the emergence of the **Austin steering committee**, who participate in bimonthly meetings to plan the workshops and objectives
- AND, three Austin working groups that meet at least **once a month outside of the workshops** to strategize around specific areas:
  - ◆ **Mental Health** - led by Deborah Williams & Jackie Glass
  - ◆ **Austin Youth Congress** - led by Roberta Logwood & Deonna Smith-Hart
  - ◆ **Community Hub** - led by Sharif Walker & Helen Slade
- All of these tie back into the greater goal and mission of holistically supporting, empowering, and connecting youth to community resources and opportunities in order to create an equitable learning ecosystem in Chicago's Austin neighborhood.

# Cultivating a Smart Equity-Driven Policymaking Infrastructure to Improve Youth Learning Opportunities

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Understand Existing Ecosystem		Transform Ecosystem	
Step 1 Make Visible Infrastructure & Assets	Step 2 Identify Goals and Challenges	Step 3 Collaboratively Plan Sustainable Actions	Step 4 Activate Assets & Connect Ecosystem
<b>EXAMPLES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Built infrastructure</li> <li>Locations/spaces</li> <li>Programs</li> <li>People/orgs</li> <li>Associations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community network</li> <li>Transportation</li> <li>Safety</li> <li>Spaces</li> <li>Food</li> <li>Youth interests</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create a community hub that makes existing resources accessible</li> <li>Build a local shuttle to connect the community</li> <li>Develop a community calendar</li> </ul>
<b>ACTIONS/METHODS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Asset mapping</li> <li>Workshops</li> <li>Surveys</li> <li>Leverage existing data sets and asset maps</li> <li>Visualize data</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bring data to community to interpret and iterate on visualizations</li> <li>Hold space for diverse members of the ecosystem to discuss their experiences</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create a representative community-body to lead the initiative</li> <li>Hold regular public gatherings to network and collaboratively plan</li> <li>Identify potential support</li> </ul>
<b>CASE STUDY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth conducted on-the-ground physical asset mapping</li> <li>Leveraged existing program data from online platform</li> <li>Conducted workshop activities &amp; surveys</li> <li>Mapped asset data with crime and walkability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interpreted data visualizations with community partners, residents, youth, and school principals and administrators</li> <li>Identified community goals as well as barriers to achieving those goals</li> <li>Discussed community history and prior efforts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create a community timeline to execute plans</li> <li>Distribution strategy to share community hub resources</li> <li>Shared practices for new collaborations</li> </ul>

## Project Vision

A framework that allows the dynamic allocation of resources (human, technology, space, funding, programming) that ensures equitable neighborhood out-of-school opportunities that benefit under-resourced youth, helping them to discover and build on their interests

## Use-Inspired Research

a community-driven approach to evaluating the current OST learning landscape by bringing together key stakeholders and facilitating the conversation using interactive smart tools (i.e., data visualizations, GIS maps) that layer community-based OST program, city, and demographic data in order to expand and diversify OST learning opportunities and participation among underrepresented youth

## PG Activities

6 community design workshops  
11 steering committee meetings with data analysis  
Community-driven reports and proposal  
Framework for community-led, data-driven engagement  
Interactive maps with data-driven information  
Youth and community voice in collaboration for sustainability outside of the grant



# MCMF AUSTIN: **PROGRESS RECAP**



*August 2019 - February 2021*

# TEAM STRUCTURE

- **Researchers** lead the overall project, data collection, and workshop and tool design
- **Project Exploration** leads the coordination of the initiative at the community-level
- A **steering committee**, which anyone is welcome to join, meets bimonthly to:
  - ◆ plan the initiative's direction
  - ◆ coordinate between working groups
  - ◆ set the goals for each workshop
- **Working groups** focus on a particular aspect of the Austin web
  - ◆ **Mental Health** - led by Deborah Williams & Jackie Glass
  - ◆ **Austin Youth Congress** - led by Roberta Logwood & Deonna Smith-Hart
  - ◆ **Community Hub** - led by Sharif Walker & Helen Slade
- **Monthly workshops** bring Austin CBOs from every sector to the planning table

