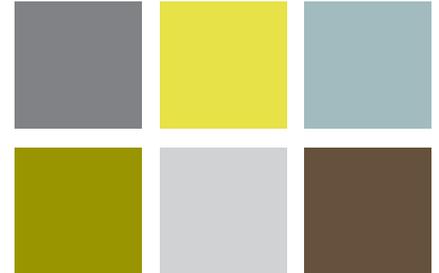


# Youth Beat Radio

## Impact Statement



### SUMMARY

A weekly youth radio program, Youth Beat Radio, is aired weekly on Columbus community radio station WCRS LP 102.1/98.3 FM.

### SITUATION

Youth are underrepresented and portrayed negatively in the media. This program was developed in response to a need to promote and develop youth leadership. Existing youth radio programs have been effective in teaching technology and media skills to youth, promoting youth expression, and engaging youth in their communities.

### RESPONSE

The program began in January 2009, with over 120 shows produced to date by students from The Ohio State University, Upper Arlington High School, and other schools and youth organizations in Central Ohio. Seventeen new programs were completed in 2013. It is designed to: 1) Give visibility to activities youth are doing to improve their schools, communities, and the environment; 2) Highlight youth talents and expertise; 3) Serve as a peer teaching tool for other youth who want to learn about community engagement; 4) Serve as a teaching tool for adults who work with youth; 5) Generate creative solutions to challenging problems; and 6) Provide an opportunity for youth to learn writing, technology, and civic engagement skills. The shows have included a diversity of topics including the environment, health, arts, college preparation, student organizations, international experiences, social networking, youth philanthropy, small business, and working with local government. See <http://youthbeat.osu.edu>. The program received a grant from the Puffin Foundation West.

### IMPACT

Although exact number of listeners is unknown, information from the radio station's website indicates thousands of downloads since the show's inception. Over 70 youth have participated in technical training workshops to learn about radio production, and over 300 youth have been involved in the production or interviews for the show. Youth have learned technology skills through the use of recording equipment, computers, and editing



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software; writing skills through the development of scripts; and interviewing skills. They have obtained a hands-on career exploration and workforce preparation experience as they learn about radio and produce broadcast-quality shows. The show has provided opportunities for community engagement as students investigate current issues. It has enhanced the learning opportunities available to the students at Upper Arlington High School, Fort Hayes Arts and Academic High School, and Ohio 4-H youth that did not exist previously. Community impact is expected to increase as more people become aware of the show and new partnerships are developed. In 2013, new partnerships were developed with four Columbus City schools, one recreation center, and the City Year Columbus organization.

### Contact Information

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