

»KCONNECT

**MAY ACCOUNTABILITY
PARTNERS COUNCIL**

**20
24**

KCONNECT



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GALLERY WALK CATEGORIES



1 - KConnect Initiatives

KConnect is showcasing various system-level initiatives developed by the organization's Align and Design Teams, all of which highlight innovation and drive community impact.



2 - Community Partners

KConnect is shining a spotlight on its community partners in order to emphasize the crucial role they play in driving collective success.



3 - Initiatives Seeking Resources and Scaling

KConnect is featuring community partners and initiatives seeking resources, underlining the collaborative efforts that require community support to thrive.



May 2024 Accountability Partners Council

GALLERY WALK DIRECTORY

- 1 Grand Valley State University Office of the Provost
- 2 Shades of Strength Collaborative and Educators of Color Network
- 3 Educator Excellence with West Michigan Teacher Collaborative
- 4 No Surrender Running Club: Movement Building Through Youth Leadership
- 5 Yes! Ready by Five Millage: First Steps Kent
- 6 Where Policy Meets Community: The Shared Policy Agenda
- 7 Bringing National Learnings to Grand Rapids: Cincinnati Minority Business Accelerator
- 8 West Michigan Center for Arts + Technology: Cybersecurity
- 9 Elevate and Higher Reach: Community Partnerships at Work
- 10 Code on Wheels: Moving Toward a Career in Tech
- 11 Our Community's Children: Grow1000 Summer Youth Employment Program
- 12 The Arts and Culture Collective of Grand Rapids
- 13 Career Prep 2030: Expanding Career Awareness & Prep Doubling Career and Technical Education

GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY OFFICE OF THE PROVOST



Relationship to KConnect

Cross-Cutting Workgroup: College Enrollment

Success Measure: Post-Secondary Success

Approach: Curious.



Office of Community Engagement

Supporting faculty and staff seeking to integrate community partnerships, societal issues and local opportunities into their teaching, research and service.

The Office of Community Engagement also serves as an all-purpose bridge for the community-at-large into the GVSU Division of Academic Affairs to provide key introductions, generate new partnerships and utilize the knowledge, expertise and talents of GVSU staff, faculty and students.

The Office of Community Engagement manages the webpages found at www.gvsu.edu/community where direct links to a variety of webpages pertaining to community engaged work across the university can be found. The Office of Community Engagement also provides a [Community Service Directory](#) for members of the community-at-large to learn more about services, events and opportunities that are available or accessible to the general public. Contact Director for Civic Learning and Community Engagement, Travus Burton at burtotra@gvsu.edu for more.

School Partnerships – Direct Credit

Direct Credit provides an opportunity for high school students to earn college credit for the career and technical education courses they take at their local Career Tech Center or High School. The courses are confirmed to be equivalent by GVSU faculty and the program instructors are qualified through the GVSU Faculty Qualification Assurance process. Upon completion of the class(es), students with a B or better will receive a GVSU transcript with their course(s) and grade(s) listed.



May 2024 Accountability Partners Council

GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY OFFICE OF THE PROVOST



Relationship to KConnect

Cross-Cutting Workgroup: College Enrollment

Success Measure: Post-Secondary Success

Approach: Curious.



Benefits:

- Expand access to higher education.
- Eliminate cost barriers for high school students to earn college credit.
- Align closely with Michigan Department of Education's goal to increase Secondary and Postsecondary school partnerships.
- Direct Credit coursework is portable.

Partnerships:

- Allegan County Area Tech & Education Center (Allegan)
- Careerline Tech Center (Holland)
- Charlevoix-Emmet Intermediate School District (Charlevoix)
- Kent Career Tech Center (Grand Rapids)
- Muskegon Area Career Tech Center (Muskegon)
- Northwest Education Services (Traverse City)
- West Michigan Center for Arts and Technology (Grand Rapids)
- Wilson Talent Center (Lansing)

To learn more about direct credit at Grand Valley State University, please contact Mike Eichberger, School Partnership Specialist, in the Office of the Provost, at eichbem@gvsu.edu, or by phone at 616-331-2181.



