

LA Teen Theory of Change Overview

PURPOSE: To dramatically increase the number of post-b'nai mitzvah Jewish teens engaged in effective and compelling Jewish experiences throughout Los Angeles that support them in leading healthy and fulfilled lives.

ISSUES ADDRESSED

- Decline in teen involvement in Jewish life
- Prevalence of overextended and stressed teens
- A lack of diverse, appealing Jewish youth opportunities
- Absence of systems for recruiting Jewish teens into Jewish communal life
- Insufficient opportunities to expand Jewish teen education and engagement programs to impact more teens
- Low awareness of the range of programs and opportunities for Jewish teens
- Financial barriers for teens to participate in Jewish short-term immersive experiences
- Lack of a region-wide, cohesive ecosystem that honors and supports Jewish teen educators
- Minimal collaboration among programs and organizations

TARGET CONSTITUENCIES

- Middle school and high school Jewish teens, particularly those who have been under-engaged
- Educators of Jewish teens
- Jewish organizations serving teens
- Current and future donors
- Parents of Jewish teens

STRATEGIES

Expand and create high quality teen engagement programs

- Develop an Accelerator that will scale currently successful programs and launch new programs
- Pilot new programs from the Teen Leadership Council
- Develop a teen micro-grant program

Strengthen teen ecosystem and build community commitment to teen engagement

- Develop an online platform to share opportunities
- Develop a Teen Leadership Council
- Deploy Social Media Fellows to generate a social media presence around Jewish teen opportunities
- Expand need-based scholarships and incentive grants
- Develop approaches that integrate wellness in Jewish teen programs
- Develop capacity for reflective learning and evaluation among Jewish organizations and professionals

Nurture educators of Jewish teens

- Facilitate a professional learning network among educators of Jewish teens
- Offer a mentoring program for teen educators
- Subsidize teen educators' enrollment in relevant academic courses and certificate programs
- Expand Jewish service learning consulting and provide micro-grants for organizations
- Support educators of Jewish teens to integrate a holistic, wellness approach into their work

OUTCOMES

Engaged Jewish Teens

- Increase in the number of teens involved in Jewish opportunities and the depth of their involvement
- Increase in the diversity of background of involved teens, including under-engaged Jewish teens and teens on the margins of Jewish life
- Teens and parents find it easy to connect with programs that match teens' interests

Attractive, Innovative, Sustainable Teen Programs

- Increase in number and diversity of Jewish opportunities available for teens, including teen-initiated opportunities
- Improved ability of program providers to effectively design, scale and sustain programs that resonate with Jewish teens
- Teens and their parents find program fees affordable, either directly or because of available scholarships
- Programs have integrated Jewish service learning components

Jewishly Identified Teens

- Find Judaism and Jewish living personally relevant, meaningful and enjoyable
- Recognize being Jewish as one aspect of identity
- Have positive feelings about being Jewish; can articulate what being Jewish means to them; understand there are myriad of ways of expressing Jewish ritual, culture and values
- Identify and draw upon Judaism to enhance social, physical, emotional and spiritual wellbeing
- Appreciate diverse ways Jewish tradition enhances wellness and supports a healthy, balanced life
- Have access to and relationships with Jewish youth professionals who encourage teen wellbeing

Jewishly Literate Teens

- More aware of and utilizing Jewish resources
- Increase "Jewish literacy" of Israel and connection to Israel
- Increase literacy in Jewish areas of interest
- Interest in ongoing Jewish learning and growth experiences

Jewishly Connected Teens

- Increase involvement and connection to Jewish communal life
- Have a sense of belonging to the Jewish community—local and global—and feel they have a "Jewish home"
- Feel a sense of responsibility for the Jewish community
- Contribute to community and understand service as a Jewish value
- Identify with and act on the values of tikkun olam
- Connect with, experience positive interactions with, and expand community of Jewish peers
- Expand knowledge of diverse Jewish communities
- Develop meaningful and valuable relationships with Jewish adults

Professional Jewish Teen Educators

- Jewish teen educators receive high quality, relevant and targeted professional development that supports a focus on teen wellness and enhances ability to continue working in the field
- Increased capacity of teen educators to support healthy teen development and engage with a wide range of teens
- Increased capacity of Jewish teen educators to connect teens to Jewish opportunities

Community Commitment to Support Teen Engagement

- Increased funding to support Jewish teen education and engagement
- Increased ability of institutions to raise funds strategically
- Increased community leadership to actively support Jewish teen engagement
- Strengthened infrastructure that enriches local networks serving Jewish teens
- Greater community awareness and commitment to develop and build Jewish teen programs that integrate teen wellness

ULTIMATE IMPACT: Through a rich, collaborative infrastructure and a diverse mosaic of accessible and affordable Jewish teen opportunities, Los Angeles Jewish teens engage in activities that promote a healthy, personally meaningful, and fulfilled Jewish life.