From Loitering Complaints to Young Saints
Helping Shift Community Perception on Teens
Does this sound familiar?

- There are too many teens just hanging out.
- There are not enough teens in structured activities.
- Where are the parents?!?!?!?!?!?!?!?!
- Back in my day...
- My tax dollars...
Community Conversations

• 3 city departments (Library, Police, communications)
• 2 school districts + parochial school + homeschool assistance program
• Business leaders: Chamber of Commerce, Main Street District, business owners
• Area nonprofits
4 Subcommittees

- Programming
- Student/Family Activities
- Community Accountability
- Youth Spaces
Next Steps

• Youth center outreach
• Consolidated community calendar
• Quarterly meetings
• Student advisory board
Scalable Lessons

• Your peers are not always librarians
• Ask for help
• Bias towards action
• Dream big and invite others on the journey
Thank you!

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