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SHADES OF STRENGTH COLLABORATIVE AND EDUCATORS OF COLOR NETWORK



Relationship to KConnect

Align and Design Team: Diverse Educators

Success Measure: Career Readiness,
Post-Secondary Success, Thriving Family Income

Approach: Creative. Courageous.



The **Educators of Color Network** (ECN) is a student-led organization at GVSU committed to supporting both pre-service and in-service educators, offering professional development, mentoring, and networking opportunities. ECN strategically aligns its efforts with **Shades of Strength Collaborative** (SOS), a dedicated network fostering a supportive and enriching community for PK-12 educators of color within Kent County, for enhanced impact to train and retain educators of color.

SOS is a KConnect initiative launched by the Diverse Educators Align and Design Team. This team utilizes the 360-degree model to inspire, train, recruit, and retain educators of color.

Diverse Educators 360° Model

KCONNECT

Inspire

students of color currently in Kent County
to become teachers of tomorrow

Kent ISD Students of Color
Diverse Educators Communications Campaign

Train

future teachers of color in college programs that
are high quality and culturally responsive

Educators of Color Network
Grand Valley State University

Retain

teachers of color by ensuring the Kent County
and the community are places where people
from all backgrounds can find belonging

Shades of Strength Collaborative

Recruit

teachers of color to fill open teaching positions
in Kent County schools

West Michigan Teacher Collaborative
Kent ISD

POLICY CHANGE: Opportunity Index



May 2024 Accountability Partners Council

SHADES OF STRENGTH COLLABORATIVE AND EDUCATORS OF COLOR NETWORK



Relationship to KConnect

Align and Design Team: Diverse Educators

Success Measure: Career Readiness,
Post-Secondary Success, Thriving Family Income

Approach: Creative. Courageous.



This past year, ECN and SOS collaborated in a Professional Learning Community around the work of author Dr. Rita Kohli, *Teachers of Color: Resisting Racism and Reclaiming Education*. This Professional Learning Community included Kent County in-service education professionals of color and pre-service education students of color, involving conversation, virtual discussion sessions, a reflection reception, and an in-person learning experience delivered by Dr. Rita Kohli, a Professor of Teaching and Teacher Education in the School of Education at the University of California, Riverside.



May 2024 Accountability Partners Council

EDUCATOR EXCELLENCE WITH WEST MICHIGAN TEACHER COLLABORATIVE



Relationship to KConnect

Cross-Cutting Workgroup: Diverse Educators

Success Measure: Career Readiness, Thriving Family Income

Approach: Creative. Courageous.



Our Mission

West Michigan Teacher Collaborative exists to ensure all students in Kent, Muskegon, and Ottawa Area ISDs have excellent teachers. We seek to be a model of high-quality educator preparation in the region, and to create a community of highly-skilled educators who reflect the diversity of our students. We believe great teachers can dramatically impact the lives of students, families, and the communities they serve.

Our Approach

West Michigan Teacher Collaborative lowers the bureaucratic and financial barriers to the teaching profession while maintaining high standards for teacher preparation and quality. Our candidates participate in a rigorous selection process designed to identify their potential to accelerate learning and their passion for serving students and families. Once selected, candidates receive full-time employment opportunities during their certification process, free coursework, living stipends, and a community of support to help them navigate the challenges of transitioning into the profession. We partner with Grand Valley State University for all required coursework and classes using a hybrid model of in-person and online instruction. All learning experiences are designed to develop the knowledge, skills, and mindsets needed to be an effective teacher.

We offer three programs to support educators at different entry points. Our Pre-Residency is for candidates who are still working to complete a bachelor's degree before pursuing their teaching certificate. Our Residency program is for candidates with a bachelor's degree, who are pursuing an initial teaching certificate. Finally, our Advanced Degree track is for current teachers who are looking to enhance their leadership and practice through a master's degree.

