



2nd Nature



A Partnership with the NPS & LAYC
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America's Best Idea Leads to Collaboration



<http://www.nps.gov/americasbestidea/>



Ken Burns documentary on National Parks creates special events throughout the country. In D.C., we work with the Latin American Youth Center to show the film and create dialog about the meaning of local national parks.

2nd Nature

Managing by Network



Network Goal / Vision

Through the working relationship with the Latin American Youth Center, engage diverse urban youth to care about and care for their national parks.

Introduce diverse youth to the possibilities for experience, recreation and future employment in national parks.

Through authentic experiences in parks, youth create art and media that then will reach their families, communities and other youth, communicating the value of those experiences and the parks.

Network Objectives

- ❧ Through participation in 2nd Nature, participants will be able to:
- ❧ Describe the value of national parks to themselves, their families and their communities.
- ❧ Gain skills in art and/or digital media production, and use those skills to express themselves.
- ❧ Create art and digital media about their park experiences that are then shared with the public.

Formal and Informal Networks



➤ **Partners with Volunteers Agreements**

- LAYC youth are signed up as volunteers for service projects.

➤ **Partners With Cooperative Agreements**

- Current cooperative agreement just covers the pilot 2nd Nature program - we are working on a broader cooperative agreement that will provide more flexibility to work on other projects with LAYC.

Intra/Inter Agency Partners

- National Capital Region Parks
- Vendors for recreation experiences - River Riders rental, bicycle rental, District of Columbia Summer Youth Employment Program

➤ **Informal Partnerships**

- C & O Canal Trust (provided food, camping equipment), Rock Creek Conservancy

➤ **Potential Partners**

- Other agencies - US Forest Service, US Fish & Wildlife Service, private non-profits, District of Columbia Recreation Dept., Chesapeake CESU

Stage of Network Development



What's the status of your network development:?

- ✓ Active – We are working on year 3 of the program, and beginning to move past the pilot stage to a more established program.
- ✓ Evaluating – We have evaluation data from the first 2 summers with the youth, and are now working to evaluate the partnership, our roles and how we work together.

What are you doing at this stage to manage the network and move to the next stage?



Our most important task now is to evaluate the partnership, and to define and structure the roles of each partner. We need to look realistically at the future budget outlook both for the non-profit and the federal government, and create a structure that can survive changes in the future. The program now is personality-driven, it needs to work even if individuals move on to other jobs.

Network Geography

Communities of Place, Identify and Interest



Where does your network operate?

The District of Columbia and surrounding communities in Virginia, West Virginia, and Maryland.

Who benefits from the development of your network?

Urban Youth - opportunities for summer employment, learning, recreation, and personal expression.

Community - the families and friends of these youth benefit from the art & media created by youth, and through them learn about their local national parks.

Latin American Youth Center - benefits from partnering with the NPS through gaining funding, learning about recreational and other resources in parks, and in new experiences for staff and youth.

NCR national parks - benefit from increased connection with urban youth they might not otherwise contact. Greatly benefit from the expertise and skills of LAYC staff in working with youth, skills that not as many rangers have in their portfolio.

Benefits of the Network



Present

1. Current benefits: Learning from each other, energy and vitality of youth, art and media created by youth spreading message about national parks to their peers and families, learning skills and techniques for working with youth, leveraging limited funds from all sides (NPS and partners) to make a dynamic program, building connections and relationships with partners, communities, and youth.

Future

1. Future benefits: Youth who participate in the program become informed, conscious citizens who get involved in caring for their cultural and natural heritage, in national parks and in their lives. The partnership built with 2nd Nature expands and finds new ways for the Latin American Youth Center to work together with national parks in the Greater Washington area. The program itself serves as model for other groups to create ways for urban youth to experience their shared heritage and express it to others through art & media.

Evaluating Network Potential and Performance

	Evaluation Criteria	Comments
1	Advance strategic priorities of the agency	This program directly addresses the NPS Call to Action – strategic plan for the 21 st Century by engaging youth.
2	Leverages funding	2 nd Nature builds upon existing DC Summer Youth Employment, and uses NPS funding to support park field trips.
3	Demonstrates big-picture thinking	The youth themselves express their own meaning for the experience in the parks, and use 21 st century methods to reach other youth.
4	Demonstrates entrepreneurship	Youth are paid for their experience and gain work skills in arts & media.
5	Management of formal agreements and contracts	Cooperative agreement being reviewed to become broader, include other ways to collaborate.
6	Demonstrates effective external and internal communication	Communication between partners strong – working on improving internal communication with parks.
7	Demonstrates accountability	Formal evaluation data gathered for each summer, financial reporting as part of agreement, detailed budgets kept.
8	Potential as a network management model	Possible model for sharing resources – LAYC has youth engagement skills, NPS has authentic stories & places.

Lessons Learned About Network Management



- Lessons Learned:

- Great ideas can start from simple things – whole program started from “Would LAYC like to host a community showing of Ken Burns documentary on national parks?”
- Really crucial to define roles of partners and evaluate those roles as you pilot a program.
- Urban youth are passionate and talented – we can learn from others on best ways to engage them.

- Network Management Lessons:
- Learning partner cultures can be a bumpy and confusing process. Respect, patience and humor can help you navigate process.
- Say clearly what your expectations are – this can help reveal assumptions that may be coloring the expectations.

<http://www.youtube.com/user/2ndNatureDC#p/a/u/1/ecXheheNgmw>