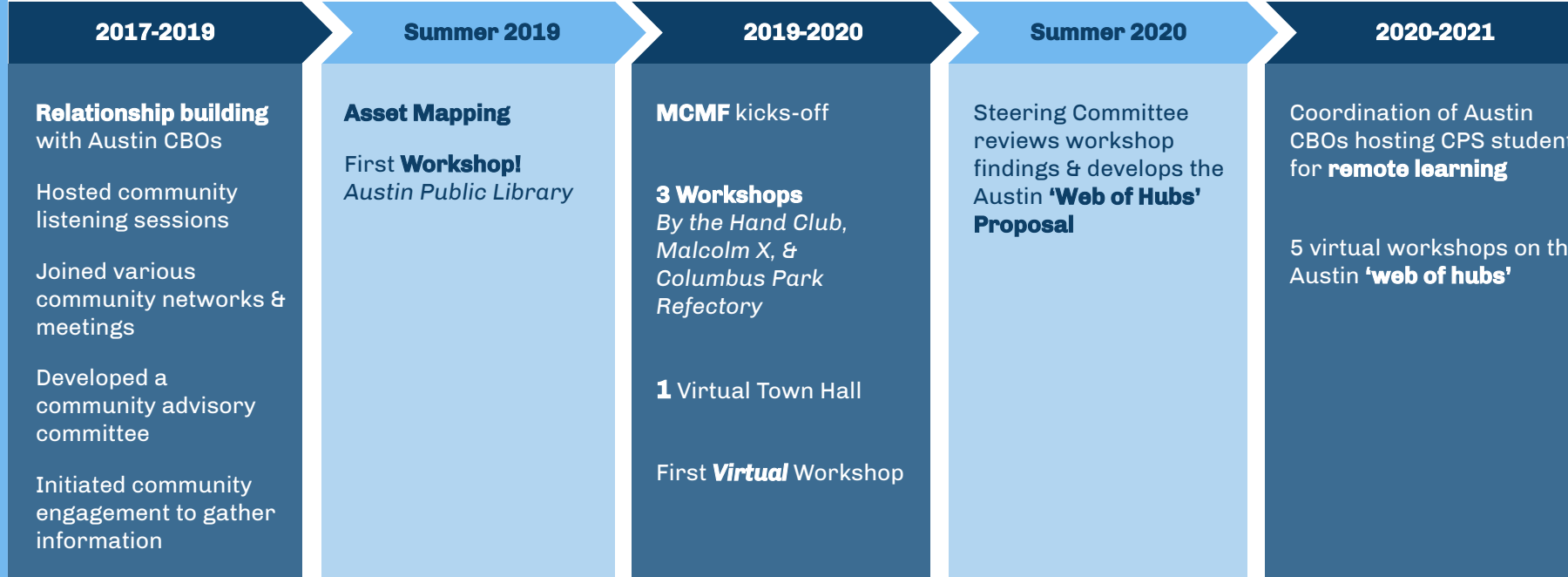
# MY CHI. MY FUTURE. GOALS

- My CHI. My Future. (MCMF) is a **Mayoral city-wide** initiative with the goal to:
  - ◆ Connect the out of school ecosystem in Chicago and make access to opportunity more equitable for Chicago's young people
- My CHI. My Future. (MCMF) **Austin** is **community-led**. Our goals are to:
  - ◆ Establish a web of community hubs that enables CBOs to share resources and serve residents from every corner of Austin
  - ◆ Make Austin's opportunities and resources accessible to youth & families
  - ◆ Engage Austin's youth, amplify their voices, and build youth leadership
- **Austin CBOs have been advancing these goals for years**, and we are now collaborating with MCMF to replicate our approach in other communities

# MY CHI. MY FUTURE. **PLAYERS**

- MCMF Austin is led by **Project Exploration** and is a **collaboration** between:
  - ◆ Austin's organizations and associations for young people and families
  - ◆ Local agencies and city departments
  - ◆ Austin youth and families
  - ◆ DePaul University & Northwestern University
  - ◆ The Mayor's office

# INITIATIVE TIMELINE



# INITIATIVE STRUCTURE

- **Project Exploration** leads the coordination of the initiative
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*August 2019 - August 2020*