Website

You can learn more about each of our programs at teachwestmichigan.org.



May 2024 Accountability Partners Council

NO SURRENDER RUNNING CLUB: MOVEMENT BUILDING THROUGH YOUTH LEADERSHIP



Relationship to KConnect

Success Measure: All

Approach: Curious. Creative. Courageous.

**NO
SURRENDER
RUNNING
CLUB**

Our Mission

No Surrender Running Club aims to empower West Michigan youth to achieve great things, one step at a time. To achieve this, NSRC uses relationship and running as tools to teach goal setting, build physical and mental health, and foster Positive Youth Development.

About the Initiative

No Surrender Running Club's (NSRC) Youth Board centers youth as paid leaders empowered to design and pursue mission-aligned projects that address community—and systems-level issues they prioritize. The 2023-24 Youth Board is leveraging social media to increase access to sports in Kent County, share important messages about the movement's mental health and wellness benefits, and increase representation in running nationally.

All Youth Leaders are recognized for their individual experiences, talents, and interests, which inform their leadership approaches and, therefore, give them a unique role on the team. Elders participate alongside youth, assisting them in developing project scope, meeting facilitation, identifying project needs, and seeking funding to implement the planned project. Youth Board Members meet 1-2x per month, engage in public events, and spend time working in small groups to implement project activities.



May 2024 Accountability Partners Council

NO SURRENDER RUNNING CLUB: MOVEMENT BUILDING THROUGH YOUTH LEADERSHIP



Relationship to KConnect

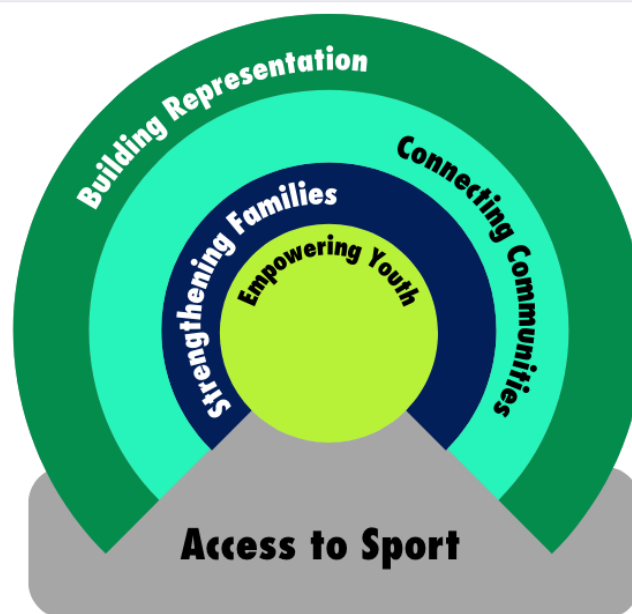
Success Measure: All

Approach: Curious. Creative. Courageous.

**NO
SURRENDER
RUNNING
CLUB**

When we create access...

Breaking down real and perceived barriers to sports participation and movement-based activities.



No Surrender Running Club then...

- **Empowers Youth** | Using running to foster Positive Youth Development.
- **Connects Communities** | Connecting community members to one another while working towards shared goals.
- **Strengthens Families** | Facilitating intergenerational programs to strengthen the foundation where youth thrive
- **Builds Representation** | Fostering a sense of place while enhancing representation in running.

Learn more at www.nosurrenderrunningclub.org



May 2024 Accountability Partners Council

YES! READY BY FIVE MILLAGE: FIRST STEPS KENT



Relationship to KConnect

Lead Convening Partner

Success Measure: Kindergarten Readiness

Approach: Curious. Courageous.



The Ready by Five Early Childhood Millage helps children in Kent County enter kindergarten healthy and ready to learn and succeed. It provides dedicated funding for evidence-based programs that improve childhood health, school readiness, and well-being. In just the last year, more than 13,000 young children and parents from every zip code in Kent County participated in these programs. Thousands more families were supported with information about early childhood development.

