



NASHVILLE AFTER ZONE ALLIANCE ANNUAL REPORT, 2018

OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME MATTERS



In partnership with



The Nashville After Zone Alliance (NAZA) expanded its partnership in the 2017-2018 school year to reach a greater number of youth through diversified opportunities. Since its inception, NAZA has concentrated its supports on only funded partners and reported direct beneficiaries based on the number of slots funded. This year, NAZA piloted a new partnership level called Affiliated Partners, which enabled 10 non-NAZA funded sites to benefit from some of the support services and resources that are offered to funded partners (such as free-of-charge trainings, pre-and post-program evaluations, access to academic and enrichment resources, etc.)

IN 2018 FISCAL YEAR,



SUPPORTING HOLISTIC CHILD/YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

For more details visit www.nashvillez.org

Out of 1645 youth served in NAZA-funded afterschool programs:

1. 100% received an afternoon snack or meal each day, 86% of which were eligible through our partnership with MNPS Food Services offices; and
2. 64% of students were eligible to participate in NAZA-funded transportation services home each evening through our partnership with the MNPS Transportation Office.
3. 37% were in 5th grade, 23% in 6th; 21% in 7th grade and 15% in 8th grade, 4% did not specify the grade.

97.5% of participants in trainings reported that they learned new skills, strategies, or resources from the trainer or from colleagues; another 1.25% reported that they strengthened skills that they already had.

Three hundred ninety training participants reported serving around 5,674 children and youth of different ages in their afterschool and summer programs.

NAZA/NPL is grateful to the Metro Government of Nashville and Davidson County for its continuous support that enables NAZA to serve the highest need areas of the city. NAZA received \$2.8 million from Metro this year as part of Nashville Public Library to support the programming in both afterschool and summer.

NAZA also extends gratitude to the Stephen Turner Family Foundation, Dan and Margaret Maddox Charitable Fund, Joe C. Davis Foundation, Scarlett Family Foundation, Economic Club of Nashville, First Tennessee Foundation, Charles Mott Foundation through TN Afterschool Network, Noyce Foundation through Every Hour Counts (NY) for supporting STEAM programming, literacy support and the provision of free-of-charge, high-quality trainings, resources, books, templates, external evaluations, support in program improvement and quality coaching for our funded and affiliated partners. NAZA is also grateful to the many local partners who host its trainings and meetings free-of-charge.

NAZA is able to extend provision of services, including support services only due to the continuous support of private and corporate donors.



CREATIVE LEARNING IN ACTION!

How to engage youth



SPARKING INTEREST TO ENGAGE IN STEAM
LEARNING PERSEVERANCE, PROBLEM SOLVING, TEAM
WORK, GROWTH MINDSET, TECHNICAL SKILLS



ACCESS TO ENRICHMENTS
REVEALING INTERESTS AND TALENTS, USING ARTS TO ENGAGE
STUDENTS, BUILD A SENSE OF PURPOSE AND VALUE OF A TEAM



EXPERIENCE LEARNING
GETTING EXPOSED TO PROFESSIONS, WORK
ENVIRONMENT, POST-SECONDARY OPPORTUNITIES;
LEARNING FINANCIAL LITERACY SKILLS, EMPLOYABILITY
SKILLS, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL SKILLS

In middle and high school, participation in out-of-school time (OST) programs is typically youths' choice—youth will engage as long as they find value in the program and the relationships cultivated there.

NAZA, as an OST system, is committed to sharing knowledge and evidence from national and local research and best practices locally to help providers design and deliver challenging and engaging programs.

During the year, the NAZA team invested hundreds of hours in providing support to partners regarding student engagement strategies, positive youth development approaches, diversity and inclusion, risk mitigation and management, behavioral management and most importantly, incorporating social and emotional learning in daily program schedules.

NAZA intentionally built upon its previous year's pilot to promote Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) as a part of afterschool and summer learning. With the generous support of the Stephen Turner Family Foundation and the First Tennessee Foundation, NAZA was able to partner with six sites to offer youth 40 hours of summer STEAM learning. NAZA's Summer STEAM initiative seeks to ensure that Nashville youth have an opportunity to spark a lifelong interest in STEAM that could motivate them to pursue a STEAM career in a city with fast growing STEAM momentum.

As the photos suggest, NAZA funded and affiliated partners as well as summer partners, offered youth programs and activities that were based on the concept of creative and hands-on learning, building positive relationships, teaching fundamental soft skills, and promoting students' voice and choice.



