



OAKLAND LEAF

COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION
THROUGH CREATIVE EDUCATION

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AT OAKLAND LEAF

The *Youth Development Framework*¹ is at the core of all Oakland Leaf's work. The Framework focuses on 5 dimensions of learning within our programs that support young people to move towards positive long-term outcomes. These are Oakland Leaf's 5 dimensions of Youth Development:

DIMENSION	WHAT THIS MEANS	WHAT THIS LOOKS LIKE
1. Learning to KNOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Understanding for meaning, for understanding, and for life ❑ Learning WHAT & WHY 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Use inquiry-based instruction & guidance ❑ Cultivate curiosity ❑ Teach concrete critical thinking skills
2. Learning to DO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Developing confidence & experience by putting things into practice ❑ Being culture producers ❑ Learning HOW TO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Give meaningful roles with responsibility ❑ Teach meaningful skills that can be applied to create real products for real audiences ❑ Give leadership, decision making, & peer teaching opportunities ❑ Giving opportunities to show growth & progress
3. Learning to BE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Developing a sense of belonging ❑ Developing moral character ❑ Learning to UNDERSTAND ONESELF & ONE'S PLACE IN THE WORLD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Create SAFE environments ❑ Explore WHO we are, WHAT'S Important to us & HOW we are with others ❑ Explore our world and how to solve our own problems ❑ Studying & sharing WISDOM
4. Learning to COMMUNE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Develop awareness of & relationships with each other as a community and the greater community at large ❑ Learning to LIVE TOGETHER 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Explicitly teach & give opportunities to develop an understanding of, respect for, & engagement with other people's perspectives, cultures, spiritual values, ❑ Provide involvement & making an impact with their own communities
5. Learning to PROGRESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Cultivating life-long learning ❑ Cultivating self-determination ❑ Learning to SUSTAIN, PROGRESS, AND RE-INVENT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Giving multiple opportunities to get involved over time ❑ Caring adults develop supportive relationships with youth over time ❑ Giving advocacy, guidance, emotional, & practical support ❑ Teaching skills to navigate "the system"

¹ Oakland Leaf's Youth Development Framework was adapted from the Hargreaves & Fink Sustainable Leadership model and the Community Network for Youth Development model

Safety, so young people feel:

- * Physically and emotionally secure.

Supportive Relationships, so young people can experience:

- * Guidance, emotional and practical support
- * Adults and peers knowing who they are and what's important to them

Meaningful Youth Involvement, so that young people can:

- * Be involved in meaningful roles with responsibility,
- * Have input into decision-making,
- * Have opportunities for leadership, and
- * Feel a sense of belonging.

Skill Building, so that young people can have:

- * Challenging and interesting learning experiences which help them build a wide array of skills, and
- * Experience a sense of growth and progress.

Community Involvement, so that young people gain:

- * An understanding of the greater community, and
- * A sense of being able to make an impact in their community.

The Framework then goes one step further by identifying the links between these supports and opportunities and the organizational practices necessary to support quality youth programming. The 9 organizational practice areas are:

- * Low youth to staff/volunteer ratios
- * Safe, reliable, and accessible activities and spaces
- * Flexibility in allocating available resources
- * Range of diverse, interesting, and skill-building activities
- * Continuity and consistency of care
- * High, clear, and fair standards
- * Ongoing, results-based staff and organizational improvement process
- * Youth involvement
- * Community engagement