Millage Renewal

Kent County voters overwhelmingly approved the first early childhood millage in 2018. A 0.25 mill renewal of the Ready by Five Millage will appear on countywide ballots for the August 6, 2024, election. Absentee voting begins in late June, followed by in-person early voting. Information on when, where, and how to cast a ballot can be found on the [Kent County website](#).

Voting “YES” on the renewal will provide another six years of funding for community-based early childhood programs. The owner of a home valued at \$300,000 will pay \$37.50 per year, or \$3.13 per month, which would appear in property tax bills between 2025 and 2031. It is estimated to generate \$7.7 million in the first year.

Programs Funded by Ready by Five

First Steps Kent is responsible for the oversight and administration of Ready by Five Early Childhood Millage funds. A board of residents – including parents, early childhood stakeholders, and county officials – reviews proposals and decides how funds should be allocated. Community-based organizations provide the programs and services.



May 2024 Accountability Partners Council

YES! READY BY FIVE MILLAGE FIRST STEPS KENT



Relationship to KConnect

Lead Convening Partner

Success Measure: Kindergarten Readiness

Approach: Curious. Courageous.



Services funded by Ready by Five include in-home parenting support and home visits, developmental screenings for children, prenatal support, connections to community resources, assistance navigating child care and other early childhood services, play and learn groups, elimination of hazardous substances from homes, intensive therapy for dealing with behavioral health issues, and provision of books for families to support reading at home.

Community Impact

Ready by Five is successfully reaching communities where early investment has the greatest opportunity for impact. Participation has increased most among children who are from historically marginalized groups and in the most economically disadvantaged communities, both urban and rural.

Millage-funded programs have a proven track record that includes outcomes such as:

- Improved third-grade math and reading scores.
- Reduction in preterm and low birthweight babies, especially among Black women.
- Early identification and treatment of children with developmental delays and disabilities.

First Steps Kent established a countywide data collection system to track community progress and report back to taxpayers.

You can learn more by visiting yesreadybyfive.com.

Paid for with regulated funds from Yes Ready by Five, PO Box 6122, Grand Rapids, MI 49516



May 2024 Accountability Partners Council

WHERE POLICY MEETS COMMUNITY: THE SHARED POLICY AGENDA



Relationship to KConnect

Cross-Cutting Workgroup: Community Engagement

Success Measure: All

Approach: Creative, Courageous

We are excited to introduce our co-created Shared Policy Agenda and Advocacy Framework, which resulted from more than a year of collaboration with community members, stakeholders, and policy experts. This framework has been designed to drive meaningful change by centering the voices of those with lived experience and fostering a collaborative approach to equity.

Why Co-Creation Matters

Policies have a profound impact on the well-being of our communities. However, policies are often developed without the direct input of those most impacted. We set out to change that by engaging diverse community leaders in co-creation and consensus. By listening to and valuing their insights, we aimed to create a policy agenda that truly represents our community's needs and aspirations.

The Power of Collaboration

Central to our approach is the belief that those who experience issues firsthand are best positioned to inform solutions. During the development of the Shared Policy Agenda, we brought together multiple cross-sector community partners to inform and shape our priorities. Once policies were identified, we reconvened and collaboratively developed actionable advocacy steps that the Network can operationalize in the coming year.



May 2024 Accountability Partners Council

WHERE POLICY MEETS COMMUNITY: THE SHARED POLICY AGENDA



Relationship to KConnect

Cross-Cutting Workgroup: Community Engagement

Success Measure: All

Approach: Creative, Courageous

From Policy to Action

A policy agenda is only as effective as the action it inspires, which is why we developed an advocacy framework that outlines specific steps to turn our policy priorities into reality. This framework is a three-part approach that includes **connection** through stories, data, people, and purpose.

Why This Matters

A shared policy agenda fosters alignment between our stakeholders, allowing them to work collaboratively towards our universal goal of a just and equitable Kent County.

