



Smart wallet for special needs adults to make cashless transactions independently among ideas to win National Youth Council funding



BY DEBORAH LAU

PARTICIPATORY GRANTMAKING WITH YOUTHS



NYC's mission

To develop **FUTURE-READY** youth who are **COMMITTED TO SINGAPORE** by instilling in them a heart for service, resilience and an enterprising spirit

CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL SINGAPOREAN YOUTH TO ...



BE HEARD

Express views on issues they care about



BE EMPOWERED

Access to development opportunities



BE THE CHANGE

Lead ground-up initiatives & projects

Over 8 in 10 Singaporean youth remain civically engaged



Majority are **civically minded** (i.e. staying informed) and/or **expressive** (i.e. expressing and embodying views). The top civic activities among youths in Singapore spanned across both online and offline modalities:

- *Staying updated on current affairs*
- *Participating in environmental efforts*
- *Actively discussing issues offline*
- *Reposting or liking online content*



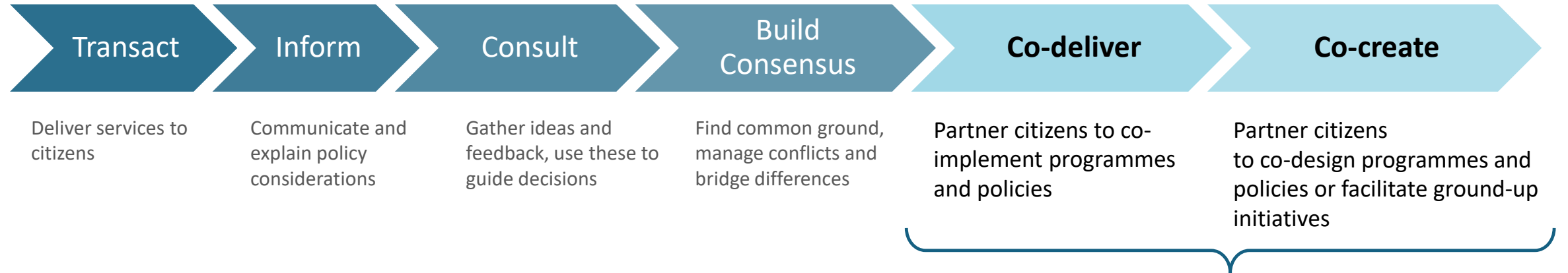
While **willingness to contribute back to society remains high, time is cited as the top barrier** to giving (National Giving Survey, 2023)



Bite-size opportunities that are easily accessible may attract youths to participate and take action

NYC partners youths at varying levels, depending on topics of interests and degree of willingness.

INCREASING LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION



Opportunities for youth to decide on allocation of grants for proposals that benefit the community needs

Purpose of involving Youth in Grantmaking



- Empower youth to exercise civic participation, to co-shape and decide on youth-led solutions that better Singapore and meet community needs
- Allow youths to better appreciate trade-offs and opportunity costs, becoming better decision-makers

Youth Action Challenge (YAC)

**YOUTH ACTION
CHALLENGE**



A developmental programme with curated workshops and consult clinics to equip youths



