

Mosaic of Voices



Project Description

Students from the Innovate Program, with Edmonton Public schools, will develop a series of questions related to climate change and economic diversification and interview their peers to create a series of podcasts on youth perspectives around these topics. The podcasts will be edited and aired on radio stations. A multimedia artist, hired by the City, will create a visual art piece that will be displayed at the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) conference being held in Edmonton March 5-7, 2018. After the conference, the Mosaic of Voices will be installed at the Edmonton International Airport where some 7 million people pass through each year.

Rationale

Youth perspectives are gaining prominence in western culture through social media, school programs that emphasize local and global issues and through membership in interest groups which are connected across the world through online communities. Students have greater access to information via the internet and this allows them to become more aware of issues and to challenge or support government decisions that impacts their own futures.

In Alberta today, youth are faced with economic and environmental uncertainties resulting from a decline in global demands of fossil fuels and from an increased efforts to curb the dangers of climate change. School curriculum emphasizes climate change topics and stress innovation in energy sectors. It is critical to consider the views of youth and to address their concerns in schools and through civic engagement. The mosaic of voices is an opportunity for youth to share their perspectives on the future of Alberta. Questions such as: "What should Alberta do to mitigate climate change? What do youth want for their futures in this province? What do they want the government to consider investing in to provide economic opportunities and resiliency?" are being considered for the mosaic. Viewpoints by younger age groups have not readily been documented and considered as part of a community's history. Once these voices are converted into a series of podcasts, they can become part of our story, our shared future and our archivable history.

Needs

Students currently have access to a microphone, called a Mikey, which attaches to their iphones. They can record voices and download them into an iphone app. To increase their capacity to interview a large sample of youth, student organizers require technologies to record voices such as a microphone that connects to other cellular devices. Upon collection of interviews, students will need to access editing equipment, editing software and access to expertise who can guide the development of the podcasts and ensure they are prepped for public radio.

Participants

Student participants will be ages 10-18 or approximately grade 5-12.

For more information contact Innovate Coordinator *Aaron Dublenko* at innovate@epsb.ca or 780-267-4677.