Policy and advocacy are essential to dissolving the root causes of inequities that impact our community and beyond. KConnect was designed to impact policy and equip the network in its advocacy efforts.



May 2024 Accountability Partners Council

BRINGING NATIONAL LEARNINGS TO GRAND RAPIDS: CINCINNATI MINORITY BUSINESS ACCELERATOR



Relationship to KConnect

Align and Design Team: Business Ownership

Success Measure: Thriving Family Income

Approach: Curious, Courageous

KConnect recently took a group of cross-sector partners, including representatives from philanthropy, for-profit, nonprofit, and community advocates, to Cincinnati, OH, seeking insights and inspiration from the Cincinnati Minority Business Accelerator (CMBA). This initiative has been successful in the realm of minority entrepreneurship. Established by the Cincinnati Regional Chamber over two decades ago, CMBA has cultivated a dynamic ecosystem where minority-owned businesses thrive. Through strategic partnerships, mentorship programs, and access to capital, CMBA has eliminated barriers and empowered entrepreneurs to reach their full potential.

Learnings from Cincinnati

For KConnect, the opportunity to learn from Cincinnati Minority Business Accelerator's proven model is invaluable. During their visit to Cincinnati, the team immersed themselves in the Accelerator, engaging with stakeholders, entrepreneurs, and community leaders. Through workshops and panel discussions, they dove deep into the strategies and best practices that the organization operationalizes.

Why This Matters

KConnect and the team returned to Kent County with insights and learnings that will uplift and empower entrepreneurs of color in our community. By developing system-level strategies and meaningful partnerships, KConnect aims to create an inclusive ecosystem where all entrepreneurs can thrive, regardless of race or background.



May 2024 Accountability Partners Council

WEST MICHIGAN CENTER FOR ARTS + TECHNOLOGY: CYBERSECURITY



Relationship to KConnect

Cross-Cutting Workgroup: Certificate Completion

Success Measure: Post-Secondary Success, Thriving Family Income

Approach: Curious. Creative.



The West Michigan Center for Arts + Technology (WMCAT) is a nonprofit in Grand Rapids, MI which provides a culture of opportunity for people to make social and economic progress in their lives and community. A place-based nonprofit, WMCAT has a nineteen-year history of supporting Kent County adults on the path to economic prosperity through our tuition-free Adult Career Training Program.

Our Cybersecurity pathway, spanning 7 to 8 months, offers specialized career tracks in GRC (Governance, Risk, and Compliance) and Cloud Security Engineering. Through a combination of professionally-led instruction, leadership and personal development curriculum, externships with local employers, and on-site supports, our students are equipped to take industry aligned national certification exams and enter their new career in the cybersecurity field.

In fall 2022, WMCAT launched a Cybersecurity pathway focused on GRC (governance, risk, and compliance) as part of our Adult Career Training Program. The addition of the tech training pathway in West Michigan was — and continues to be — aligned with employer demand for trained specialists in cybersecurity and GRC. The pathway helps to advance regional, cross-sector strategy to increase tech education and employment opportunities, in step with The Right Place's 10-year plan to position Greater Grand Rapids as a tech hub.



May 2024 Accountability Partners Council

WEST MICHIGAN CENTER FOR ARTS + TECHNOLOGY: CYBERSECURITY



Relationship to KConnect

Cross-Cutting Workgroup: Certificate Completion

Success Measure: Post-Secondary Success, Thriving Family Income

Approach: Curious. Creative.



The fall 2022 recruitment process was record-setting for any career training pathway at WMCAT, with 126 individuals expressing interest in the inaugural GRC cohort in the short span of six weeks. The seven-month pilot pathway began in December 2022 with 12 Kent County adults.

In June 2023, we celebrated the graduation of 11 students from the program. The 11 graduates of the pilot cohort are all BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, or People of Color); 64 percent are men and 36 percent are women. Within two months of graduation, six of 11 graduates obtained employment as GRC Analysts or Security Analysts, with starting salaries between \$60,000-\$115,000.

