

Youth Development Collaborative Model

The Youth Development Collaborative Model is focused primarily on the [Mantua In Action](#) project, a collaboration between Philadelphia Parks & Recreation, Drexel University and several additional providers. The goal of Mantua In Action is to provide more and better recreational opportunities for middle school youth living in the Mantua community in West Philadelphia. Additionally, the Mantua In Action program will serve as the framework for additional youth development partnerships at PPR.

This summer, one hundred sixty youth are enrolled and participating on a regular basis in the Mantua In Action program, including a full day camp with fifty children operating at James Wright Recreation Center, a smaller camp at Miles Mack Playground, and a full aquatics operation at the 39th & Olive pool. Moving this many young people through breakfast and lunch, structured activities, and after camp is a logistical challenge. Introduce youth workers and junior coaches, and things get even more complicated!

Among the valuable lessons learned from the Mantua In Action project thus far are:

1. Successful partnerships require attention to detail, as well as a collaborative approach by all involved.
2. Successful partnerships are difficult and thrive only when all parties function in a climate that is mutually respectful and beneficial.
3. Different organizations with different goals and outcomes can complicate things.

The Youth Development Collaborate Model coherence project seeks to synthesize knowledge gained from Mantua In Action into PPR guidelines for establishing successful, mutually beneficial partnerships.

Parallel to the daily delivery of service, the coherence team is researching different partnership models, interviewing staff and individuals involved in various departmental partnerships, and developing partnership protocols. Interviews and focus groups have identified many barriers to successful partnerships, so the team is looking at ways to identify and address the challenges affiliated with collaborative projects.

Our PPR staff is committed to the success of the program. The coherence team members are Rob Jackson, RLII at James Wright, Azaraha Robinson, RLIII at Dorothy Emanuel, and Ernie St. Germain, Building Maintenance Superintendant I. Kathi Muller is the project sponsor.