# LAST YEAR

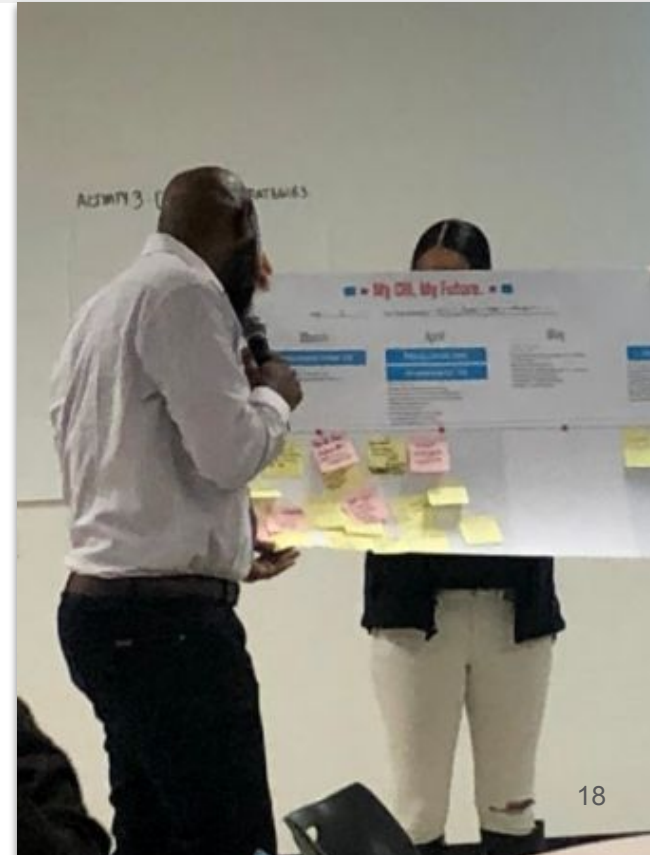


# LAST YEAR

## AUG. 2019 - AUG. 2020

*6 workshops and summer steering committee meetings*

- **Shared** community data on OST programs, locations, street violence, and walkability
- **Connected our community** through
  - ◆ networking and a community resource directory
  - ◆ action maps for connecting youth to opportunities
  - ◆ a community calendar
- Collectively determined **Austin's priorities** for youth learning and supporting families
- Developed a **proposal** to build an Austin Hub (View the proposal document [here](#))



# LAST YEAR

## AUG. 2019 - AUG. 2020

*6 workshops and summer steering committee meetings*

From these workshops & our collaborative analysis, we learned:

- Connecting youth to opportunity requires access to **transportation, food, hangout spaces, safe streets,** and **training** for providers and youth
- Connecting providers is crucial for supporting youth and making the most of the resources Austin providers have
- \*Connecting the community through a **physical and/or virtual “hub”** would help families and youth access resources, events, and each other



*September 2020 - February 2021*

# THIS YEAR



# THIS YEAR

## SEPT. 2020 - FEB. 2021

*5 virtual workshops*

- **Strategized** and **supported one another** through COVID-19
- **Talked with CPS to** lay out how organizations can best partner with schools
- **Shared resources for** supporting young people who are remote and the implications & precautions for in-person programming
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  - Connect providers to each other and residents to providers, both through physical sites connected by a shuttle and through a digital hub
- **Developed** long-term plans and funding goals for each working group

# MOVING FORWARD

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- All of these tie back into the greater MCMF initiative and mission of holistically supporting, empowering, and connecting youth to community resources and opportunities

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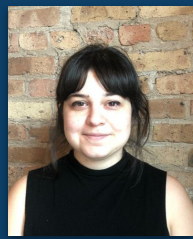
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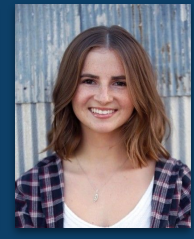
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**Sahrish Saleem**  
Mayoral Fellow

# Project Overview

## Use-Inspired Research

What is the problem being addressed and how have the needs of the target community (e.g., end-users, beneficiaries and community stakeholders) helped to shape the vision and activities of the project?

Be sure to mention the City, State of the target community, as well as community partners (mention this only within this section)

**(1-2 bullets addressing this)**

## PG Activities

Describe planning grant activities which may include project team building, as well as refining research and pilot concepts together with community stakeholder engagement and feedback.

Highlight completed activities in green, ongoing in blue, and anticipated activities in purple

	Make Visible Infrastructure & Assets	Identify Goals and Challenges	Collaboratively Plan Sustainable Actions	Activate Assets & Connect Ecosystem
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# Project Evolution

**How have planning grant activities shaped or evolved the long-term vision of the project? Specifically, we want to understand how engagement with your team (e.g., researchers and community partners) and feedback from the target community is informing your vision for the future IRG project. Give one or two specific examples.**

*Examples:*

*“We learned that the residents were not comfortable with a warning system in which government officials would offer evacuation based on potentially inaccurate risk predictions. Thus, we moved from a formal alert system to an integrated data dashboard that embedded locally-collected data and enabled the residents to make their own evacuation decisions.”*

*“We learned that emergency managers may have challenges trusting and using crowdsourced data to make correct decisions and allocate resources properly to the affected population who need them most. As a result, we have reevaluated our earlier crowdsourced-based design to ensure that the information propagating through our system is trustworthy to all who use it.”*

Suggested length: