

## Do's and Don'ts of Youth Engagement

Youth engagement is something we are all attempting to embed into our work at some level. However, it's important to have some open and honest conversations before embarking in this kind of work. Sometimes it may not be the right time, right people, right organization or right fit for youth. Consider the following voices of youth.

### **DO:**

- Communicate what you expect...and the rules too
- Understand that I don't have your experience
- Let me make mistakes
- Be a good role model
- Anything to get to know me better
- Show that you heard my idea
- Ask us to do hard things
- Get rid of hierarchy
- Get to action fast
- Have fun

### **DON'T:**

- Book meetings during school time
- Say you're going to do something, and then don't
- Use language that I can't understand
- Judge me
- Make decisions for me
- Be negative
- Pretend to trust me
- Try to be cool – be yourself!