

Introduction

As part of a youth workshop organized by the African Canadian Association of Waterloo Region and the Healthy Communities Research Network, groups of youth investigated various public spaces in the centre of Kitchener. Working collaboratively, the groups documented these locations through photography, video, audio recording, drawing and writing. From these investigations, podcasts and videos are being produced in addition to a series of ebooks. Youth recorded both their own ideas and also engaged in interviewing people they encountered at various locations. The goal of the workshop (a pilot project) was to get African Canadian youth (and particularly newcomers) to become participants in the city, to explore and share their ideas and to initiate dialogue with the wider community. The workshop was designed and facilitated by DodoLab as part of an ongoing programming of youth public engagement projects.

This publication includes a selection of images and ideas related to one group's encounter with Kitchener Mayor Carl Zehr who generously (on no advance notice) invited the group in to his office to talk about Kitchener and the challenges of his job. The full video interview will be available at www.dodolab.ca.



African Canadian Youth Workshop (Book3): Interview with the Mayor

Dodolab

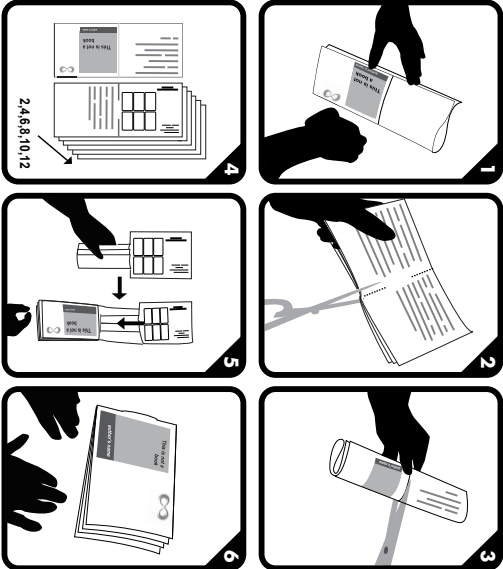




2010-06-27

One of a series of three ebooks created by participants in the African Canadian Youth Leadership Project June 25, 26 & 28, 2010, in Kitchener Ontario. The youth workshop was developed by Dodolab in collaboration with The African Canadian Association of Waterloo Region and the Healthy Communities Research Network.

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- Ibrahim, Omar, Shama, Nabhta, Abdi and Vamba

up with a video of the interview that will be available online.

We finished the interview with the Mayor, he gave Kitchener pins to all

of us. Before we left we took a picture with him and left the office. We ended

rules; to be a Mayor it takes a lot of determination.

logically and he told the changes he wanted were new roads, more recreation centres (either to fix, replace or build), and more flowers. And one thing he wanted to change about the place that he didn't like was some of the downtown, he wanted to clean up the downtown. And he doesn't like the smell of cigarettes. He told us that sometimes he has troubles favoring everybody; he usually has a lot of stress; in the Mayor's seat it's hard to change the past Mayor's

City Hall - Mayor Interview

As a group of young teens, we went to visit Kitchener City Hall. As we traveled to the downtown area, we were thinking of who we should interview to ask about their thoughts of the city and city hall.

Thinking that no one would talk to us, we decided to start with the Mayor of Kitchener. We wondered where the Mayor's office was, so we asked the security guard and surprisingly he told us to go upstairs and the office will be in front of us. As we were walking up the stairs we were worried about what to ask the Mayor. As we approached the office, we told the secretary why we were there and if we could take a few minutes of the Mayor's time. In no time we were in the Mayor's office. He had a conference to be at, so the interview had to be fast.

We asked questions from "What city hall needed?" to "If a kid wanted to be in your position, what would it take to be a Mayor?" He answered



