

The YouthBank Way

Real Lives. Real Money. Real Change.



About YouthBank

What are YouthBanks?

YouthBanks are funds run by young people with the purpose of supporting youth-led projects that address issues that matter to them. These funds are entirely driven and managed by young people who are passionate about making a positive impact. Their mission is to empower and support initiatives that matter to them, ultimately leading to positive change within their communities.

A YouthBank group usually includes up to 15 young people, aged 14 to 25, with the specific age range decided by the local organization.

What is the YouthBank model?

Set of challenges designed to provide the knowledge and skills development each YouthBank requires to be successful.

The methodology takes young people through a process of researching local youth issues, defining fund priorities, fundraising, and opening applications for projects. They actively participate in decision-making, grant allocation, and ongoing monitoring, evaluation, and impact measurement of the funded youth projects.

Where does the money come from for a Local YouthFund?

Fundraising is a key pillar of the YouthBank model, emphasizing the importance of equipping young people with valuable fundraising skills. The sources of the YouthBank Fund include diverse avenues such as fundraising activities, donations, grants, sponsorships, entrepreneurial activities, and participatory budgeting.

The grant amount awarded to local youth projects varies by YouthBank. Based on our experience, smaller grants have proven more effective. These smaller grants encourage creative approaches from local youth projects, fostering innovation and impactful initiatives.

The Impact

The impact of the YouthBank model starts with young people in the YouthBank group, extends to those generating ideas and leading local projects and continues to positively influence the broader community, benefiting both the implementers and recipients of these projects.

The Change occurs on various levels, nurturing personal growth in skills and self-esteem while simultaneously driving positive transformations within the community and future-proofing its resilience.



The YouthBank Model

Participatory Grantmaking

YouthBank sites make up 15% of the youth grant-making movement across the world.

“Participatory grantmaking emphasizes “nothing about us without us.” It shifts power about grantmaking decisions by involving—or giving all power to—the people most affected by the issues or problems and empowers and gives agency to people who benefit from funding to determine the priorities of their lives. (Deciding Together: Shifting Power and Resources Through Participatory Grantmaking, Cynthia Gibson, 2018)

THE PARTICIPATORY GRANTMAKING PROCESS ITSELF IS AN IMPORTANT OUTCOME. Participation isn't just a means to a particular end; it's an outcome itself. By engaging in a participatory grantmaking process, peers have the opportunity to increase their knowledge and leadership about issues, build relationships with others, and, ultimately, deepen their sense of agency to determine the priorities of their lives. (Deciding Together: Shifting Power and Resources Through Participatory Grantmaking, Cynthia Gibson, 2018)

“Participatory grantmaking centers around an ethos that the people who are being most affected by decisions have a right to make those decisions.” – TERRY ODENDAHL

YouthBank Model in the World

The beauty of the model lies in the fact that it can be easily implemented in every part of the world. The model is adaptable and varies based on the needs and dynamics of the local community where it is implemented.

So far, we have established the YouthBank model in 36 countries around the world and enabled almost 500 YouthBanks. These YouthBanks, these funds, have supported over 15,000 youth-led projects and have involved over 4 million beneficiaries. All this has led to YouthBanks giving over 7 million £ in Funds.

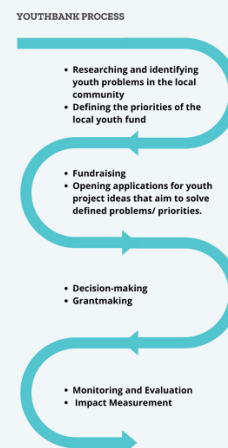


Outcomes of the YouthBank Model

- It promotes young people as decision-makers at the local level.
- It uses funding as a mechanism to address issues and problems that young people themselves have recognized as important in their communities.
- It equips young people with all the skills and tools, guides them through decision-making methodologies, and supports them on their path towards active participation and growth.
- It develops skills that include: Decision-making, Creative thinking, Problem-solving, Money and Fund Management, Critical thinking, Social entrepreneurship, Financial literacy, Digital literacy, Teamwork, Communication skills, Idea Development, Project Management, Understanding the power, impact, and choice, and Creating sustainable change.