**NATIONAL
SUMMER
LEARNING DAY**
JULY 12, 2018

NAZA PROMOTES SUMMER LEARNING

Engaging students in continuous but
different learning experience over
summer



**CREATIVE DESIGN AND
PRODUCTION**
Telling Mayor Briley the story



**VALUING HUMANITY
AND CULTURES**
A student who emigrated from Syria
proudly tells the Arab story



**CONNECTING STEM WITH
ARTS**
Creating human bodies with
appropriate measurements

The concept of the Teen Explorers' Camp is anchored in research that dictates that highly engaging youth programming offers youth opportunities to make choices in both content and process – there is nothing more attractive to young people than being able to choose what to do and how to do it. Camp participants choose from 25 different pathways based on their interests and talents and create a project within their chosen pathway. Empowering youth to make those choices increases their motivation and attendance in the program.

Five hundred forty four youth enrolled in this year's Camp, which was a paid experience-learning program, thanks to a partnership with Opportunity NOW and the Academies of Nashville. The youth showcased their achievements at end-of-summer events, demonstrating what they learned with tremendous maturity and professionalism. It was very interesting and inspiring to learn that for many of them, the most attractive aspects about the program were meeting new people, learning how to accomplish goals as a team, and having an opportunity to engage in experiential learning that allowed them to practical skills needed for their chosen profession. The core concept behind the program is helping young people build fundamental skills such as time and resource management, self-control, perseverance, decision-making, problem solving, and communication, all of which are intentionally prioritized in each pathway.

This program posits that giving youth choices and an opportunity to build a sense of purpose while engaging in a project-based learning environment, helps youth develop soft skills that lead to their increased interest in post-secondary education and/or meaningful careers after completing high school. Here are some quotes:

"Before I got here I really didn't know what I wanted to do in life or what college I wanted to attend... We did activities that helped me map out my goals and aspirations"

"Learned how to work as a team and learn how to trust one another".

"I learned that it takes a team to get the job done"

"Before this program, I was so shy to where I would not talk to people and I would let them say something to me first. Now I'm able to walk up to people and start a conversation".



SPECIAL EVENTS

YOUTH LEADERSHIP RETREAT- VISIT TO MUHAMMAD ALI CENTER

Muhammad Ali's life was centered around the following Core Principles: Confidence, Conviction, Dedication, Giving, Respect, and Spirituality. In following with NAZA's commitment to teaching youth leadership skills and helping youth develop positive character traits, 64 youth from different middle schools visited the Muhammad Ali Center in October of 2017 to learn about Ali's Core Principles and engage in interactive exhibitions



EVERY HOUR COUNTS, NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR BUILDING EXPANDED LEARNING SYSTEMS, MARCH 2018

NAZA leader and SC Zone Director were invited to co-facilitate 2 sessions: 1) Data sharing and data use; and 2) Sustainability and partnerships



BOOST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, MAY, 2018

NAZA leader was invited to serve as a panelist in the session on Sustainability and Partnerships

Why Fund Out-of-School Time?

The benefits of out-of-school time programs have been studied extensively. Across the nation over the past 15-20 years, the trend of building systems for out-of-school-time providers has been growing. This year, NAZA celebrated its 9th year as an out-of-school time system!

Thanks to the committed support of the Metro Government of Nashville and Davidson County as well as local and national funders, NAZA has directly funded programs for over 10,000 children and youth over the past nine years.

Since Nashville has adopted a system-building approach to out-of-school time, there has been a noticeable change in the culture of programming throughout the city, yielding an increased commitment to improving the quality of programs and a greater focus on youth-level outcomes.

It is widely known that children spend only 20-25% of their waking hours in formal education settings, which is the only universally accessible service. The rest of the time, during which children continue learning, is as important as the time when they are in school. Therefore, continuous investment in informal education or out-of-school time learning is essential given that it provides the following benefits:

- Children are safe and supervised
- Children learn through experiences that they may otherwise not have been exposed to, which helps to close the opportunity gap
- Academic OST programs with sufficient dosage can measurably improve student achievement (Maccombs et al. p.10)ⁱ
- Quality OST programs build human and social capital and fundamental life skills, as well as help youth understand the purpose of education
- Accessible OST programs help parents who do not have flexible work schedules
- The quality and dosage of programs matter ⁱⁱ

ⁱ JENNIFER MCCOMBS, ANAMARIE WHITAKER, AND PAUL YOO, 2017, *The Value of Out- of-School Time Programs*, RAND Corporation

ⁱⁱ American Institute of Research, 2014, *A Summary of Three Studies Exploring the Relationship between Afterschool Program Quality and Youth Outcomes* and Vanderbilt, 2017, *Effectiveness and Sustainability of the Nashville After Zone Alliance Afterschool Programming*