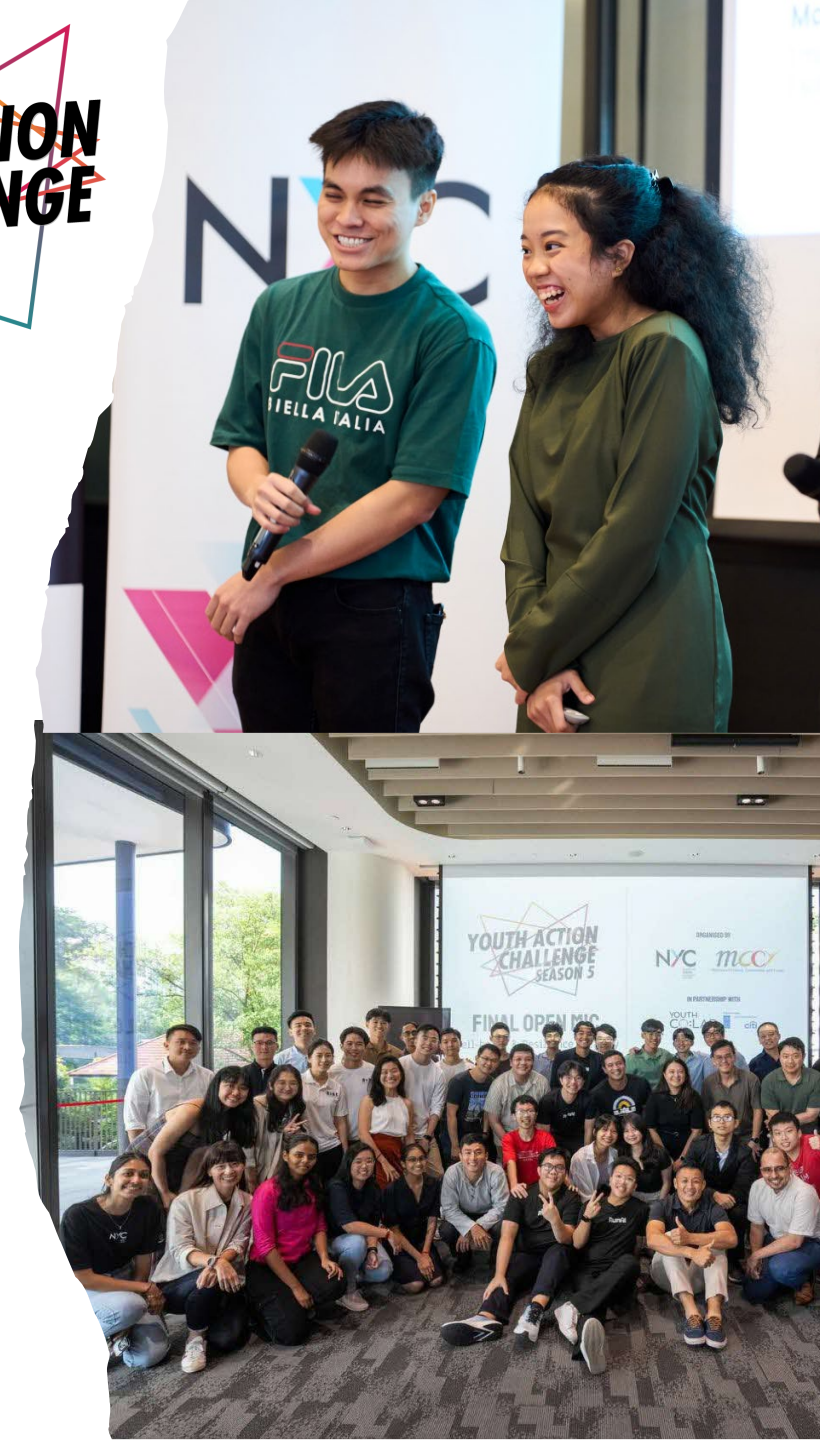
Youths get to work with industry experts, government representatives and businesses to solve real world problems across different themes



Stand to receive up to \$50,000 in grants, and receive mentorship from industry experts plus additional grant of the YAC PB exercise.



In partnership with Citi Foundation and the United Nations Development Programme



Participatory Budgeting through YAC



THE PROGRAMME

YAC participants undergo **months of workshops and ideation** on issues that youths are concerned with mentorship and guidance from experienced industry professionals

THE PITCH

YAC participants **present their final solutions to a panel of industry experts**, who will decide on part of their grant award.

THE PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

Youths from all walks of life are given the **opportunity to assess and vote for YAC projects**, and determine the additional grants teams will receive on top of what was awarded at the Pitch.

How it works



IN-PERSON YOUTHS

- Attend a physical marketplace, brief on PB, and interact with teams
- Sign up on voting digital platform
- Each allocate \$30k virtual dollars to at least 3 team



ONLINE YOUTHS

- Sign up on voting digital platform
- Read on the themes and judging criteria
- Explore projects and each allocate \$30k virtual dollars at least 3 teams

YAC TEAMS



CHECK OUT WHY YOUTHS VOTED FOR

YOUTH ACTION CHALLENGE SEASON 5

FOGO FUNGI



for their project on Food Security

“

I allocated the most funds to Fogo Fungi... I've previously seen other countries adopting such similar mushroom growing kits, and I see it

- beneficial if more households in Singapore could do the same to support a more sustainable way of living.

“

These fun mushroom growing kits would be able to instil a perspective whereby people understand the time, value and effort that goes into growing produce and hence better adjust their eating habits to minimise food waste.

