

This summer, Fab Youth Philly, a project of [Rebecca Fabiano Consulting Services, LLC](#) is partnering with [IMPACT Services](#) in the Kensington area of North Philadelphia to pilot a summer job program for teens called PLAY CAPTAINS.

### PLAY STREETS

There are over 600 Play Streets in Philadelphia, which are part of the Free Summer Meal Program, overseen by Parks & Recreation and which serve as a safe place for children to receive two free meals a day during the summer. The Play Streets are blocked off to cars between 10am-4pm. The way it works is a resident applies to become a Supervisor and 70% of the block needs to sign on their approval. Not all the Play Streets are as playful as they could be, so Fab Youth Philly is partnering with IMPACT Services to pilot a summer job program for teens called Play Captains.



Photo Credit: Rebecca Fabiano for PopUpPlay  
Silver Street Play Street, 2016

Coined after the Block Captain and Jr. Block Captain roles, *Play Captains* will be a **summer job for teens who will be trained and supported to create meaningful, age- appropriate play experiences during the summer.**



Photo Credit: Rebecca Fabiano for PopUpPlay at  
Sunrise Summer Camp 2016

### GOALS OF THE INITIATIVE:

- Create a meaningful summer job for teens;
- Create leadership opportunities for teens;
- Empower teens to be change agents in North Philadelphia by training them to use play as a civic engagement strategy.
- Increase utilization of the Play Streets; and
- Work across City agencies and youth-serving systems to leverage resources, meet common goals and to support Play Captains

### PLAY CAPTAIN TRAINING

Participating youth are trained at least 20 hours, with ongoing weekly trainings and support. Youth are recruited through various venues and youth agencies. In the training, youth are trained to facilitate play activities on designated Play Streets. They develop knowledge about child development, facilitation, community development, communication and leadership skills;

The training will also help youth to become empowered to use [21st Century Skills](#) such as Creativity, Collaboration, Technology and Leadership by designing and leading play experiences for others. What is key in this project is that youth are viewed as resources by the neighborhood where they are Play Captains as well as by the city at large.



**PARTNERSHIPS:**

Strong partners are the key to turning a vision into a reality! A key goal is to use the Play Captain job and the Play Streets/Free Summer Meals program as a strategy to deepen civic engagement and leverage resources that have impact on their own, but can create a deeper impact when intentionally working together to meet individual and shared goals.

Current and potential partners include: Philadelphia Parks & Recreation, The Free Library of Philadelphia, WorkReady, Mural Arts, Innovative Solutions Collective, New Kensington CDC, local businesses, artists and community organizations.

**VISION:**

Fab Youth Philly's vision is that someday, all 600+ Play Streets will have a Play Captain connected to them in to ensure teens have a great summer job experience. In addition, we envision that all of Philly's children and youth will have access to playful, enriching activities during the summer, and that the Play Streets will serve as a way for community groups to be better connected to each other, and to Philly's residents.

**Want to know more?** Contact: Rebecca Fabiano, [FabYouthPhilly@gmail.com](mailto:FabYouthPhilly@gmail.com) or 215-703-7125

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**About Impact Services:** Impact Services works to empower people with the skills and resources needed to reach their highest potential. Since 1974, Impact has been working in the Kensington neighborhood of Philadelphia to help people reenter the workforce train for jobs, find housing, and build community. Over the last two decades they have also built a continuum of housing services in an effort to end veteran homelessness. The foundation of their work lies in their ability to nurture partnerships with other mindful organizations. By aligning missions, resources, and creativity – they're able to muster the latent energy in their community.

**About Fab Youth Philly:** A project of [Rebecca Fabiano Consulting Services, LLC](#), which is a small, women-owned business in Philadelphia that support organizations and adults that work with children and youth, Fab Youth Philly, "where adults and youth create together" was created as a way to pilot, develop and offer programming directly to youth.