

Baobab Collectives Volunteer Guidebook: Program Planning



BAOBAB
COLLECTIVES

Planning Events

Much of the work I did throughout my placement at Baobab Collectives included planning events and group activities. When planning events be sure to use the skills you've gained throughout your education, it may be helpful to refer back to resources from your practice courses.

Tips For Success



- You cannot possibly anticipate every outcome, but this is when it is essential to consider the options you have and some of the potential conflicts you may experience throughout running the program.
- Research your demographics to find effective programs geared towards the group you're working with.
- Remember that placements are a learning experience, so don't be afraid to make some mistakes. Reflect when you make a mistake, or discover a missed opportunity, and consider how you can address it.

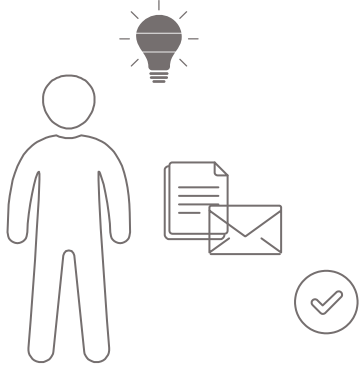
Advertising Events

Don't hesitate to reach out to relevant organizations to ask for assistance in advertising your events. For example, the youth literacy group was advertised by both the Brantford and Hamilton public libraries. Getting the word out about your event is crucial and many organizations will be open to assisting you in this process, especially since you're working towards a good cause. Posting on Instagram to advertise the event is great, but remember to consider next steps.



Proposals

You may be required to send proposals to various individuals, companies, and organizations to seek assistance in organizing events. You may want to consider beginning with a brief explanation of the problem you're targeting. Next, you may want to follow this up with an explanation of your proposed solution and lastly, be clear on why you're reaching out to the recipient. This is the most simplistic format on writing a proposal, but there are certainly lots of tips you can pick up along the way, and from other sources.



Proposal Resource

I'd suggest looking over the following [source](#) on writing effective proposals. The information given in this source may not always be applicable to the projects you're working on, but it can prove to be a good refresher for the basics of writing a proposal.

Youth Literacy Program

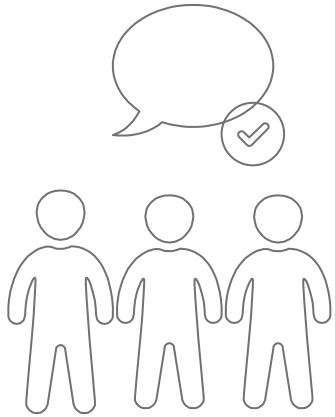
Depending on your focus (women or youth), you may become responsible for running the youth literacy group. I will be focusing on my experience working on the youth literacy program initiative, as that was my focus throughout this placement.

What is the Youth Literacy Program?

The youth literacy group is a safe space designed to encourage youth to actively participate in nurturing their critical thinking and discussion skills.

- Check out [this webpage](#) for a more in depth description of the program.

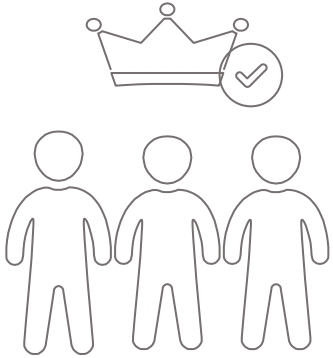
Tips For Running The Youth Literacy Program



- When working with youth, it's important to help nurture an environment that makes them feel comfortable. Planning activities and games for the meeting time can be incredibly useful in building trust and comfort. Try to prioritize the activities the youth enjoy so they understand that their voices will be heard in this group.

- Planning discussion questions ahead of time is essential because youth are more likely to discuss the book with a prompt.

Tips For Running The Youth Literacy Program Cont.



- You must consider the possibility that your social locations may create an unhealthy and uncomfortable power imbalance. In specific, consider the typical power dynamics that come with being an adult working with a group of youth.

- For this reason, I preferred a youth-led dynamic, allowing the youth to have a lot of control over how the program is run, how much we will read this week, what activities we will do, etc.

Similar Programs and Organizations

Youth Resources

- Black Table Talk
- YouThrive
- RiseUp

Resources For Women

- GrowthWheel
- RiseHelps
- Paro Centre
- Koddo & Co.

This is a list of resources that have similar values to the values of Baobab Collectives. I hope this list can help you learn more about BIPOC experiences and the reason why initiatives such as Baobab Collectives are so crucial. Check out [this document](#) for more resources like these.