



2022 IMPACT OVERVIEW

YOUTH CO-CREATION PROGRAMS

Since 2020, Headstream has implemented multiple youth programs that have positively influenced the personal and professional development of over 70 youth professionals. The youth professionals worked on co-creating culturally competent products with innovators and system leaders that reflected the lived experiences of LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC youth, while also empowering them to act as agents of change. Involving youth in co-creating new technologies has resulted in more user-centered and inclusive products, designed to meet the needs of young people. Learn more about the impacts of Headstream's 2022 youth programs below!

YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD

The Youth 2 Innovator (Y2I) Advisory Board positioned young people to co-create alongside the innovators in our Headstream Accelerator. The Innovators gained support in changing and improving their products, developing new features, and finding more creative ways to engage with their audience. Half of the innovators participating in the Headstream Accelerator reported their collaboration with youth as one of the main highlights of the 5-month program.

PRODUCT CHANGES & IMPROVEMENTS

- ▶ Took youth advisors' feedback and integrated SMS into the platform
-Ashima Sharma, Dreami
- ▶ Added a disclaimer before certain posts to protect against exposure to sensitive content
-Lisa Walker, selfsea

NEW FEATURE DEVELOPMENT

- ▶ Created a bibliotherapy prototype which uses books in the treatment of mental conditions in collaboration with the youth advisors
-Hafeezah Mohammed, Youme Healthcare
- ▶ Created a new youth dialogue group, and surpassed 1.2 million downloads in 189 countries
-Molly Josephs, This Teenage Life
- ▶ Created a new Inpathy product demo based on feedback from the youth advisors
-Ziarakenya Smith, Inpathy

AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT

- ▶ Gained a better understanding of the needs of youth who identify as LGBTQIA+ and girls
-Beverly Leon, Local Civics
- ▶ Created a marketing strategy in collaboration with the youth advisors to launch a new TikTok presence
-Candice Blacknall, GABA

[Learn more](#)



YOUTH CONSULTING PROGRAM

The Youth Consulting Program offered alumni of Headstream's past advisor programs the opportunity to serve as consultants for entities working at a national level to transform access and services for youth wellbeing. Headstream partnered with two clients, the [Going Digital Behavioral Conference](#) and the [Digital Harbor Foundation](#) to position the Youth Consultants as co-creators with a platform to influence powerholders such as state policymakers and healthcare providers.

GOING DIGITAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

What it is?

The leading community for health plans, employers, providers, and tech companies to advance access to mental health services through technology and innovation. As part of the consultancy, the youth consultants.

Impact

- ▶ Explored how the biggest power players in healthcare systems can invest in better youth mental health resources.
- ▶ Designed how youth experiences can be heard, and how a youth-centered strategy can lead to actionable change for healthcare providers.
- ▶ Co-designed a workshop for the Going Digital Behavioral Health Conference and a commitment strategy to ensure that young people are involved in health tech innovation.

“

After joining the Y2I Consulting program, my organization is more able to create better solutions that include youth voice”

- Solome Tibebu, Founder of Going Digital

DIGITAL HARBOR FOUNDATION

What it is?

The Digital Equity Youth Advisory Council Project led by Digital Harbor Foundation and Youth Jobs Connect was focused on bringing youth participation into state digital equity design and plans. As part of the consultancy, the youth consultants.

Impact

- ▶ Identified opportunities to ensure youth voice and participation is included in each state's digital equity planning process.
- ▶ Created a youth co-creation guide for stakeholders in each state to use.
- ▶ Assisted in highlighting ways to include meaningful youth engagement for states and territories.

“

This experience helps me influence my clients or stakeholders to develop youth-centered products or programs.”

Mitali Chakraborty, Founder of Youth Jobs Connect

In addition to the Youth Advisory Board and the Youth Consulting programs, Headstream has continuously sought opportunities to provide platforms for young people to be thought leaders and to integrate their ideas with organizations that value their contributions. Below are a few examples of the variety of activities Headstream youth professionals have contributed to.

- ▶ **Sesame Workshop** - Three youth advisors participated in a panel discussion at Sesame Workshop in NYC.
- ▶ **IDEO** - Nine youth advisors participated in the evaluation process of the IDEO global innovation challenge.
- ▶ **Youth, Tech, and Health Conference** - Two of our youth advisors co-lead a workshop with the global community on how to empower users to be creators of tech products.
- ▶ **Headstream Innovation Festival** - The seven participants of the Youth Consulting Program facilitated a series of workshops and conversations for stakeholders in the space during the Headstream Innovation Festival.

Learn more



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

Headstream youth programs provide youth professionals with valuable skills and knowledge that will have a lasting impact on their personal and professional lives as they progress in their careers. Participants develop strong relationships and partnerships, build confidence in leadership positions, gain experience providing feedback, and become active contributors to enterprise development.



The most significant change I experienced from my participation in Y2I is the strengthening of my leadership skills and confidence. Advising and connecting with like-minded (but also very diverse) students has really empowered me to speak up about what I believe in and always look to actively engage in my community.”

-Y2I Advisor, Maryam Zoweil



What I have learned over the years with Headstream, is to think about who is not in the room when you are designing a solution--the principles of inclusive design. To me a beautiful digital ecosystem is limitless, and that is what excites me about the future of technology, is how limitless we can have solutions if we combine the potential of the human experience with digital technology.”

- Youth Consultant, Megha Sharma

Headstream is opening up a world of opportunities that are proving youth with the skills and resources they need to achieve their aspirations and reach their full potential.

► 16 out of 24

Youth advisors either secured an internship or a part-time job or found a mentor.

► Over 80%

Youth Consultants reported gaining a new perspective on working with companies/organizations.

► Over 70%

Youth Consultants reported an increase in confidence to influence organizations. They also reported feeling equipped to take on larger and longer term consulting projects.

► Over 50%

Youth Consultants stated they know how to take further action to influence companies for youth digital wellbeing

► 16 out of 24

Youth professionals consider their participation with Headstream as a great addition to their college application

At Headstream, we are working passionately to build the bridges needed to connect youth with decision-makers in the tech industry and positively influence the future of our digital world. As the online ecosystem continues to evolve, we are constantly working on new programs to keep pace with the latest developments and to ensure that we are providing safe spaces for young people to participate. Learn more about our previous programs and reach out to us if you have an opportunity to bring youth co-creation into your work.

Follow us to learn more

