Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Services

by Paula Heaney

San Francisco Public Library

Drawing by Collin Pedersen
Transitional Age Youth are young adults between the ages of 18 to 25 who are transitioning out of the foster care or criminal justice system and/or marginalized in some way.

Some Quick Facts:

- 40% - 50% of the chronically houseless in California became houseless under the age of 25.
- An average of 170 youth transition out of the foster care system each year. 25% of them are projected to be houseless.

Houseless Youth Population in San Francisco:

- LGBTQIA
- Non-LGBTQIA
- Person of Color
- White
**The TAY Task Force**

**Charge:** To engage in outreach and programming for Transitional Age Youth (TAY) ages 18-25) in San Francisco, with an emphasis on reaching TAY individuals experiencing any of the following: involvement in Homelessness, living with a disability or special needs, lack of educational opportunities, un/underemployment, lack of healthcare, accelerated health & well-being needs, identification on the LGBTQIA spectrum.

**Members:**
- Tom Fortin
- Jeanie Austin
- Suzanne Beattie
- Alice Chan
- Jesse Chang
- Felicia Gotthelf
- Paula Heaney
- Darice Murray-McKay
- Nicholas Ott
- Shawna Sherman
- Anne Vannucchi

**Highlights:**
- Developed the charge and guidelines for the creation of a TAY Advisory Board
- In the process of transforming the Fulton Meeting Room into a TAY-friendly program space
- Convened a TAY focus group to inform the Library’s efforts to TAY
- Identified potential opportunities for the TAY Team
TAY Services Overview

- **Library**
  - Weekly Hangout Space
  - 9912 TAY Intern
  - TAY Advisory Board
  - TAY Task Force

- **Community**
  - Outreach Visits
  - Organizational Partnerships
Creating Resilience Exhibit Celebration
The TAY Team

Paula Heaney
TAY Services Librarian
When I was little, my parents would bring us kids to the library and set us free for hours. The library was the first place where I could make my own decisions, which felt incredibly empowering. I wanted to be a librarian ever after, to work in a place that allows people to shape their own destinies.

Alice Chan
3rd Floor Manager
Started my library path 21 years ago as a Page. It was meant to be a part-time job until I noticed teen patrons were treated very differently from other patrons. At that moment, I knew I wanted to become a teen librarian.

Gabriella Ruiz
TAY Services Intern
As a young person who utilized my neighborhood library, I understand how important it is to have access to free books, internet, classes, and more. Therefore, I am deeply honored to be in a position that strives to serve Transitional Age Youth (TAY).