Expected outcomes of One Local YouthBank

- 40+ Youth Involved: Active in fund and community projects.
- 3 Youth Priorities Identified: Addressing key local issues.
- 1 Educator Trained: Equipped in YouthBank Methodology.
- 1 Local Fund Managed: Youth-led for community initiatives.
- 10+ Ideas Developed: Improving the local community.
- 4+ Youth Projects Financed: Supported for real impact.
- 80+ Beneficiaries: Positively impacted in the community.
- 1100 Youth Volunteer Hours: Dedicated to community service.
- Comprehensive Impact Report: Documenting the wide-ranging effects.



The YouthBank model is disruptive

- Asking young people to define problems and issues in their community they see, is disruptive.
- Putting the decision-making power in the hands of young people, is disruptive.
- Challenging young people and supporting them on their journey to become active citizens is disruptive.

YouthBank International Network

If you are ready to change your organisation, the lives of young individuals, your community and beyond join our YouthBank Network!

Joining YouthBank International Network means becoming part of a dynamic and passionate community dedicated to creating positive change. We look forward to you joining us on this exciting journey of impact and growth.

At its core, YouthBank International is a platform for young people to share their unique narratives. It encapsulates their perspectives on their hometowns and communities, offering valuable insights into the key issues they face. We aim to provide these young people with the necessary tools to tackle these challenges effectively and make a positive difference in their communities.



Developing a YouthBank

Who is YouthBank Perfect for?

Whether you're a non-profit organization, a community-based group, an educational institution, or a socially responsible corporation, YouthBank offers a valuable platform for empowering young individuals and fostering positive change in communities.

Who is YouthBank Perfect for:

Organisations who:

- want to refresh what they do by looking outward and forward to expand their reach and services in local communities
- want to generate new leadership and decision-making opportunities for young people to address the issues that matter to them
- want to work collaboratively with other partners to share their expertise, resources, and connections

How to start a YouthBank?

To start a YouthBank, the organisation undergoes YouthBank Model Training and Capacity Building.

This training equips organisations with the knowledge, skills, and resources needed to effectively launch and sustain a YouthBank, ultimately creating a powerful platform for youth engagement and community development.

You as a single organisation take the lead, setting up 1 or 2 YouthBanks in your local community and become the driving force behind youth empowerment, community development, and positive change.

The YouthBank group can be self-driven or guided by a certified YouthBank model trainer/practitioner. In either scenario, individuals involved undergo comprehensive training and capacity building available online, ensuring a strong foundation for effective YouthBank initiatives.

Timeline

The online training is self-paced, requiring a minimum of 25 hours of individual involvement. This flexible structure accommodates participants' schedules and allows for personalized learning.

After completing the training and obtaining a certificate, you are well-equipped to start working with young people. Your certification signifies readiness to engage and make a positive impact in the community.

Groundwork with young people varies in delivery, adopting flexible timelines such as a boot camp followed by three months of activity, or projects lasting from three to nine months or longer.



The Model seamlessly integrates into school timelines as an extracurricular activity or aligns with the schedules of various groups and organizations delivering it. Starting with an existing group, such as a youth board, forum, or council, that already has youth-led participatory structures in place works really well too. This flexibility promotes widespread accessibility. For tailored guidance on timelines based on your participants' life stages, we provide advice to suit your needs.

We provide Communities of Practice and individual one-on-one advice, ensuring ongoing support tailored to your needs. We keep you up-to-date with the latest trends and tools in facilitation and training, making sure you and your team are equipped with the latest techniques. Our goal is to empower you every step of the way.

YouthBank Go Package

Our YouthBank Go Package offers essential training and licensing to kickstart your journey in implementing the YouthBank Model. Designed to equip you with the knowledge and tools needed to drive positive change in your community, this package provides essential resources, support, and methodology.

The package offers training for up to two trainers in YouthBank methodology, tools, and support at a one-time cost of 1400 GBP. Additionally, it includes a Yearly YouthBank Model License, providing access to online tools, branding materials, events, and impact reports for 55 GBP per month or 600 GBP per year.

If you are interested in starting a YouthBank in your local community or find out more about our Model, email us at go@youthbankinternational.org.

Let's embark on this transformative journey together!