“

I especially liked how the idea focuses more on growing the local agriculture scene, rather than having an import-export perspective... their idea is feasible given that they seem to have established themselves quite securely with 2 mushroom farms.

“

I believe they have a viable business plan and model to grow high-quality mushrooms out of food waste. Furthermore, they repurpose by-products from various industries to nurture their mushrooms, which is a sustainable approach.

CHECK OUT WHY YOUTHS VOTED FOR

YOUTH ACTION CHALLENGE SEASON 5

ORAL HEALTH MATTERS

for their project on Caring & Inclusive Society



“

Prioritising oral health contributes to overall well-being, reducing the risk of systemic diseases... this aligns with promoting preventive

- healthcare, fostering a healthier community, and potentially addressing broader public health challenges.

“

Oral hygiene is an important intervention for the elderly, it can lead to better health outcomes and yet is easily overlooked. It is accessible, do-able and feels achievable and yet impactful.

“

From my past experiences with elderly folks as well as my grandparents, I realised that most are wearing dentures which results in them having trouble chewing tougher food and being unable to enjoy what they eat.

“

I believe this will definitely improve the quality of life for the elderly as they will be able to enjoy food much more! Furthermore, the reduction of oral infections due to better dental hygiene will be much welcomed as well.



Young ChangeMakers (YCM)

Singapore's **first and only by-youth-for-youth** grant where a community of Youth Curators are empowered to make full decisions on grant quantum throughout the year.

Youth can look forward to:

- Tap on the **knowledge and experience** of a Curator Community
- Obtain **resources and feedback** from peers and partners to refine solutions at Open Mic Sessions
- Support of up to \$5000 in grants



Participatory Grantmaking through YCM



APPLICATION

NYC receives the project application and invites the team to present the proposal at the monthly Open Mic.



OPEN MIC

Youth curators listen to the monthly project pitches, deliberate if a project should be funded, and decide on the grant award.

Youth curators convey the grant amount to applicants, mentor and guide the project teams in their project implementation.



IMPLEMENTATION

NYC receives the closure report and disburses the grant to applicants upon project completion.

Through participatory grantmaking, partners also start seeing the value of youth decision making.

“ [YOUTH INVOLVEMENT] COMPLEMENT OUR YOUTH ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS

*Grateful to YCM as a partner and involvement of youth curators that **complement our youth engagement efforts** in seeding youth-led projects for health promotion in the community. Youth Curators **added value to the unique by-youth-for-youth process.***

“ THE CURATORS REALLY KNOW HOW TO ASSESS AND AS EXPERIENCED AS SOME OF OUR BOARD MEMBERS.

*The curators really know how to assess and as experienced as some of our **board members. We are happy to leave the assessment in their experienced hands.***

“ WE VALUE THE ALTERNATIVE PERSPECTIVES

*Curators' involvement and support in the YCM and partnership has **played a big part in the success and outcome of the grants and the youth projects.** Their valuable and useful insights on matters relating to youths in Singapore helped us in **fine-tuning and improving** our processes and programmes. We **value the alternative perspectives.***

Through Participatory Budgeting and Grantmaking, our youths feel empowered and inspired.

See the **value of participatory grantmaking** exercise and want more such exercises



100%
Of surveyed respondents

Enjoyed the exercise and **feel trusted / empowered.**

“

I FELT EMPOWERED

*..to be able to allocate public monies to ideas that are innovative and align with the causes that I am passionate about. Allocating monies is also a tangible form of support, and **I feel more invested** in being able to contribute to the team's resourcing needs.*

”

MR SYAZWAN

Youth Voter

YAC Participatory Budgeting Seasons 4 and 5

Youth Voices





Youth Voices

“

**YCM GIVES YOUTHS THE
POWER TO SUPPORT
OUR PEERS AS A
COMMUNITY.
I LIKE THAT OUR (YOUTH)
VOICES MATTER IN
GRANT.**

Every month, I learn something new from different projects. I get to catch up with my fellow curator friends who are equally passionate about youth action. I leave every grant decision making session more energised!

”

MS LIM LI KHEE
YCM Chief Curator

Lessons from our Participatory Grantmaking Journey

1

Participatory Grantmaking requires clear objectives and clarity of roles

2

Participatory Grantmaking can only be as successful as how supportive your stakeholders are

3

Create environments that are trusting, authentic and safe

4

Participatory grantmaking is a reiterative process requiring two-way conversations