Building upon the success of our inaugural GRC (governance, risk, and compliance) track in 2022-23, we added a cloud security engineering track to enroll up to an additional 15 students in 2024. A total of 24 students are enrolled in the program today and on track to graduate in October 2024. By scaling, we continue to address a market need for cybersecurity professionals as well as a call for closing the wealth gap by providing opportunities in the industry to women and BIPOC communities.

WMCAT partners with national provider GRC (Governance, Risk and Compliance) for Intelligent Ecosystems, or GRCIE (pronounced “Gracie”), to provide technical training in a virtual reality environment, industry-aligned certifications, connections to employer apprenticeship projects, and job search support for graduates.



May 2024 Accountability Partners Council

ELEVATE AND HIGHER REACH: COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS AT WORK



Relationship to KConnect

Cross-Cutting Workgroup: Business Ownership

Success Measure: Thriving Family Income

Approach: Curious. Creative. Courageous.



Elevate: Increasing Upward Mobility

Traditional career planning methods don't always work, and it can be difficult to access career services. Elevate offers a new approach, collaborating with healthcare and manufacturing employers and community partners to provide data-driven insights and supportive coaching to help you make informed career choices.

Coaches help you understand your interests, explore related careers, and the skills, education, and training required to pursue those careers. Once you successfully complete Elevate, you will be referred to our network of employers who are ready to provide interviews and positions to qualified candidates.

Elevating Careers

- Uncover your unique strengths to guide your career exploration.
- Make informed career decisions using evidence-based coaching and assessments.
- Connect with training providers and funding resources.
- Access resources to remove barriers and stay on track.
- Leverage our network of employers to find employment.

Get Started Today

Contact Marlene Brostrom at MBrostrom@westmiworks.org.



May 2024 Accountability Partners Council

ELEVATE AND HIGHER REACH: COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS AT WORK



Relationship to KConnect

Cross-Cutting Workgroup: Business Ownership

Success Measure: Thriving Family Income

Approach: Curious. Creative. Courageous.



Higher Reach: Skills-Based Hiring

In 2010, Mercy Health (now Trinity Health) in Grand Rapids, Michigan, developed and launched a skills-based hiring process in West Michigan. After hiring 10,000 candidates using the new process, Trinity saw 23% reduction in turnover, 16% reduction in time to fill, and a 100% increase in workforce diversity.

Inspired by the Trinity results, community partners and funders — including the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and Doug & Maria DeVos Foundation — launched HireReach in 2019 to scale the approach to other employers across West Michigan.

Through 2023, HireReach has worked with more than 50 employers of every size and sector, from small nonprofits to global corporations, from higher education to government. It is proven as an off-the-shelf set of tools, expertise and strategies for any organization ready to lead advances in skills-based hiring.

ROI for multiple missions — at scale.

By solving the biggest challenges of skills-based hiring, HireReach provides outstanding ROI for philanthropy, communities, employers and individuals alike:

- Reducing bias and increasing diversity in hiring
- Increasing economic mobility and opportunities for underrepresented populations
- Expanding access to pools of underutilized talent
- Adding efficiency and legal defensibility to hiring practices
- Reducing turnover and cultivating a more engaged workforce
- Creating sustainable, systemic change in hiring practices



May 2024 Accountability Partners Council

ELEVATE AND HIGHER REACH: A COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP AT WORK



Relationship to KConnect

Cross-Cutting Workgroup: Business Ownership

Success Measure: Thriving Family Income

Approach: Curious. Creative. Courageous.



A Partnership that Works

Skills-based hiring is increasingly recognized as an effective approach not just to relieve talent shortages, but also to build stronger workforces and more vibrant communities, offer opportunity — and do the right thing. This shift in thinking requires a transformative solution to make it happen. HireReach has found the answer.

Adaptable Everywhere

HireReach has refined a 1:1 consulting approach that can be adopted to any setting. The virtual five-month HireReach Academy provides everything employers need — knowledge, tools, technology, customized support and follow-through — to implement a fair, data-driven process to make better hiring decisions.

