

CONSENT FORM

Title: The Youth Voices Project (YVP)

The purpose of this form is to provide participants and parents/guardians detailed information, so they can make an informed decision to allow their child (a person under 18 years of age) to participate in this research project. If the participant is in a shared or dual custody household, and is under 18 years old, both parent(s)/guardian(s) must sign this form. If you're over 18 years old, you do not need a parental/guardian signature, but you must sign this form. Please read this form carefully and direct any questions you might have to LMOHAMED@YVPROJECT.COM. **This form will be used to record your permission.**

With the project being worldwide, the YVP Scholarship Award will follow *The National Youth Policy* of the Federal Government of Somalia age requirements. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Mercy Corps, and United States Agency for International Development (USAID) who supported the development of the *National Youth Policy*, have **defined youth between the ages of 15 and 40 years old.**

At this time, YVP is holding a SCHOLARSHIP AWARD for students attending any school in Mogadishu, Somalia between the ages of 15 and 40 years old. Students will participate in a creative exercise where FIVE chosen winners will each receive \$300USD monetary prize.

ABOUT THE FOUNDER OF YVP

My name is Liban Mohamed, and I am the founder of the Youth Voices Project (YVP). Having amassed over eight years of work experience in both the public and private sector in the fields of civil and transportation engineering, and as a planner since 2018, I have not only observed the limitations of the participatory methods, but seen the social element of urban planning absent in projects.

In a Major Research Paper titled *Youth Participation in Transportation Planning: The City of Toronto's Youth Engagement Strategy* I submitted to the Faculty of Environmental Studies at York University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada for the degree of Master in Environmental Studies, I argued the misconception that youth of today are not concerned with transportation planning. I stated that the traditional adult-oriented method to transportation planning have served the youth by default, and this is very concerning. I noted that the youth deserve to be invited into the decision-making process as well as informed as to the impact of their participation. To conclude, I made known that we cannot call for youth participation if that participation does not have meaning. Youth participation is a promise we make to young people. Their idealism, strength, and creativity are a gift to us, and we need to treat it as such.

To augment the *Youth Engagement Strategy* done by the City of Toronto in 2015, I have redesigned the study to apply the recommendations I suggested on the Major Paper. In this

manner, YVP will offer an annual scholarship award to five students attending any school in Mogadishu, Somalia. Through this scholarship award, Somali youths will be given a platform to have their voices heard on city planning. Elicited submissions received from Somali youth's may be used to write yearly independent academic papers and book to allow city planners, government agencies, youth-led organizations and scholars to understand Somali youth concerns and barriers when it comes to city planning.

The main objective of YVP is to provide not only support but provide essential city planning knowledge and skills to encourage positive civic engagement in Somali city planning.

WHAT IS CITY PLANNING?

In the Canadian Encyclopedia, city planning, or urban and regional planning is the process by which communities attempt to control and/or design change and development in their physical environments. Frequently talked about topics similar to city planning are community planning, strategic planning, regional planning, environmental planning, transportation planning, climate action plans, and capital investment plans. **All these topics/subjects of planning have one thing in common – preparing for the future.** Although other professions do it too, preparing for the future is the primary motivation of city planners.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YVP?

The purpose of YVP is to expand the discussion on the positive role's youths can play in city planning. Presently, most planning practices have disregarded the youth, even though there is a growing body of research that illustrates how and why they should be included.

YVP understands that youths and adults have different interests when it comes to their surroundings and communities. Even though researchers have acknowledged the importance of young people as stakeholders in public participation, concerns of age-related discrimination have been evident at times in city planning processes. This discrimination has resulted in youth being segregated from public spaces due to planning practices that focus on the needs and preferences of adults.

In Somalia, the *National Youth Policy* notes that Somali youth face many challenges and there are a lot of factors affecting youth. That's why YVP wants to hear your voice! From the elicited submissions by you, the youths, YVP will do everything it can to get your voices heard. YVP is an advocate for youth involvement in city planning and through partnership with the universities, communities and youth-led organizations in your city, we will look for ways forward when it comes to city planning.

HOW WILL THIS PROJECT BE EXECUTED?

In the first phase of this project, Somali youths attending any school in Mogadishu, Somalia between 15 and 40 years old will voice a concern about a city planning issue they face in their community, a barrier to youth engagement, and propose a solution through either a video (5-10 mins), a one- or two-page paper, a work of art, or a poem.

In the second phase, YVP will provide an online discussion/chat platform where Somali youths from the mentioned universities can ask questions regarding city planning projects, initiatives, and concerns. Questions will be answered by planners, youth-led organizations, NGOs, and government officials in order to empower the Somali youths by providing essential planning knowledge and skills and encourage positive civic engagement.

For the final phase of the project, YVP will publish an independent academic paper to let city planners, government agencies, youth organizations, and scholars read the youths' concerns and barriers when it comes to city planning.

