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| **Shaping a citywide strategy for youth, economic opportunity, and the future of work** |
| *Doing these internships… I’m exposed to different careers so it kind of gives me an idea of where I see myself in the future. Things I want to do, things I may not want to do. It kind of throws things at me. So I get to experience a little bit of this, a little bit of that. It helps me as far as my career and taking things and applying them to my life so I can be successful.* *- James, Age 19 (Summer Youth Employment Program Intern)* |
| **THE NEED** At the start of the Durkan administration, the mayor sought to find new ways to connect youth with good jobs by creating a citywide strategy for youth, economic opportunity, and the future of work. **OUR APPROACH**Innovation and Performance (“IP”) started with a nearly three-month research phase focused on understanding the opportunities and challenges facing youth and young adults when considering their future – particularly when taken into consideration with the implications of changing employer expectations and forces like automation. The organizational research included interviews with directors and staff from departments that serve young people. Then we hit the streets to hear directly from residents.IP’s research included 83 youth participants and six parents, 15 supervisors and staff from eight City departments, and staff from King County, Seattle Public Schools, and community-based organizations. Our core project team collected, processed, and synthesized the data, but we invited other City staff to join us at every step of the process. This served to create a shared sense of what happened in the research and helped us to make meaning out of data and come up with actionable insights. Our research generated hundreds of data points and dozens of themes, which resulted in recommendations that were prototyped in 2019. **THE RESULTS**The team's research has helped to try new things with existing City programming, including the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP), and create new resources that continue to be informed directly from youth.**READ MORE**[bit.ly/youthofseattle](https://indd.adobe.com/view/aca4df09-8763-443d-a2c8-b95c9af75596)  | **DEPARTMENT PARTNER** Dept. of Education & Early LearningHuman Services Dept.Office of Arts & CultureOffice of Economic Development**PROJECT** **DURATION** May – August 2018**IMPACT**Elevated the voice of Seattle’s youth to inform City policies and programs**KEY PARTNERS*** Sasha Gourevitch (OED)
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