Discover the advantages of HireReach. Independent evaluations and participant feedback confirm HireReach has the capability to support any organization ready to advance the implementation of skills-based hiring. Our evidence-based selection model is proven. We have the tools and technology in place. We have a track record of successful implementation and scaling.

Our approach is customizable and responsive. Discover how to leverage our experience and expertise to make skills-based hiring happen.

Connect with Us

Marlene@HireReach.org

616.368.9537

Scan this code to learn more.



May 2024 Accountability Partners Council

CODE ON WHEELS: MOVING TOWARD A CAREER IN TECH



Relationship to KConnect

Success Measure: Thriving Family Income.

Post-Secondary Preparation

Approach: Curious. Creative.



Exploration Workshops

Join us for an exciting Exploration Workshop with Code on Wheels! Our workshops cater to all ages, including middle and high school students, offering a unique opportunity to delve into the world of technology. Completely free of charge, these sessions provide a fantastic introduction to the industry. Through hands-on activities, participants can explore technology firsthand, helping them gauge their interests and potential career paths. Don't miss out on this enriching experience!

Partners: YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids, Grand Rapids Public School

Classes

Join us for an exciting journey into the world of technology with our range of comprehensive classes designed to ignite your passion and equip you with valuable skills. Whether you're interested in web development, game development, or enhancing your tech literacy, our multi-week programs offer hands-on learning experiences tailored to various skill levels.

In our Web Development Class, you'll master HTML, CSS, and JavaScript while creating multiple web projects, including a personal web portfolio. Gain confidence in presenting your work and explore your interest in computer science alongside a supportive community of learners. Discover the thrill of game development in our Game Development Class, where you'll use the GDevelop engine to bring your game ideas to life. Dive into mechanics, design, and user interface while honing your public speaking and teamwork skills. Showcase your creativity with a final project that's uniquely yours.



May 2024 Accountability Partners Council

CODE ON WHEELS: MOVING TOWARD A CAREER IN TECH



Relationship to KConnect

Success Measure: Thriving Family Income.

Post-Secondary Preparation

Approach: Curious. Creative.



Classes, cont.

For those looking to boost their tech literacy, our Tech Literacy Class provides essential knowledge and skills for navigating mobile and computer devices confidently. Students will learn practical tips for using technology effectively and securely from operating systems to online safety. Don't miss out on these incredible opportunities to learn, grow, and connect with like-minded individuals. Join us today and embark on a rewarding journey into the world of technology!

Partners: STEM Greenhouse, Kelloggsville Public Schools

CoW Club

At CoW Club, we empower students to explore their interests in computer science and technology through our flexible after-school program. With personalized guidance from experienced instructors, students engage in coding projects, experiments, research, and presentations tailored to their goals. Beyond learning, CoW Club fosters a supportive community where students collaborate, expanding their skills in teamwork, problem-solving, and communication. Join us today to unlock your potential and embark on a journey of discovery in the world of technology.

Partners: The Dock Ministries

Contact

Interested in learning more and getting involved?

Hello@codeonwheels.org

www.codeonwheels.org



May 2024 Accountability Partners Council

OUR COMMUNITY'S CHILDREN: GROW1000 SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM



Relationship to KConnect

Cross-Cutting Workgroup: College Enrollment

Success Measure: Thriving Family Income

Approach: Creative. Courageous.



About Our Organization:

Our Community's Children is dedicated to improving the lives of young people to ensure they are learning, working, thriving, connecting, and leading. The office values authentic youth voice and active participation in city projects; promotes access and opportunities for youth through afterschool and leadership programs; provides training and employment to youth in marginalized communities to enhance economic security; and coordinates a place-based response to increase post-secondary degree attainment among GRPS scholars, first-generation and students of color.