All submissions and academic papers will be the property of YVP. Due to the volume of submissions, only selected submissions will be included in the academic paper.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF THIS PROJECT?

FIVE chosen winners will each receive a monetary prize. The five winners will each receive \$300USD. In addition to the monetary prize, benefits of participating in this project will include youth submissions to be posted on the YVP website, Instagram and Twitter page to allow city planners, government officials and scholars to either hear, watch, or read your concerns, barriers and recommendations/solutions.

WHAT ARE THE ELIGIBILITY AND SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS?

Verification of age and attendance in a school in Mogadishu, Somalia is crucial in this project. False, misleading and/or incomplete information will result in the removal of the participant from the project. As mentioned, age requirements (between 15 – 40 years old) will follow *The National Youth Policy* developed by the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Federal Government of Somalia.

All participants MUST register on the YVP website. YVP founder will notify the winner through the email registered.

For participants to be eligible for the YVP SCHOLARSHIP AWARD, email the items listed below with the subject title YVP Scholarship Award to LMOHAMED@YVPROJECT.COM:

- Signed consent form (sign the last page);
- Copy of school registration showing student name and age; and
- Submission of either a video (5-10 mins), a one- or two-page paper, a work of art, or a poem addressing a concern to a city planning issue you face in your community, a challenge to youth engagement you face, and propose a solution.

Examples of **CITY PLANNING ISSUES** noted in *The National Youth Policy* of the Federal Government of Somalia:

- Unemployment
- Violent Extremism and Terrorism
- Justice and Law
- Land
- Security and Peace

- Education
- Protection of Environment, Land and Sea
- Gender Equality
- Disaster Management
- Governance
- Identity, Culture and Traditions of Somalia
- Nationalism, Tribalism and clannism
- The 4.5 Formula / System
- Drugs (Khat / Mira)
- Corruption

These are just examples of **CITY PLANNING ISSUES**. You could speak to other issues if you choose.

Examples of **CITY PLANNING CHALLENGES** noted in *The National Youth Policy* of the Federal Government of Somalia:

- Lack of capacity (literacy, verbal skills)
- Geographical barriers
- Security
- Lack of trust by youth
- Insufficient time due to education/work obligations
- Lack of transport
- Minimal power given to youth
- Negative social attitudes to, and stereotyping, of young people
- Inequality / tribal discrimination

These are just examples of **CITY PLANNING CHALLENGES**. You could speak to other issues if you chose.

DEADLINE JUNE 24, 2021

SUBMISSIONS MUST BE IN ENGLISH

WHO WILL THE JUDGES BE? HOW WILL YVP CHOOSE A WINNER?

The YVP founder and five judges from diverse backgrounds will be selecting the winners. In order to promote fairness and avoid bias, the judges will not all have background experience in urban planning. No special consideration will be given to youths who are in an urban planning, engineering, architectural or environmental studies program. While knowledge of planning is important, this scholarship award will not necessarily be awarded to youth with knowledge in planning. The winners will be selected based on their creativity and content.

The YVP founder and judges award decisions will be final.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS INVOLVED IN THIS PROJECT?

There are no foreseeable risks to participating in this project. However, due to participants having the opportunity to use media, public space, and technology, the participant, parent or guardian hereby acknowledges that they are aware of the risks associated. Thus, the participant, guardian and parent indemnify, release and hold harmless YVP founder and judges from any and all liability, claims, demands, actions, suits, causes of action, proceedings, expenses, costs, damages or losses, loss of income, contingent or otherwise, of any kind, caused in any manner whatsoever from participation.

By signing, you understand that you indemnify discharges YVP founder and judges from any liability or claim that the participant may have against YVP founder and judges with respect to bodily injury, personal injury, illness, death, or property damage that may result, directly or indirectly, from your participation. You also fully understand that YVP founder and judges do not assume any responsibility for or obligation to provide financial assistance or other assistance, including, but not limited to, medical, health or disability insurance, in the event of injury, illness, death or property damage.

WHOM TO CONTACT WITH QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROJECT OR QUESTIONS CONCERNING YOUR RIGHTS AS A PARTICIPANT?

For questions about the project, your rights or any dissatisfaction with any part of this project, you can email YVP founder at LMOHAMED@YVPROJECT.COM

SIGNATURE

You are making a decision to participate in this project. Your signature below indicates that you have read the information provided above and have decided to participate in the project.

Printed Name of Participant _____

Signature of youth _____
(If over 18)

Date _____

You are making a decision about allowing your child to participate in this project. Your signature below indicates that you have read the information provided above and have decided to allow them to participate in the project.

Signature of Parent(s) or Legal Guardian _____
(If under 18)

Date _____

Signature of Parent(s) or Legal Guardian _____
(If under 18)

Date _____