About the Initiative:

The GRow1000 Summer Youth Employment Program was launched the summer of 2020 in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing racial and economic disparities. City Manager Dr. Mark Washington called on business and community leaders to help mitigate these effects by employing 1,000 young people during the summer. Over the last four summers, the GRow1000 program has employed nearly 1,000 youth in meaningful jobs at unique job sites at area businesses, nonprofit organizations, higher education institutions and government.

Want to learn more?

Shannon L. Harris, Executive Director - Our Community's Children;
sharris@grcity.us

www.ourcommunityschildren | www.eloafterschool.com
www.t2cstudio.us | www.grandrapidsmi.gov/grow1000



May 2024 Accountability Partners Council

THE ARTS AND CULTURE COLLECTIVE OF GRAND RAPIDS



Relationship to KConnect

Success Measure: Thriving Family Income

Approach: Curious. Creative.

About Us

The Arts & Culture Collective of Grand Rapids is a community-driven initiative dedicated to enhancing, promoting, and advocating for our city's art and culture sector.

Who

An arts + cultural collective leveraging the power of creativity for equitable social transformation.

Our Why

An initiative dedicated to enhancing, promoting, and advocating for our community's art and culture sector.

Why Arts and Culture?

Art and cultural investment creates social capital and enriches every facet of the community. Art unites individuals not only in physical spaces like galleries and museums, but also culturally, by narrating a community's collective journey and creating a connection between individuals in all walks of life.

Current Work

Our work is focused on strengthening and advancing the art sector in Grand Rapids. As we continue to solidify our goals, we're looking at a few big ideas that help us address current challenges and build a resilient and vibrant cultural landscape.

Leveraging Cultural Resources

Leveraging cultural resources to generate economic vitality through tourism and cultural attractions.



May 2024 Accountability Partners Council

THE ARTS AND CULTURE COLLECTIVE OF GRAND RAPIDS



Relationship to KConnect

Success Measure: Thriving Family Income

Approach: Curious. Creative.

Creating Vibrant Public Spaces

Creating vibrant public spaces, improving quality of life, expanding business and tax revenue base, and creating a positive community image.

Communities

Restoring and revitalizing communities by serving as a focus point for redevelopment.

Harnessing The Power Of Arts

Harnessing the power of arts and culture as tools that ignite partnerships between the public and private sectors and communities.

What's Next — A stronger vision for the future

Currently, we're working alongside our partners to solidify our next steps. Here's what's in store:

High-Leverage Activities

We aim to identify and support initiatives that will have a substantial impact on the local arts and culture scene.

Decision-Making Protocol

We're working on a unified decision-making protocol to ensure that we move forward as a united front.

Cultural Plan

Our goal is to pinpoint the next crucial steps in the development of a comprehensive Cultural Plan for Grand Rapids.

Learn more and get involved at www.accgr.org.



May 2024 Accountability Partners Council

CAREER PREP 2030: EXPANDING CAREER AWARENESS & PREP DOUBLING CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION



Relationship to KConnect

Cross-Cutting Workgroup: College Enrollment

Success Measure: Post-Secondary Success

Approach: Curious. Creative.



Our Goals

Through CareerPrep 2030, schools, business partners, community leaders and elected officials are working together with common goals:

- Increase quality, career awareness and preparation opportunities for students in kindergarten through 12th grade
- Expand the availability of Career and Technical Education programs throughout our region



Our Strategies

We'll accomplish our goals by uniting efforts and concentrating on 3 key strategies:

- Expand CTE and CTE-like options
- Grow Work-Based Learning opportunities through new partnerships
- Boost student engagement in the educational journey



Our “Why”

The success of each student depends upon engagement in their education and readiness with knowledge and skills to enter the workforce. We're thinking creatively, and in partnership, to create new career preparation options for students to ensure West Michigan is a talent leader, and to move toward Michigan's goal of “Sixty by 30” in our region.

**Learn more about CareerPrep
and how you can help advance
this work on behalf of students!**



May 2024 Accountability Partners Council

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Explore our 2023 Impact Report

